

Farmer federation pleased with 1976

HONOLULU, Hawaii - The year 1976 was one of the most successful in the history of Farm Bureau! That was the message as Richard W. Owens,

Secretary and Chief Administrator of the American Farm Bureau Federation delivered his annual report here recently before farmers attending the 58th annual meeting of the Federation. Owens noted that the 1976 membership gain of more than 171 thousand families was the largest gain in the history of the Farm Bureau, the nation's largest general farm organization. He said "surely it is significant that these tremendous gains, this evidence of continuing Farm Bureau acceptance, came during a political year.

the maritime union's embargo of American grain bound for the Soviet Union. "In the complaint, we charged the International Longshoremen's Association with a secondary boycott.

"Injunctive proceedings were brought against the unions, which signed an agreement to 'cease and desist' from engaging in similar work stoppages in the future," said Owens. "Further respect was gained by Farm Bureau in Congress and elsewhere by our sustained and successful fight for estate tax law reform.

"Farm Bureau helped sponsor the estate tax reform package resulting in some much needed changes in the Federal estate tax law. The old law had become a severe hardship for many farm and ranch families.

"Earlier," said Owens, "President Ford signed the prompt pay amendment to the Packers and Stockyards Act. This will better protect livestock sellers, particularly from insolvent packers. Farm Bureau was represented by AFBF President Allan Grant at the White House signing ceremony.

"During the year, Farm Bureau worked on a number of important transportation issues such as the Federal highway program and the Railroad Revitalization Act. We supported replacement of the locks and dam No. 26 at Alton, Illinois," said the Farm Bureau official. "We are more aware than ever that farmers and ranchers must have a balanced transportation system. We need the railroads, the trucks, the barges, the airlines and ocean-going ships.

"We also know that to improve transportation service efficiency, we must have state and federal regulatory reform. "State regulation of truck

transportation is so extensive and so variable that it is a very real hindrance to interstate commerce. It is a modern wonder that our truckers make it across country to do their job. "The costs of transportation," said Owens, "are reflected in prices received by farmers and ranchers.

"This is why Farm Bureau launched 'Project Clear the Road' in which we are working with state Farm Bureaus to see what can be

done to reduce state regulation and to build a more coordinated system among states.

"We much prefer this kind of 'do-it-yourself' project to moving more responsibility to the federal government," stated Owens.

The American Farm Bureau Federation is headquartered in Park Ridge, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. Its convention here runs through tomorrow with some 16,000 farmers and ranchers attending.

Best honey chosen

HARRISBURG - The Chester County Beekeepers Association placed first in the collective county honey exhibit at the 61st Farm Show. Chairman of the Chester County group is Joan M. Schmidt, association president, from Landenberg R2.

Archie Krug, of Ebersburg, Cambria County, exhibited the best comb honey display; and Earl Miller, of Dover, York County, showed the best exhibit of extracted honey. Miller also had the best commercial beeswax exhibit.

The best specialty pack was entered by Paul G. Cummins, of 145 East 14th Avenue, Conshohocken, Montgomery County. The best individual exhibit was shown by Daniel M. Fitzkee, of Manheim R6, Lancaster County.

Milt Murray, of 101 Creekside Drive, Enola, Cumberland County, entered the best exhibit of molded or designed beeswax.

FARM SHOW CHAMPIONS 4-H HONEY

Bill Mack, of Pen Argyl, Northampton County, captured two first places in 4-H honey competition at the 61st Farm Show. Mack won in the white extracted and extra light amber classes.

Nathaniel Miller, of Dover, York County, exhibited the top amber extracted honey sample.

FARM SHOW CHAMPIONS VOCATIONAL HONEY

Donald Gutshall, of Newport, Perry county, won first place in the dark comb class in vocational honey competition. The winner in the extracted amber class was William Sprague, of Falls Creek, Jefferson County.

Brucellosis meeting slated

ANNAPOLIS, Md. - Maryland dairymen and cattlemen are being urged to attend a meeting to discuss the status of current efforts to eradicate Brucellosis or "Bangs Disease", which is so costly to farmers.

The meeting, sponsored by the Maryland Agricultural Commission, will be held January 20th beginning at 7:45 P.M. at the Walkersville Fire House, Walkersville, Frederick County.

The disease poses a constant threat to the livestock industry in that it causes a loss of milk production and effects breeding.

In attendance at the meeting will be Maryland Secretary of Agriculture Young D. Hance; Animal Health Section personnel from the Department; Extension Agents; and representatives from USDA.

They will discuss the status of national and state Brucellosis eradication programs, testing, and

vaccination. Moderator for the session will be Maryland Agricultural Commission member Leon Enfield, a dairyman from Knoxville, Frederick County.

In Maryland, the dairy and cattle industry accounts for some \$175,000,000 in annual farm income. Figures for 1975 show the state's cattle (including milk cows) inventory amounted to 460,000 head. These animals that year produced 1.5 billion pounds of milk which had a farm value of \$147.5 million and some 109,000 head were sent to slaughter producing 118,000,000 pounds of meat worth \$30.8 million.

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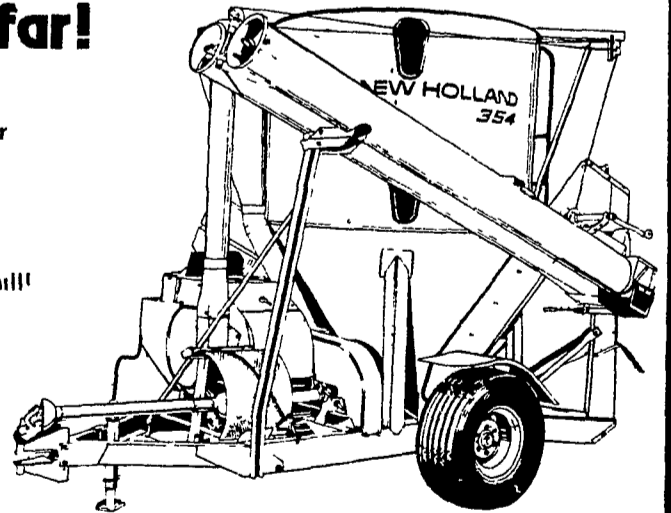
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