

Agricultural Conservation Program funded at \$190 million despite Carter's objection

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, under the chairmanship of Jamie Whitten (D-Miss.), recently handed the Carter Administration two major setbacks. In spite of the fact that Jimmy Carter is the first farmer in over a century to sit in the Oval Office, he and his OMB had followed the tactics of previous administrations in trying to

drastically curtail the Agricultural Conservation Program. And they had only proposed \$90 million for the 1979 ACP. The Whitten Committee restored the ACP to the level of recent years — \$190 million.

In another major upset to the Carter Administration, the Committee indicated that the Clean Water Act's cost-sharing Program should be administered by ASCS, not the Soil Con-

servation Service. While the USDA had asked for \$200 million for this cost-sharing program and \$2.8 million for the SCS to begin planning the new program, the White House recommended to the Congress that the full \$200 million be eliminated — and then left the \$2.8 million for SCS to set up the preliminary administrative organization.

Whitten's Committee not only reversed the administrative procedures so

that ASCS would handle the cost-sharing, but eliminated the \$2.8 million for SCS. The Committee provided \$25 million for a beginning of this cost-sharing effort to clean up our Nation's waterways through ASCS Committees and \$4 million for SCS technical services. Furthermore, the Committee directed the Carter Administration to come up with a new program in 90 days.

"It is a little hard to understand how the Carter Administration, in view of Jimmy Carter's campaign against bureaucracy and increased federal spending,

could have advocated the establishment of a completely duplicative cost-sharing program at the county level," says the National Limestone Institute, Inc.

Penna. Beef Council asks for voluntary check-off

HARRISBURG — The Pennsylvania Beef Council, Inc. is asking members of the Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association and other veal and beef producers in the state to support a voluntary check-off so that funds will be available for beef promotional and educational programs.

The group feels that they don't need a national referendum or state legislation. They are trying to do it themselves by asking for contributions of 25 cents for each animal sold to be sent in by the cattle producer

to the council treasurer. No check-off at the market is required and no complicated "value added" deduction method.

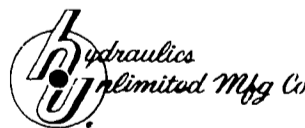
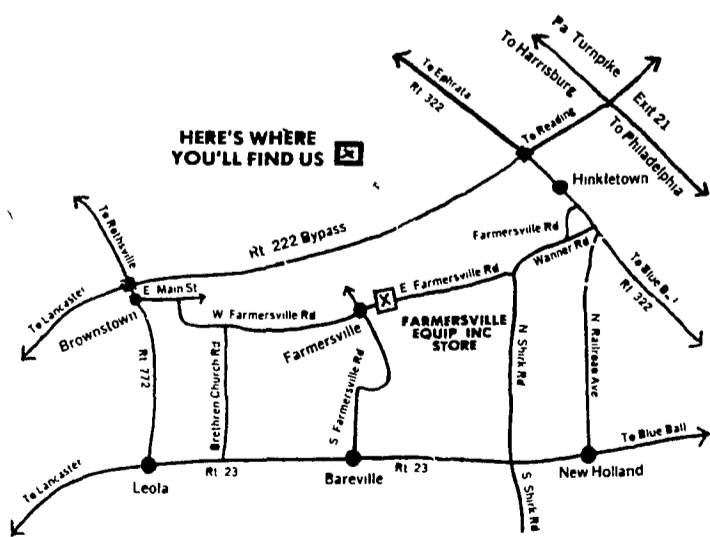
These funds are necessary to improve Pennsylvania's beef industry and provide better markets for cattle and calves in the state.

Cattlemen have been asked to send 25 cents for each head of cattle - calves, feeders, finished cattle, culls, vealers and registered cattle sold to Robert R. Coleman, treasurer, Pa. Beef Council, Inc., 4605 North Road, Harrisburg, Pa. 17109.

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