

Looking ahead for agriculture

Salute to farmers suggested

By James McHale
Pa. Secretary
of Agriculture

America's 200th birthday is drawing near and all segments of our society are getting ready to put their best traditional foot forward in celebration of the event.

Agriculture should not be left out. American farmers played an important role in the development of this country and continue to perform wonders in keeping our hand strong at the bargaining table of the world market place.

It occurred to me some time back that American farmers, perhaps taken for granted by some in this country, no doubt have earned the admiration of their peers in other countries. The bicentennial year will mean a lot of travel in this country by foreign visitors. Many of those visitors will be especially interested in seeing any or all phases of American agriculture.

That is why I am extremely pleased that the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) at its annual convention Oct. 9 in Charleston, West Virginia, approved a resolution urging "the President of the United States, the Secretary of Agriculture, the United States Department of Commerce, and other related federal and state agencies to develop a bicentennial program honoring American agriculture and the part that it has played in feeding and clothing the world."

The resolution asks that a central location such as Washington, D. C., be established for this agricultural bicentennial program. The various state departments of agriculture, farm organizations and other agriculture interests would host visitors as they move around the country.

Arrangements can be made so that our guests can visit those states which have the types of farming which is of special interest to them. Some visitors will be interested in livestock and dairying, others may want to see America's famed wheat and corn belts, and still others may want to visit states like Florida, California and Texas where citrus fruits, vegetables and rice are the main products.

The NASDA resolution also requests that the United States Department of Commerce furnish funds to support these agricultural visits. All non-agricultural entertainment, transportation, hotel and other non-agricultural aspects of the visitors' program are expected to be paid for through travel agencies by individual visitors.

To explore the possibilities of federal financing where appropriate, I did write a letter to David N. Parker, deputy assistant secretary of commerce in the U. S. Department of Commerce.

I wrote that our Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has been planning to host a World Reunion of Farmers during the 1976 bicentennial year. This plan led us to consult with other state agriculture departments to join us in hosting these visits by foreign agricultural men.

A bicentennial celebration that does not feature American farmers will surely be lacking.

In the 20th century farmers played an important role in feeding hungry people during and after World War I and World War II. We played a major role in providing food for the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, the Marshall

Plan, AID programs, Point Four Technical Assistance and Public Law 480 (Food for Peace).

Today, the average value of our agricultural exports stands at about 25 percent of the total. The significance of our agricultural exports tended to be overlooked until recent years when they became a means of balancing out trade deficits and paying for an increasingly high oil import bill.

Agriculture, therefore, not only feeds our people, but helps to heat their homes and fuel their cars.

In earlier times agriculture was the bedrock of our fledgling economy. In 1805 the average value of our agricultural exports was 75 percent. Perhaps that was to be expected from a largely agrarian economy.

Yet, by 1885, when the industrial revolution had visited these shores, the value of our farm exports averaged about 76 percent. American agriculture demonstrated a flexibility, depending first on tobacco and cotton to bolster exports and then on grain, beef and dairy products.

Our farming history is diverse, reflecting every stage of this country's growth. Let's hear about farmers during the bicentennial celebrations.

Maryland farm survey slated

The latest estimates of Maryland's primary crops, cattle, hogs and chickens on farms, the anticipated pig and calf population, and winter wheat planting in 1975 will hinge on a major nationwide survey set for November and early December by the USDA Statistical Reporting Service.

The project will be conducted here by the Maryland-Delaware Crop Reporting Service, a cooperative USDA-Maryland Department of Agriculture operation, which compiles agriculture statistics for this bi-state

responses are kept strictly confidential and that only state and national summaries are published.

A Maryland Department of Agriculture spokesman says that the estimates developed from this annual survey are utilized by producers, processors, planners and others in managing output and marketing operations. The information also helps maintain an orderly overall situation in agriculture.

Farmers around the state are urged to cooperate with the Crop Reporting Service in providing requested information. The national

estimates will show how the American farmer, now no longer restricted by government regulations, will respond by way of fall wheat plantings, following an expected record crop in 1975, coupled with increased foreign demand for grains.

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A general strode into a downtown office building elevator and barked, "Twelfth floor."

"But, sir," the operator murmured respectfully, "this building only has eight floors."

"Well, do the best you can," thundered the general.

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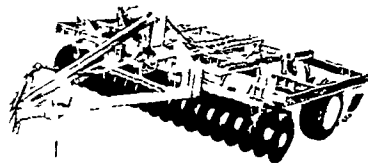
**MONDAY, NOV. 17, 1975
STOLTZFUS FARM SERVICE**

Cochranville, PA
(If unfavorable weather, come
to Cochranville Fire Hall at
2:00)

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M. M. WEAVER & SONS**

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(If unfavorable weather, come to
Leola Memorial Hall at 2 P.M.)

REPRESENTING: LELY-ROTERRA



The secondary tillage tool designed to give you better crop starts, eliminate and combine tillage trips. Lely means less compaction, saves moisture and increases drainage, giving better weather and time flexibility.

The evening meeting will be conducted by Don Schreifer, nationally respected leader in soil fertility and tillage programs and director of Advanced Ag Associates.

MONDAY, NOV. 17, 1975

TIME 7:30 P.M.

TUESDAY, NOV. 18, 1975

COCHRANVILLE FIRE HALL

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