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Carter expresses desire to help farmers

Agricultural trade situation exposed

By DIETER KRIEG
WASHINGTON, D.C. - Thirty editors of American agricultural journalism were given a brief glimpse of the status of world agricultural trade last week when they met with Carter administration officials on Sept. 30. Represented in the group were Lancaster Farming's editor, Dieter Krieg, and Mildred Bunting, managing editor of the Lancaster Livestock Reporter. The occasion was a 6-hour series of meetings with government administrators, including President Carter himself.

On the one hand it was revealed that beef imports will continue to be a "safety valve" to the Administration if domestic production reaches a point where meat prices are thought to be too high. "If beef prices start rising, they may be countered with imports," stated Julius Katz, assistant secretary of state for economic and business affairs. When challenged on that statement with the message that American cattlemen can produce enough beef to meet consumers needs - especially in

view of the current low feed prices - Katz countered that the criterion for beef imports is price. If the price goes beyond what the Administration considers to be reasonable, then imports

may very well come into play. Reluctant to predict more imports, Katz acknowledged "there is that possibility in the law."

On the other hand, American tobacco growers

will likely be shut out of the world tobacco market. The simple reason is that American tobacco is possibly priced too high for the world market, Katz explained.

Another revelation which came out of the government briefings, held in both the White House's Cabinet Room and the Old Executive Office Building, was that "it

is not practical to look for certainties."

That statement was made by Richard R. Wyrong, from the Office of Panamanian Affairs. He was part of the program and addressed himself to con-

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Meeting with some of the nation's farm editors a day after he signed the 1977 Farm Bill, President Carter expressed general satisfaction with the

measure, saying he had no reluctance about signing it.

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County agents from area win nat'l. recognition

HARTFORD, Conn. - Nearly 300 county Extension agents were honored here Tuesday, as "America's best agricultural communicators."

They are state, regional, and national winners in the 1977 Public Information Awards Program of the National Association of

County Agricultural Agents (NACAA). Included were several from southeastern-southcentral Pennsylvania and neighboring areas.

John Kirch, director of marketing, and Dan Chisholm, manager of trade relations, Amchem Products, Inc., Ambler, Penn., presented certificates

and cash awards ranging from \$25 to \$350.

The awards banquet Oct. 4 was a part of NACAA's 62nd annual meeting here.

Winning county agents were cited for "excellence in the use of mass media in publicizing important programs for the betterment

of the agricultural community."

The information program was started under Amchem's sponsorship in 1968 with only 665 entries. Participation was up to 1,796 this year - a record. State, regional and national judges have examined and critiqued 12,176 com-

munications efforts by county agents during the program's ten-year history.

Virgil Adams, Extension news editor at the University of Georgia and 1977 chairman of NACAA's Public Information Committee, announced national winners in seven classes: radio program, photo news

stories, series of colored slides, feature stories, direct mail pieces, newsletters and personal columns.

National winners from Pennsylvania and neighboring states included:

John Z. Shearer, Chambersburg, first place with a

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Farm equipment manufacturers crystalball 1978

HOT SPRINGS, Va. - The farm equipment industry expects to feel the impact of depressed wheat and corn prices on its overall business in the coming year, even though some segments of agriculture will be in a strong position in 1978.

Outlook statements from

industry leaders at the 84th annual convention of the Farm and Industrial Equipment Institute held here at The Homestead last week anticipate weak corn and wheat prices might result in overall lower farm equipment sales in the year ahead.

The industry has experienced generally strong demand for most of its major products in recent years, but Robert E. Kidder, president of White Farm Equipment Company, said "the days of 'is it available?' are gone."

"Even though total farm cash receipts in the United

States are likely to increase another three per cent in 1978, the low prices for important crops such as wheat and corn are exerting cost-price pressures on many farmers," Chairman William A. Hewitt of Deere & Company said.

"As a result we anticipate

that industry sales of farm equipment may be lower in the coming year. This means our industry is going to be even more competitive than at any time since the early

1970's and the performance of individual companies more dependent than ever on

their ability to market in this competitive climate."

Ben H. Warren, president of International Harvester's agricultural equipment group, said depressed commodity prices will continue into 1978 and "we

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Pennfield introduces computerized feed mill

By DIETER KRIEG
LANCASTER - Grinding feed has come a long, long way from the days when I was a small boy in Germany. I can still vividly recollect standing beneath the heavy timber arms of a windmill and watching them turn with the wind. They seemed

awesomely powerful and creaked under the strain. The wind provided easy power, but you could tell from the groaning of timbers and cogs that the work was tough. And inside this winddriven mill were men who labored just as hard. It was fascinating to watch.

Now, 25 years later, I find myself marveling at how a modern mill operates. The perfect example of modern milling can be found right here in Lancaster County. Specifically, it's the recently completed Pennfield Mill in the Hempfield Industrial Park, east of Lancaster. It's

a sight to behold, both inside and out.

Yesterday evening, and again today, Pennfield Corporation introduced the highly advanced mill to its employees, customers, and invited guests. What they saw was one of the largest and progressive milling

operations in the country. Standing 170 feet tall, the mill features computerized mixing, storage and transfer systems.

Although one might catch a good stiff breeze atop the 170-foot structure on some days, this mill doesn't depend on the wind for any of

its power. Instead, electric motors with 2000 combined horsepower do the work. The mill hums with activity, churning out more than 1000 tons of feed per day. At that rate, the operation consumes 20,000 bushels of corn and

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