

Energy, regional marketing studied at conference

CHERRY HILL, N.J. — Energy and regional marketing problems facing Northeastern agriculture came into focus here last week as more than 300 delegates to the Northeast Agricultural Leadership Assembly began serious discussions aimed at developing policy recommendations for government and research.

Recognition of energy as a major problem for Northeastern agriculture could be seen in the overflow crowd which debated policy recommendations throughout the day David Pimentel, of Cornell University said that during the often heated discussions, major policy recommendations were honed from a list of 26 submitted for consideration.

"The Northeastern states and the federal government should adopt policies to

stimulate all phases of the food production, processing, distribution and marketing chain," Pimentel said. "The members of the policy workshop voted overwhelmingly in favor of this recommendation as a means to conserve energy while developing new techniques and also improving the competitive position of regional agriculture."

Penrose Hallowell, Pennsylvania's Agriculture Secretary noted that the themes discussed in the workshops on energy and production overlapped. Hallowell said that the major thrust of production discussions was aimed at "the adoption of strong promotional programs to encourage the purchase of regionally produced agricultural products, as a means to both conserve energy and improve the

economic condition of Northeastern farmers."

Hallowell said that discussions on marketing followed similar trends, focusing on the need to improve regional marketing practices, and promotion of local and regional food production and distribution. "This should help the Northeast become more self-sufficient. Encouraging state agencies to adopt policies of buying state and regionally produced products is another way to safeguard our economic interests," he added.

Vermont Agriculture Commissioner William H. Darrow, Jr. echoed the regional theme expressed in the discussions. He noted the division of interest between production issues and issues pertaining to rural life.

"Of greatest importance to the delegates meeting on

rural life issues was the fact that the Coalition of Northeastern Governors, who sponsored this Assembly, should continue its efforts to develop a regional rural policy aimed at giving the people living in rural areas a voice in determining local

goals," Darrow said. "The problems which affect farmers and rural residents are distinctive. Policy makers should not assume that actions which are effective in meeting urban and suburban problems will also solve rural problems."

Delegates to the Northeast Agricultural Leadership Assembly will continue debate on issues through Thursday when specific recommendations on varied phases of Northeast agriculture will be presented.

Cowbelles workshop to be May 4-5

CORNING, N.Y. — Women involved in the beef cattle industry as wives of cattlemen, as owners of their own cattle businesses or who work in related fields are invited to attend the American National CowBelles Region I workshop May 4 and 5 at the Hilton Inn at Corning, N.Y.

The two-day program is being hosted by the New York CowBelles and is the first such workshop of the national organization in Region I. There are 17 states including New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland in Region I.

Speakers will include Connie Townsend of the Montana CowBelles speaking on nutrition awareness; Irene Raymond of the Michigan CowBelles who will discuss beef promotion and the CowBelles' Beef for Father's Day programs, Ida Hess of the Indiana CowBelles who will discuss communication and consumer relations, and

Jean Phiergartner of the Ohio CowBelles who will explain the National Beef Cook-off competition. Mrs. Townsend is the president-elect of the American National CowBelles.

The main workshop sessions will be May 5 from 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Advance room registrations at the Corning Hilton Inn are due April 20 and may be made directly to Terry Maloney, Corning Hilton Inn, Corning, N.Y. 14830 or by telephoning 607-962-5000. Participants are reminded to include their attendance at the Region Workshop with their registration.



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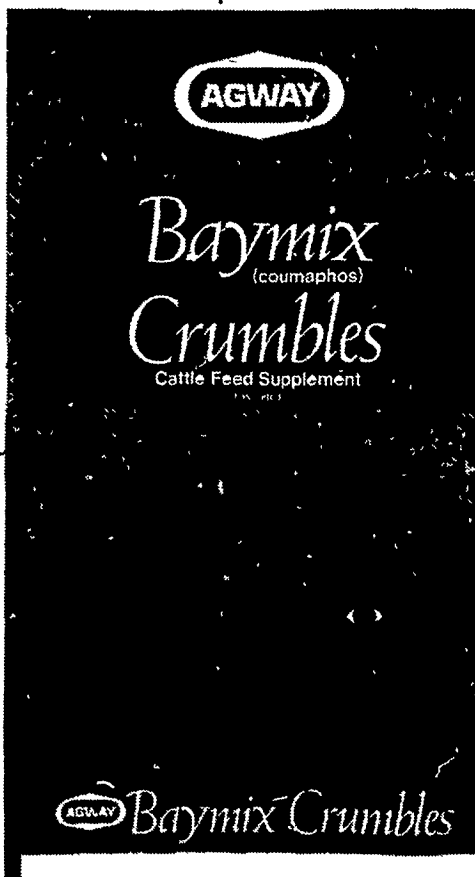
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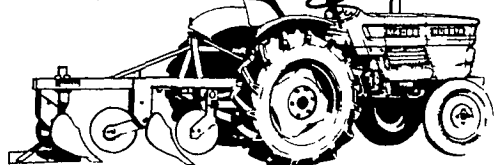
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