

# Beef vote encouraged, views on government role exposed

UNIVERSITY PARK - July 5 to 17 is to be a most important period for producers of beef in Pennsylvania and the United States. During this time, those producers, who have registered, will have the opportunity to vote for or against a self-help Beef Research, Promotion and Information Program," says Morgan, Extension Livestock specialist at The Pennsylvania State University. The program, if approved, would be administered by a beef board of 68 beef producers. Pennsylvania would have one member on board. There has been some discussion that this is just another government program to control agriculture, Morgan points out. It is not a government program - it will be administered strictly by people who produce beef. The best question as to how this type program is handled is to take a look at other

agricultural commodities that have been operating similar programs in recent years.

The following is what the managers of three such programs have to say about government interference with their programs:

Ed Gillespie, Manager, Cotton Board: "Since 1968, we have operated under three secretaries - Freeman, Hardin, Butz - and they never have failed to approve our recommendations...the Secretary's representatives have, on occasion, questioned some things we were doing, but they were legitimate questions." (Collections of \$1 per bale by the Cotton Board have amounted to \$6-\$14 million per year. Under a new assessment rate of \$1 plus 0.3 per cent of sales value, which as approved by 67.14 per cent of those voting in a December referendum, the 1977 total is expected to exceed \$20 million.)

Bob Mercer, Executive Vice-President, Potato Board: "The Secretary only has a legal concern that we operate within the law. We send the USDA our annual budget, plans and minutes of Board meetings. They never

have vetoed a proposal - it works beautifully for us." (Since 1972, with an assessment of 1 cent per hundredweight of potatoes sold, the Potato Board has collected \$2.0-\$2.3 million per year.)

Dick Biglin, Executive Director, American Sheep Producers Council: "We

have to supply budgets, plans and follow-up reports to the Livestock Division, AMS-USDA. On each project, we submit a paragraph or so on what we expect to accomplish. They make suggestions, but rarely change anything and have never vetoed a project. If we have a mid-year

change in plans, we advise them." (The ASPC has been operating since 1956 with annual collections, based on 1½ cents per pound of shorn wool and 7½ cents per hundredweight of lambs, of about \$2 million per year.)

"Keep in mind as you vote that this is a self-help

program, financed by beef producers and administered by beef producers," Morgan said. "It is designed to increase the knowledge of the importance of beef production in our economy, point out the value of beef protein in our diets, and assist in developing better markets."

## Sheep group will organize

GETTYSBURG, Pa. - On July 13, at 8 p.m., the Adams County Extension Service Office, there will be the first meeting of the newly formed Adams County Sheep Producers Group. The agenda for the meeting includes an election of officers, distribution of adopted by-

laws and the fellowship of sharing ideas with others interested in sheep production.

If someone is interested in

the sheep producers group, but unable to attend the meeting, he should contact the Extension office for further information.



# 1977



# SALE

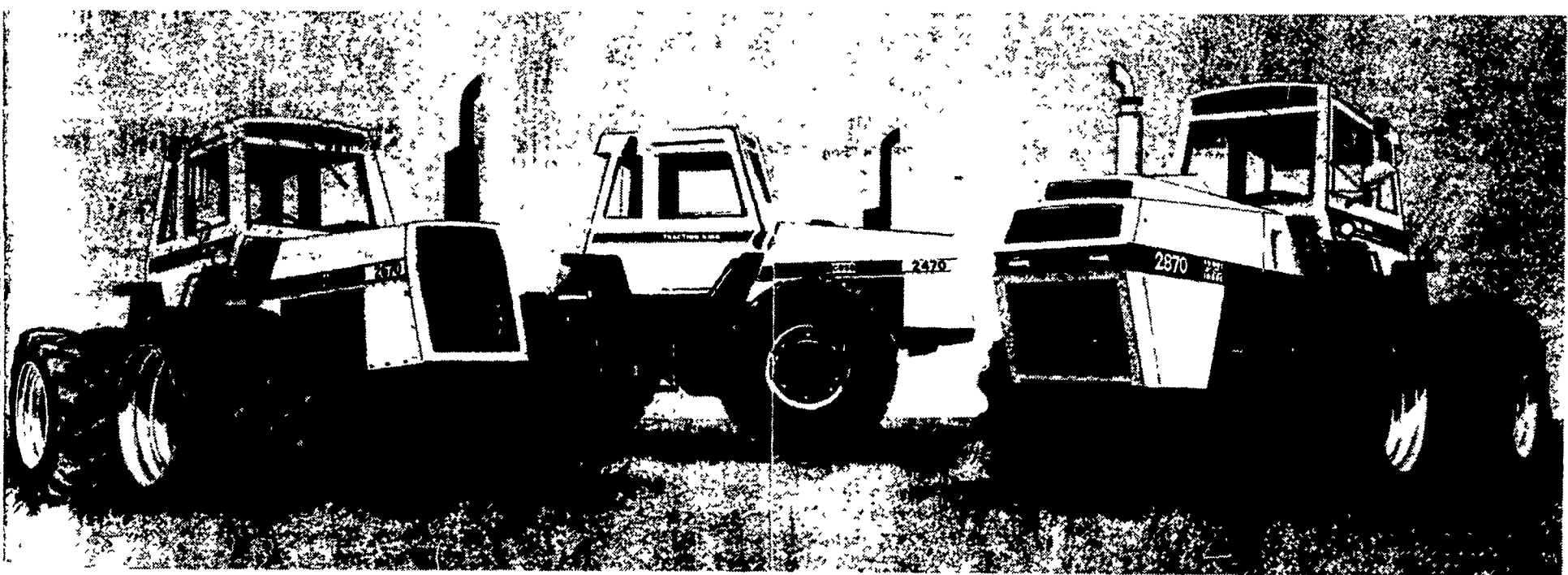
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