

Federal Funds Reinstated for Agricultural Research

"Agricultural Experiment Stations of the land-grant universities must make a greater effort to inform the general public or be judged by the 'squeaking wheel' in the newspapers and other news media," declared Dr. Walter I. Thomas of The Pennsylvania State University during a national conference of soil scientists held recently in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Dr. Thomas observed that critics with little knowledge of agriculture can affect the support of research unless all the facts are given to the public. He added that people critical of agricultural research are often unacquainted with the scope, objectives, and results of such research. He spoke as associate director of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Penn State.

Partly due to critical reports in the news media, federal funds were decreased in the Executive budget for the first time in fiscal year 1974. Thanks to the efforts of people in agricultural business, agricultural production, and farmers, members of Congress were persuaded to reinstate some of the cuts. Although there was no increase over last year's budget, essentially all the cuts in the Hatch and McIntire-Stennis Acts were restored at last year's level.

The revised budget will not take into account the increased cost of research which has gone

up like everything else, Dr. Thomas commented. He indicated the experiment stations will still be able to carry out most of the programs which will help maintain an abundance of high quality food for the nation and some others.

Until the 1974 fiscal year, research funds for agriculture had increased modestly over the past 25 years when compared with other research and development funds, at least in the federal budget. Federal support of agricultural research comes primarily from Hatch and McIntire-Stennis Acts.

As a result of changes in

agriculture and the nation, colleges of agriculture and the U. S. Department of Agriculture have redefined their roles and capabilities, it was stated. The changes have produced greater concentration on the environment, general health and welfare programs, problems of the aged and culturally handicapped, community services, and use of leisure time.

"It appears the time has come, nonetheless, for renewed emphasis on production technology, our original goal. It has been reemphasized recently that farmers and commercial enterprises now have a greater

need for basic agricultural research and a greater capacity to utilize research findings than ever before."

"We must increase our emphasis on crop yields or we may not have the bushels of grain to trade for oil or whatever else we need. Even more important, we have a good bit of work to do in informing our publics of the technology that's required to

produce those extra bushels of wheat and other farm products," he added.

Dr. Thomas commended the efforts of an advisory council of the College of Agriculture at Penn State for taking the results of research to its various constituents. Council members represent agricultural organizations in the Commonwealth.

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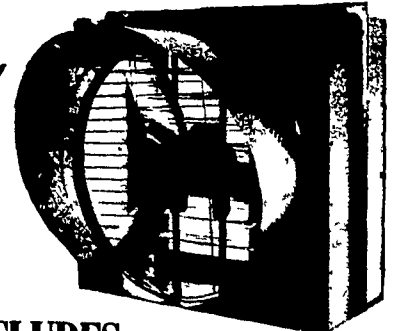
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Robert B. Graybill of Lititz, Pa.; William W. Knauer, Reading, Pa.; and John H. Seeton, Springfield (Del. County), Pa., have been elected to the Board of Governors of the Pennsylvania Manufacturers' Association.

Graybill is president of Pennfield Corporation, Lancaster, and treasurer of PennAg Industries Association. He recently was elected to serve on the Board of the Lancaster Area Manufacturers' Association for a three-year term beginning January 1, 1974. He also serves as a director for the National Broiler Council, the American Feed Manufacturers Association, the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce and the Lancaster Division, Commonwealth National Bank.

Knauer is president of Helme Products, Inc., Reading. A 1947 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, he is a member of the American and Pennsylvania Institutes of Certified Public Accounts. Knauer lives at 1525 Argonne Road, Reading.

Seeton is president of PMA. He had served previously as an ex-officio member of the PMA Board. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of Pennsylvania State University and has served on the State Board of Vocational Rehabilitation since 1963.

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