

## Grangers

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out, is the nation's fifth largest producing state in the nation and ranks second in the production of ice cream and other frozen dairy products.

"We know consumers have problems," Shelhamer declared, "and we know farmers have problems. The job is to get these two groups together and seek a mutual level of understanding of each other's problems."

Shelhamer's remarks were made during a panel discussion of the basic role of agriculture, and of its importance on state, national and international levels.

He told 458 Grangers attending the session that one of the primary needs in Pennsylvania is "to help our farmers make money and keep their families on the farm."

Other panelists pin-pointed the widening spread between prices farmers get for their products and prices consumers pay for food.

David R. Lambert, director of regulatory affairs for the National Grange in Washington, D. C., said the idea of "cheap food" that prevailed from the mid-30's was changed in the last decade by the combined impact of inflation, worldwide drought and the Arab oil embargo.

"The energy shortage is not a myth," he warned, "and we do not have enough oil to run our economy unless we import it." As a result, he pointed out, the balance of trade with foreign countries - which had been favorable in the past because of large exports of agricultural products - is running against us. "American industry," he added, "is not competitive in the world market today."

The stage was set for their comments by three Grange members who discussed operations and problems on their own farms.

Donald Trostel, of Biglerville, an Adams County fruit grower, criticized government controls, particularly rules and regulations pertaining to

migrant workers, as a major factor in increasing production costs.

He focused attention especially on the widening gap in prices, declaring that "on the basis of what we get, big retail outlets are operating at markups of 50 to 120 per cent."

He said that he had recently checked apple prices and discovered that fruit he had sold for 30 cents for a three-pound bag was being retailed in Ohio stores at \$1.29 to \$1.39 a bag.

A Washington County beef producer, John M. Lindley of Prosperity, declared that "beef is a bargain on today's market, but the only one gaining is the consumer." He said that he is losing as much as \$60 a head on steer calves produced on his farm, and that feeders who buy 400-pound calves and market them at 1,000 pounds are currently losing \$20 or more a head.

A Montgomery dairy farmer, Charles E. Wismer, Jr., of Collegetown, is summing up the farm situation and problem, declared that "we must have a steady income and a

steady market for our products."

He added that "while prices received for milk are not as secure or stable as they were several years ago, the cost of producing is constantly on the rise."

The panel moderator was William Buffington, of Chadds Ford, Chester County.

In the keynote address opening the school, John W. Scott, master of the National Grange, likened leadership

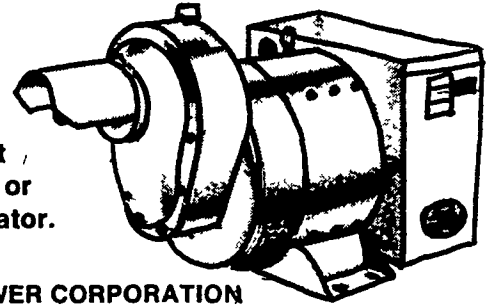
to a race and pointed to all the training and preparation that is necessary for winning efforts.

"This week," he told Grange leaders, "you are preparing for your part in carrying the Grange forward in the year ahead." He urged them to focus attention on youth, and cautioned them not to fear or be discouraged by failures. "After all," he concluded, "Thomas Edison failed many times before he invented the light bulb."



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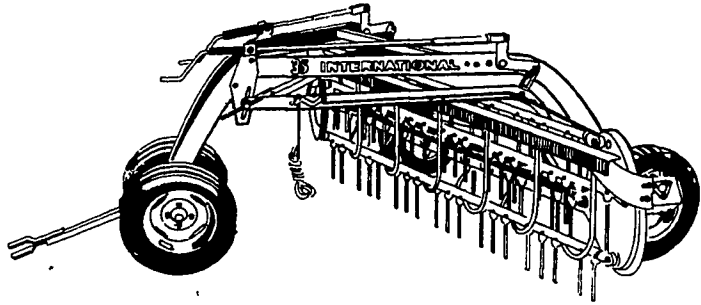
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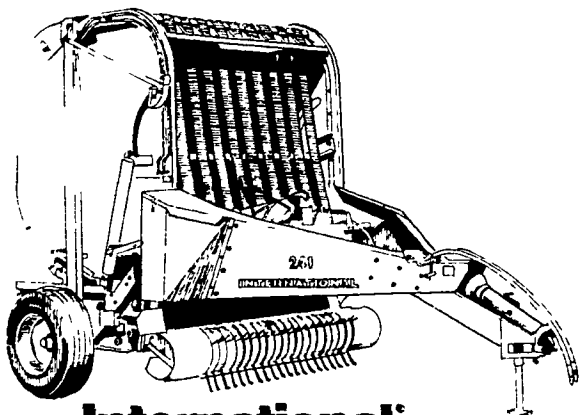
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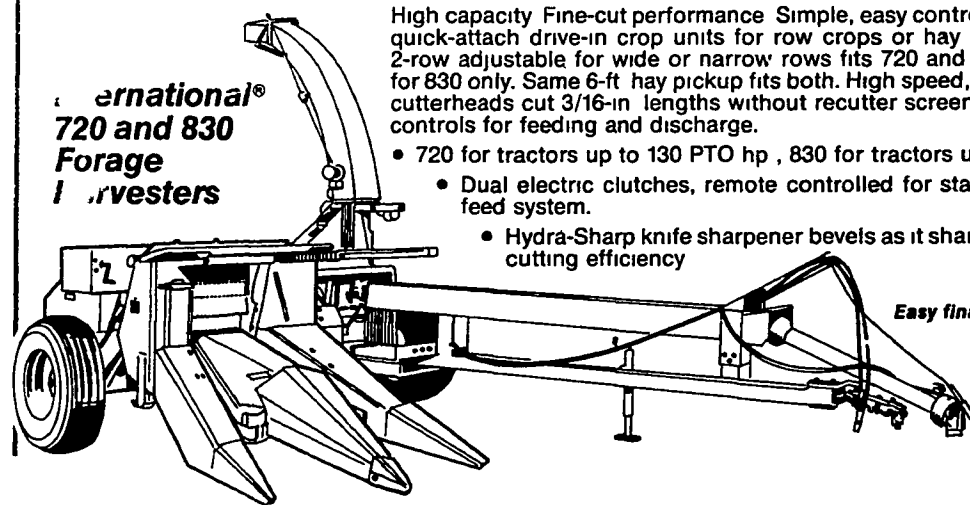
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