

Water rights

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proper representation from farmers. Shelhamer, who is a farmer himself, leaves no doubt that such tactics arouse his defensive instincts. DER now has an agricultural advisory board to provide farmer input into sedimentation and erosion regulations.

Shelhamer believes very strongly that farmer representation is what's needed in the SRBC.

Although the SRBC claims that its regulations wouldn't affect farmers 80 per cent of the time, Shelhamer attacks that statement noting that it's the other 20 per cent that really concerns farmers.

Total water use on farms is to be limited to 100,000 gallons per day. That would include uses which take water and return it back into the system. Most uses on the farm fall into the

consumptive use category, however.

Shelhamer noted that studies have shown irrigation to be profitable every year out of two. In many cases, irrigation is needed every year in order to make vegetable and fruit production profitable. The economics of some of these businesses have tightened so that farmers can't afford to bypass irrigation.

According to McSparran, those farmers who have been irrigating since 1971 will retain their irrigation rights. It is not known, however, what will happen

to those rights when the farm is sold or passed on to heirs. Farmers who want to begin irrigating this year should apply for a permit first, McSparran said.

The water use question also applies to industry, which uses 60 per cent of all the water in the state, and power companies, which gobble up another sizable chunk. Agriculture, it was pointed out, uses only about one per cent of the supply. One member in the audience, thought it was grossly unfair for agriculture to receive the limitations since farmers use so little out of the total supply. McSparran considered the comment and repeated his earlier statement that farmers should make their needs known to the SRBC.

Shelhamer wants farmers to write to DER Secretary Maurice Goddard, and the SRBC. Both can be reached by addressing your correspondence to the Department of Environmental Resources, Office of Public Information, Evan Building, P.O. Box 1467, Harrisburg, Pa. 17120.

McSparran says that the state should have the authority to regulate water use in order to protect various users. "We need

Cecil Co. plans ag meetings

ELKTON, Md. - On March 13 and 20, the Cecil County Cooperative Extension Service will be discussing grain marketing. Topics to be included are forward contracting, hedging, basis, and the futures market. John Crothers, ag economist, University of Maryland, will direct the first session on March 13. Ron Garner, commodity broker, will handle the second session on March 20. Both sessions will begin at 8 p.m. and will be held at the Civil Defense meeting room in the Court House in Elkton, Md.

In other marketing news, the Cecil County ASCS Office will hold a meeting on the set-aside program for feed grains in the Extension conference room on March 15 at 8 p.m. Bill Sharp,

district director for ASCS programs, will discuss the benefits of signing up for the 1978 program.

have a nice weekend...



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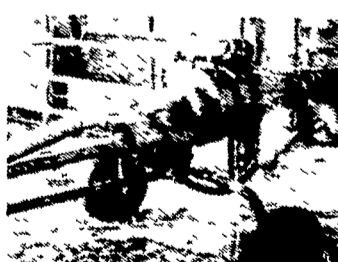
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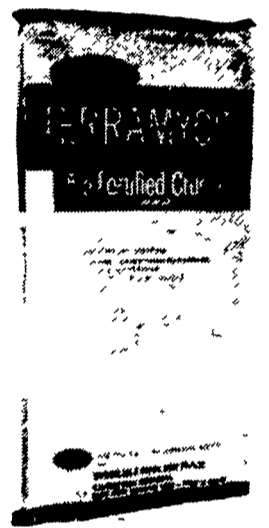
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