

'Farm problems have changed; solutions must too'

COLLEGE STATION, Tex. - The farm problem has changed, therefore the solutions to the problem also must change.

This was the basic message of the Task Force in charge of drawing over-all conclusions from the National Farm Summit, Dr. Ronald D. Knutson, Professor of Agricultural Policy and Extension Service Economist at Texas A&M University, said here Dec. 6.

Knutson, chairman of the Summit Review Committee,

said new dimensions of the problem include a tighter world supply-demand situation, unprecedented inflation, questions of family farm survival and nutrition issues.

"In the past, the main problem confronting agriculture was that of low prices, while today it is inflation. Rapid inflation has put the farmer in an increasingly high risk position. Farmers, particularly young farmers, are increasingly in a win-or-lose-all risk position."

The tighter world supply-demand situation also increases risk of production shortfalls, and this makes production control programs less attractive, Knutson said.

"The key to agricultural policy thus becomes one of developing programs which while lessening risk of production shortfalls do not take away the price, profit, and production incentives provided by the market system."

The ability of the family farm to survive and compete

can no longer be taken for granted, Knutson emphasized.

"The farm income problem is today centered on middle tier farmers with sales ranging between \$20,000 and \$100,000. While these farms are as efficient as their larger scale counterparts, their asset costs per dollar of investment in the farm operation is twice as high. In the process, the proportion of U.S. agricultural production on farms that are not classified

as family farms has increased to 30 percent."

Nutrition policy is also a new issue, Knutson said.

"It is one which sparked great controversy. Mounting evidence of the relation between diet, chemicals, food additives and health makes producers and firms that serve agriculture very nervous. Currently the biggest impact is on the uncertainty created by government decisions and information.

"In the longer run, however, major impacts

upon particular sectors such as livestock and dairy could result. Mechanisms for input into policy decisions must be developed with represent agriculture not as a biased advocate but as realistically attempting to solve problems in a cost and benefit contest," the A & M economist said.

The Task Force analyzed solutions in terms of alternatives.

Alternatives considered fell into the categories of transferring costs to

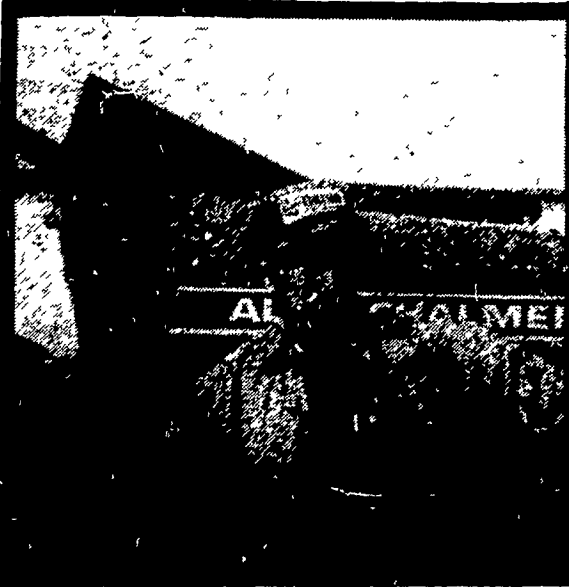
(Turn to Page 21)

HERE'S WHAT FARMERS ARE SAYING ... ABOUT ORTHO UNIPEL FERTILIZER



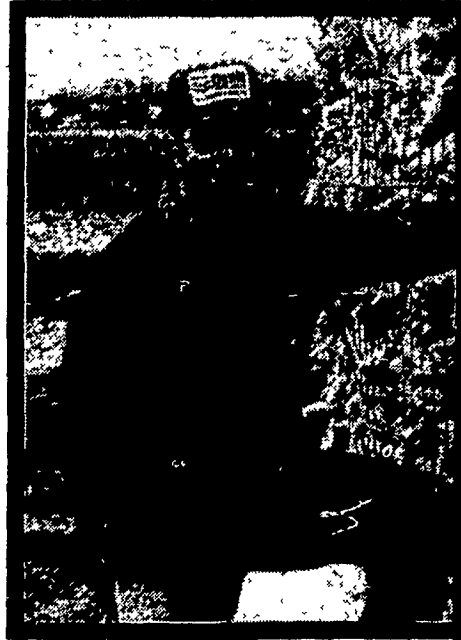
Noah Kreider & Sons Route 7, Manheim, Pa.

This was our first year with the Unipel 20-10-10 fertilizer from P.L. Rohrer & Bro., Inc. We used 1400 lbs. per acre Unipel 20-10-10 on 300 acres of potatoes. Both size and quality of potatoes were excellent. We liked the storeability and handling of Unipel fertilizers. Unipel 20-10-10 was delivered in January, 1978, and not used until April. The Unipel fertilizer gave us no problems through the planters when it was applied. We liked its uniformity especially as it gave excellent yields. We plan to use Unipel fertilizers again next year.



Young Bros., Earl Young Route 1, Peach Bottom, Pa.

"I farm about 325 acres and have been using Ortho Unipels for two years. My fertilizer program last year was 700 lbs. per acre of Unipel 21-7-14 plowed down in the spring plus 150 lbs. of Unipel 13-34-10 in the row as a starter. I like the uniformity of Unipels and know that I won't get segregation with the Unipel program."



H. Kermit Rohrer Route 3, Columbia, Pa.

We farm approximately 400 acres and have been using Ortho Unipels for two years now. Our salesman, Henry Breneman from P.L. Rohrer, recommended a program of Unipel 20-10-10 at 450 pounds per acre plowed down plus 150 lbs. of Unipel 13-34-10 as a corn starter. I really like the uniformity of Unipels and the Unipel works beautiful in my planter. I know that each pellet has N, P, K meaning a uniform plant feeding. Also, we don't have any burning of plants with Unipels. You can depend on the service from P.L. Rohrer & Bro., Inc.



G. & J. Hershey Bros. Route 1, Kinzers, Pa.

"My brother and I farm 100 acres and we have been using Ortho Unipels from P.L. Rohrer & Bro., Inc. for ten years now. Our program for corn was Unipel 20-10-10 at 600 lbs. per acre plus 150 lbs. of Unipel 13-34-10 in the row as a starter. On our alfalfa we used Unipel 10-10-30 at 300 lbs. per acre after the first and third cutting. We like the uniformity of Unipels and realize that we won't have any segregation of our fertilizer. Before switching to Unipels we had a problem with blended fertilizers in that they choked up our equipment."

P. L. ROHRER & BRO., INC.

SMOKETOWN, PA.
PH: 717-299-2571



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