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Beattie Optimistic About Growth of PSU Ag College

Considerable optimism for future growth and progress by the College of Agriculture at The Pennsylvania State University was expressed by the Dean, Dr. James M. Beattie, during the recent 1973 Forage and Seed Conference at University Park.

Dean Beattie mentioned in particular a "phenomenal increase in College of Agriculture enrollments." While total Penn State undergraduate enrollment increased 20 per cent during the past four years, agricultural enrollment went up 99 per cent.

Penn State now ranks 7th largest among all agricultural colleges in the nation with 2,540 undergraduates. Graduate enrollment from 1969 to 1972 went up 10 per cent to 355. Associate degree enrollment leveled off to 275 in 1972 and 1973 but Penn State also ranks 7th in the country for students enrolled in these two-year programs.

Describing renewed emphasis on research and educational programs, Dean Beattie listed increasing emphasis on an interdisciplinary approach to solving animal health problems. In one project, this combines the skills and cooperative efforts of researchers and extension specialists in agronomy, animal science, veterinary science, dairy science, agricultural engineering, and several other departments.

"There will be more of this type of team approach to research, as well as to educational programs, throughout the College in the future," Dean Beattie affirmed.

He said he is convinced it will take the same type of team effort between land-grant institutions, the agricultural business community, and an understanding public if the outlook for agriculture is to remain promising through 1980 and

beyond. Major shifts are taking place in clientele served by colleges of agriculture, he observed. The first is a decline in clientele from commercial agriculture. This is replaced by an increasing clientele of representatives of industries providing inputs and services to farmers. These changes are accompanied by a growing non-farm rural clientele.

Speaking of the attitudes of the American public toward agriculture today, Dr. Beattie observed that, "they are starting to notice us again!"

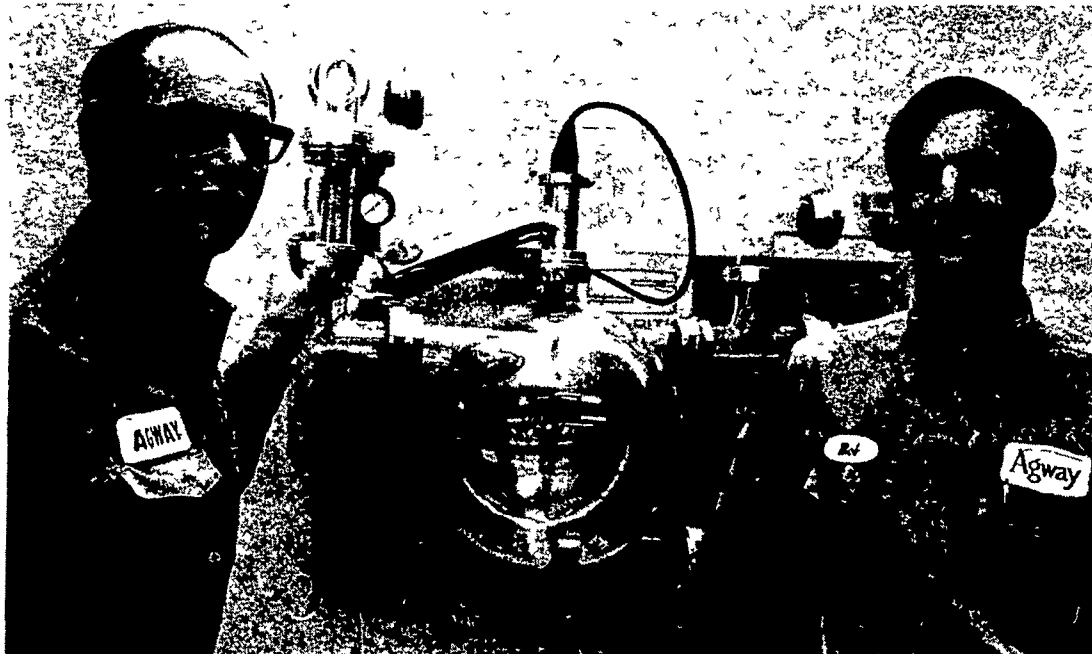
The Penn State agricultural dean said he believes the nation is entering an era of awareness of agriculture never experienced previously. For many, this will be an era of limitations, he pointed out, as people learn there is no longer a surplus of natural resources in a world hungry for food, energy, and the basic elements for survival.

"The business of supplying food in ample quantity for ourselves and other nations has taken on a prime importance. Food supplies have been recognized as paramount to our balance of payments as well as a powerful diplomatic tool in achieving world peace," he affirmed.

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Twin Valley Hosts Farm-City Breakfast

The Twin Valley Future Farmers of America hosted a Farm-City Week Breakfast in the Twin Valley High School cafeteria recently. The breakfast was prepared by the cafeteria staff under the direction of John Abrams. Approximately fifty persons attended - teachers, local businessmen, agribusinessmen, and farmers.

Special guests were the administrators of the school district - Elbert Eberts, superintendent of Twin Valley School District; Francis Wood, assistant superintendent at Twin Valley, and Robert Moyer, assistant principal for the senior high school, Kenneth Kurtz, assistant principal for the junior high school.

Speaker was Boyd Gartley, public relations director for Interstate Milk Producers Cooperative, Editor of Pennmarva Magazine, and in charge of the regional Laywitness for the United Methodist Church. Gartley gave a very inspiring and thought provoking speech on agricultural economics. The main thrust of his speech was that housewives are blaming the farmer for the high price of food, while food is still a bargain. Gartley stated that the consuming public must be educated about the price of food so they will realize that the farmer does not control the price.

Purpose of the banquet was to provide a chance for local teachers, businessmen, and farmers to meet and discuss common problems.