

'Best planning done locally'

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Personal rights and incentives which have allowed American agriculture to surpass other nations in productivity and efficiency, are being eroded, according to American Farm Bureau Federation President, Allan Grant.

"There is proof that economic progress and cultural advancement flourish best where people are free, responsible individuals," Grant said here Thursday at the Bicentennial Farm Forum '76 in the Plaza Inn International.

Grant, a California rancher who now heads the 2,500,000 member-family farm organization, examined the creative forces contributing to American farm productivity, as part of the program conducted by the Agricultural Hall of Farm and National Center, Bonner Springs.

Areas in which the farm

leader said personal rights are now under attack, involve federal land use planning, government attempts to control the market system, and "unrealistic burdens imposed by federal estate and gift taxes."

"We feel that those who own and operate the land should have major responsibility for its development, and that the best land use planning is done locally, by private landowners," Grant said. He added that area wheat farmers and grain producers in all parts of the country lost hundreds of thousands of dollars in foreign grain sales because of "ill advised attempts at international market-management" on the part of the Administration, which last year temporarily halted U.S. grain sales to the Soviet Union and Poland.

Telling of his recent appearance before the House

Ways and Means Committee in support of the Burleson-Curtis bill to update federal estate tax laws, Grant noted there have been no major changes in the law during the past 30 years while a generation of inflation and urban development has been shoving farm estates into higher tax brackets which are out of touch with the reality of farming.

The bill, introduced by Representative Omar Burleson (D.-Texas) and Senator Carl Curtis (R.-Nebraska), would raise basic tax exemptions and any property in use for farming, woodland or scenic open space, would be assessed for current instead of potential use such as for housing development.

Grant said that more than 100 members of Congress are co-sponsors of the Burleson-Curtis measure.



Dr. Charles Livak (left) quality assurance director for Penn Dairies presents Tony Eberly with the first place trophy during the recent Area FFA Dairy Products Judging Contest.

Eberly, an Ephrata freshman, was the top individual judge in the contest. Ernest Orr, coach for the Ephrata team looks on.

Cloister FFA team wins area dairy products contest

LANCASTER — The Cloister FFA team representing Ephrata High School, captured its third consecutive win under the leadership of coach Ernest Orr, at the annual area FFA

Dairy Foods Judging Contest held at Penn Dairies here on Wednesday.

Tony Eberly, son of Mrs. and Mrs. Mahlon Eberly, Denver R2, was the high individual judge and helped to guide the Cloister team to victory. Other members of the team included Lamar Groff, Stevens R1; Hans Groff, Ephrata; Troy Gass, Ephrata and Mike Eshelman, Ephrata.

Lee Ferguson, representing Solanco High School, was the second high individual judge. Solanco's team placed second in team competition.

Dr. Charles Livak, quality assurance director for Penn Dairies, presented Ephrata with the rotating trophy and in doing so announced that it would be retired with the Cloister FFA.

During the competition, the students were asked to identify several different kinds of cheeses and to judge milk and cottage cheese for flavor differences.

The high scoring members of Ephrata's team will be traveling to Penn State to judge in the state competition during FFA Activities Week in June.

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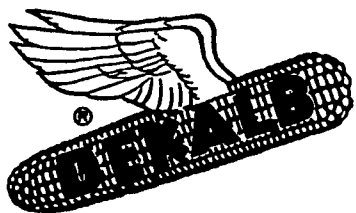
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