

IMPCO undisturbed by HB2392 FFA gives distinguished service awards to AFBF, NFU and alumni

PHILADELPHIA - Despite changes in the method of its operation, Inter-State Milk Producers' Cooperative remains dedicated to its long range objectives. Dr. James E. Honan, general manager of the 3,000-member dairy cooperative told members here Thursday at the co-op's 59th annual meeting.

Marketing all our members milk at the best and fairest possible price, said Honan, is our number one priority.

"Whether this function is ever changed will depend only on the action of the delegates, members and

board of directors," said Honan. "I see no reason for it changing."

Honan referred to Pennsylvania House Bill 2392, introduced by Rep. Kent D. Shelhamer, as an attempt at improving relationship between cooperatives and their members. The Senate approved an amended version of the bill just last week.

"The (proposed) amendments to the Pennsylvania Cooperative Law, will have very little effect on Inter-State," Honan said. "This is true since, organizationally, we are set up to provide good democratic opportunity for effective member control."

Honan noted that the best way to effectuate change is for the board of directors, in its representative position, analyze, study, pass judgment on a specific proposal, and then provide to members the results of that analysis as a recommendation.

"There is no way in the world that a sizeable business organization can be run successfully by other than a small, effective policy-making group," said Honan. "Decisions made by

all of a cooperative's members would very likely stall the operation quickly and effectively."

In defense of federal orders which have occasionally been under public attack, Honan noted they are a valuable marketing tool "that farmers cooperatives use to benefit all of their members."

He further noted that cooperatives were established to provide the broad base for farmer bargaining power, but noted that all of this responsibility cannot be placed on the individual farmer.

"For then," said Honan, "the cooperative is useless and of no value whatsoever to those farmers..."

Inter-State's general manager pointed out that close ties between members and their policy-making representative and staff are essential in maintaining an effective cooperative association.

"These close ties are: understanding, respect, confidence and interdependence, and these are really the stuff that makes the democracy of change in Inter-State work," he said. "Differences of opinion, when they exist, should be used to arrive at sound decisions, so that those things which we want not to change - such as our main objective - can be kept, yet the basis of change is also kept intact and useable when needed."

But no control can be maintained over changes in the marketplace, he noted. And when these changes occur, goals have to be established which allow Inter-State to accommodate the changes as they come.

"The main objective of Inter-State is unchanged," assured Honan. "Our services and our tools constantly change, but they must to stay with the future."

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - Distinguished Service Citations were presented by the Future Farmers of America to three organizations that have made significant contributions in service to agriculture and the FFA. The presentations were made during the 49th National FFA Convention, held here November 9-12.

Organizations which were recognized at the 1976 convention and why are:

The American Farm Bureau Federation has been a staunch supporter of vocational agriculture and FFA for many years. Their influence and support for legislation affecting vocational education in agriculture has been a positive influence on agricultural education. The American Farm Bureau Federation has hosted the National FFA officers on Good Will Tours and has provided technical assistance in the FFA Youth Safety Congress. Farm Bureau staff and members have served on many occasions as speakers and

judges for national activities.

The National Farmers Union has given support to the total program of agricultural education, especially in legislative matters affecting vocational agriculture education. Members of the National Farmers Union have been of assistance to both Young Farmers and the Future Farmers of America in a wide variety of programs relating to the establishment of young people in agriculture.

The National FFA Alumni Association through its affiliates and members has given outstanding service to vocational agriculture departments throughout the country. Alumni activities such as aiding teachers, serving as consultants, working part time as substitute teachers, providing incentive awards, assisting with judging activities and providing work experience opportunities for students, help make the vocational agriculture program more meaningful and effective.

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Ag careers shown

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - Exhibits depicting career opportunities in agriculture were on display at the FFA Agriculture Career Show, held in conjunction with the 49th National FFA Convention, here.

FFA members touring the display area saw numerous exhibits on agri-business careers. This year 44 trade associations, professional societies, educational institutions, and U. S. Government agencies exhibited at the show.

Besides preparing an exhibit which graphically depicts jobs related to the activities of their organizations, each exhibitor provided personnel to answer questions and furnishes printed information related to the careers they represent. The exhibiting organizations encouraged FFA members, advisors, and school guidance counselors to contact them for other educational and career materials published by their organization.

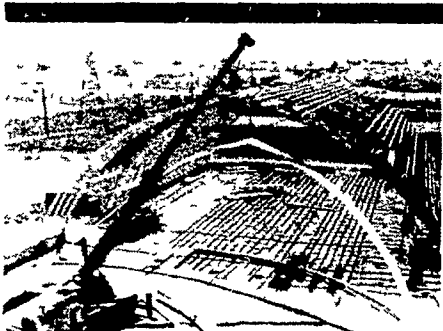
FFA band performed in K.C.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - The 1976 National FFA Convention was an experience of a lifetime for 122 FFA members who were part of the 1976 National FFA Band. The young musicians performed before more than 20,000 FFA members and

guests at the three-day National FFA Convention held here earlier this month. The National FFA Convention is the largest annual student convention in the nation and was held here for the 49th time November 9-12. The bandmen, none of whom have ever played together before, had two days of practice before performing for the convention audience at the opening session in the Kansas City Municipal Auditorium.

In Kansas City the bandmen are known as the "FFA mail order band" because they are recruited by application forms mailed to the director from FFA members all across the nation. This year over 500 FFA members applied for positions in the band. The applications were evaluated and 122 bandmen were selected by Roger Heath, director of Virginia Tech Bands. Heath is in his eighth year as director of the National FFA Band and was presented the FFA Honorary American Farmer Degree in recognition of his outstanding service to the FFA.

"Band members are selected on the basis of tape recorded auditions or competitive auditions in their State FFA Band with supporting recommendations from their high school band directors," explains Heath who spends many hours during the Summer selecting FFA members to fill the 122-piece band. In addition, all applicants are required to list their musical experience and activities such as solo and ensemble performances, special honors and special experience such as drum majoring or baton twirling.



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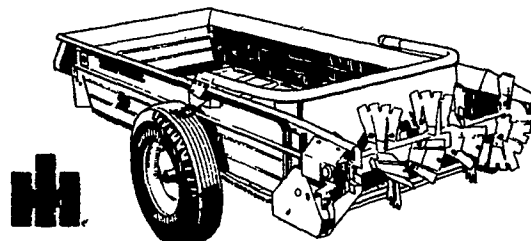
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