

Support voiced for beef information

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. - Three Pennsylvania livestock officials testified in support of the Beef Research and Information Order during a hearing this Fall in Pittsburgh.

The order is designed to permit cattle producers to establish, finance, and operate a research and information program in the United States.

Harry H. Stambaugh, of Green Park, Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association beef development and task force chairman, pointed out that the state's beef industry can be characterized by large numbers of relatively small-sized herds and feedlots. A small percentage of these producers derive sufficient portions of their income from beef cattle so as to become deeply involved in improvement of their operations.

"Communicating with the potential producer is difficult, and the large number of producers dictates that a

relatively low percentage of the people involved in the industry have the opportunity to assist with educational, promotional, and research programs," Stambaugh said.

"Few producers can offer assistance and encouragement to other persons who have land tracts available which would be best utilized in a grassland-beef cattle operation. A greater effort must be directed toward helping the producer receive current information on prices, market outlooks, technological advances, and other types of information useful to the industry as a whole," he added.

The Cattlemen's Association official said that land resources in Pennsylvania are generally without a suitable mix of land for row-cropping of grains. It has been estimated that only one-half of the grasslands in the state are presently being utilized by

any type of livestock, and that the acreages are best adapted to beef cattle operations.

"In a recent Pennsylvania survey, 95.4 per cent of the producers responding favored some type of producer-funded, self-help educational, promotional, and research program. These funds would allow research specifically needed by the industry to be conducted," Stambaugh noted.

He added that this would result in closer communication with regard to changes in prices, marketing potentials, and other types of information which would be conducive to sustaining the state's livestock production.

Dr. Lowell L. Wilson, of State College, secretary of the Pennsylvania Beef Council, emphasized that several misconceptions on the part of the general public surfaced during the past few years. Few consumers realize that over 90 per cent of the total land used for beef production is in grassland, and cannot support continuous or rotational propagation of grain crops.

"It requires less than three pounds of grain to produce one pound of live beef animal. In addition, approximately 40 per cent of all beef consumed is from mature beef and dairy cows, and these 'by-products' of the industry are usually fed no grain in connection with the beef production intent.

Without the beef industry, 900 million acres of grassland would contribute little to the human food supply," Wilson affirmed.

Dr. Wilson added that in recent USDA studies of household food consumption, poor nutritional buying habits are widespread. Other considerations with similar impact, such as the large number of families eligible for food stamps but are not presently receiving them, increased amounts of poor nutritional quality snack foods, and changes in cooking and purchasing habits of the housewife indicate the importance of coordinated consumer education programs.

President of the American Society of Animal Science, Dr. Thomas B. King, of State College, pointed out that since members of the society are engaged in research and education related to animal agriculture, they are vitally interested in supporting a proposed national research and information order for beef.

"Beef is the dominant meat in the American diet," Dr. King said. "The beef industry contributes much to the economy of the United States."

Many members of the society are actively engaged in seeking ways of improving the eating quality of beef, the ASAS president noted. This work consists of both basic and applied aspects of

research and education dealing with management of cattle on the farm and ranch as well as in the feedlot, cattle breeding and genetics, physiology, and nutrition.

In addition, many members are engaged in work leading to improvements in beef slaughtering,

processing, and marketing. Realizing the need to increase financial support of research and education for the cattle industry, the society's membership would actively explain the benefits of the Beef Research and Information Act to the cattle industry.

Agway to expand fertilizer service

LANCASTER - The Agway store at 1140 Dillerville Road, Lancaster, has a fertilizer blend plant on the drawing boards, and construction of the facility is expected to be completed in time for Spring 1977 plantings. The announcement was made during the annual meeting of the Garden Spot Agway stores, held here at the Farm and Home Center on Monday evening. This year marks Agway's 12th anniversary as a farm supply and food marketing cooperative.

Designated for servicing the Lancaster-Salunga areas, the new fertilizer facility boasts measurements of 36 feet by 72 feet (bun area only) and has a rated equivalent ton capacity of up to 4000.

On the agenda of activities for the evening were reports from Mark Hess, representing all of the Garden Spot stores; Elwin Peet, Agway Petroleum manager for the Garden Spot area; and James Esbenschade, from the Supply Center, Lancaster.

Guest speaker for the evening was Arthur Cochran, area manager of Agway, Inc.

Elected to three-year terms on the Garden Spot Agway committee were: John L. Beiler, Paul M. Herr, Amos H. Rutt, and Robert L. Weaver. Roy Book and Robert G. Groff were elected to the petroleum committee. Member committees were responsible for guiding local management, evaluating the store's service to members and other customers, and nominating candidates to the 18-member Agway board of directors.

A report covering the Garden Spot stores' operations for the past fiscal year was given by Mark

Hess. He told the 200 members present that sales volume for 1975-76 amounted to \$8,890,000. Elwin Peet reviewed the petroleum operations during the past year.

Committee chairman Amos Rutt, who presided over the meeting, reported on the Agway annual meeting held in Syracuse and a recent Agway Council meeting. The Agway Council serves as an advisory group to the Agway Inc. board of directors and is made up of chairmen of Agway store and representative committees.

A report on developments within the entire Agway system was given by Agway director Ralph Heffner of Pine Grove, Pa.

Agway has 117,000 member-stockholders and serves agriculture in 12 Northeastern states.

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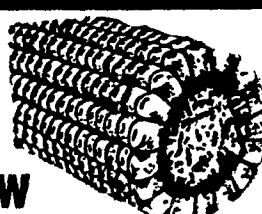
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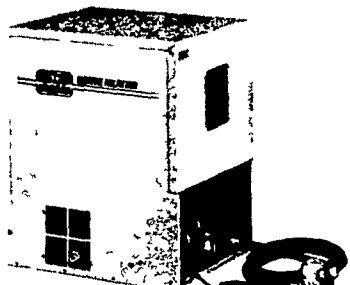
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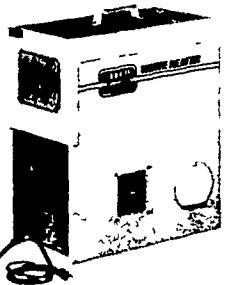
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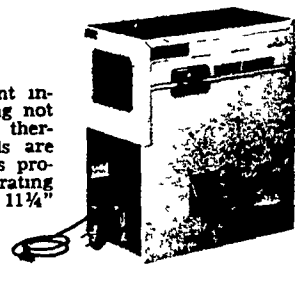
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