

Pa. Grange sponsored 30 national resolutions

HARRISBURG - Thirty resolutions introduced by the Pennsylvania State Grange were adopted, in whole or in part, by the National Grange at its convention last month in Atlantic City and have become policy of the national organization.

One of the key resolutions calls for strengthening the Federal Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act to provide greater protection for farmers and growers who sell their products to brokers, handlers, packers and processors, according to J. Luther Snyder, State Grange master.

The resolution urges that the Act be amended "to require that all purchasers of raw, perishable agricultural commodities that are intended for further processing be bonded in sufficient amount to protect the grower."

There have been cases in the past, Snyder explained, of growers being victimized by buyers who fail to pay for produce or delay payment for long periods of time. "Such practices place an added financial burden on growers who find it difficult enough to maintain operations under today's price and market structure," Snyder added.

Another key resolution deals with proposals to restrict the use of fertilizers as a step toward reducing stream pollution. The resolution introduced by Pennsylvania State Grange

and approved by the National Grange notes that "without a balanced fertilization program, agriculture cannot produce to its maximum capability." It recommends that restraints should not apply to amounts of fertilizer "recommended by a soil test from an approved laboratory."

Another important action called for the inclusion of "long-range storm water management" in flood-plain plans. The objective would be "to control runoff to not more than would have been experienced before the area was developed."

Two resolutions dealt with the U.S. postal service. One opposes blanket closing of small postoffices and calls for hearings to be held to examine individual cases. Another opposes any reduction in the six-day-per-week delivery of mail.

Another resolution opposed establishing a federal consumer advocacy agency as unnecessary since it would duplicate the purposes and authority of numerous existing agencies.

The Grange called for a broad study of the Social Security System to determine what revisions may be necessary to correct faults and inequities.

It also called on Congress to take steps to "insure that the purpose and intent of legislation be stated in such a manner as to eliminate ambiguity, misinterpretation and misunderstanding."

Other Pennsylvania

resolutions adopted by the National Grange favored:

Guaranteed prices, loan rates and other farm program provisions that are necessary to assure farmers earning power on a par with other sectors of the economy.

Release of Mirex, on a temporary basis, for control of fire ants until suitable substitutes can be developed.

Legislation to prohibit the use of dairy symbols and terminology in trademarks of non-dairy products.

Strict enforcement of dairy import quotas under rigid sanitation standards as are imposed on domestic products.

Increase in estate tax exemptions from \$60,000 to \$200,000.

Delaying "impractical rules that show a lack of

understanding" in final OSHA regulations concerning field sanitation for agricultural workers until hearings can be held by Senate Agriculture Subcommittee.

Careful scrutiny of eligibility claims of welfare recipients and requiring employable recipients to work when they are physically able.

Elimination of non-deposit metal and glass containers, and requiring deposit on all returnable containers.

Removal of railroad warning signs at crossings that are no longer in use.

Reduction of paperwork in government.

Continuation of religious programs on radio and television.

Celebrating holidays, including Memorial Day, on their original dates instead of shifting them to week-ends.

Retaining the "Star Spangled Banner" as the national anthem.

Among other resolutions introduced by the Pennsylvania State Grange, the National Grange opposed:

Unionization of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Any special interest group, or person or persons interfering with the orderly marketing of agricultural products in world trade.

Federal legislation or EPA regulations that would limit amount of phosphates in

detergents below 8.7 per cent.

Any form of gun control that would "jeopardize the right of U.S. citizens to keep and bear arms."

Pardoning Tokyo Rose (Mrs. D'Aquino) and restoring her U.S. citizenship.

Judicial leniency in dealing with criminals, particularly in the field of juvenile crime.

Legislation as outlined in the Child and Family Services Act of 1975.

Clover management topic of meeting

HINKLETOWN, Pa. - Clover management will be the topic of discussion by Dr. John Baylor, Penn State Extension specialist, at the December 8th meeting of the Hinkletown Adult Farmer Program.

New varieties of clover and new management techniques make it possible for the red variety to produce yields far in excess of those now received. Proper management of clover will produce hay much higher in feeding value than normally expected.

This crop can be grown on a wider range of soil conditions and has many advantages in disease and insect management problems that some other forage crops. Improved management practices will allow clover to be maintained for longer stands.

Dr. Baylor will discuss the most effective management techniques of clover and the latest in varieties tested to date. The meeting will be held at the Hinkletown Alternative School at 7:30

p.m. on December 8. The school is located East of Hinkletown and North of Route 322 on Wanner Road. All interested persons are invited to attend.

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