

**Tony Dechant's presidency ended**

# IFAP meeting concentrates on farm prices

SORRENTO, Italy - Low farm prices in every corner of the world were the central concern of farmers of more than 40 nations who met here April 23-27, at the 23rd General Conference of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP). In a policy statement adopted by the delegates, it was noted that in most countries prices received by farmers lag behind their rising costs, while in the exporting countries, farm prices have actually declined while costs rose.



The 23rd General Conference closed with the election of Sir Henry Plumb, former president of the National Farmers Union of England and Wales, as the new president, succeeding U.S.-NFU President Tony T. Dechant, who had headed IFAP since November, 1975.

Dechant was unable to participate in the Sorrento meeting because of his hospitalization for surgery. Elected as IFAP vice presidents were M. Ghedira of Tunisia, C.V. Pereda of Argentina, and Peter

Bukman of the Netherlands. As immediate past president, Dechant will continue to be a member of the IFAP executive committee.

The weakness of farm commodity prices in world trade was blamed in part, in the IFAP policy statement, on the "slowdown overall economic growth and employment."

The effect of the worldwide economic slump "hits hardest in the developing countries which is where the greatest need for food exists and where the biggest increase in demand would occur if the world economy were growing at a healthy rate," said the policy document.

Noting that food output continues to increase nearly every year, the IFAP statement observed that "increasing employment in the poor countries is necessary in order to prevent price-depressing surplus from accumulating."

The IFAP conference strongly endorsed a family farm structure of agriculture and called on governments to adopt policies to "accord to farmers compensation for their labor, investment, management services and risks equal to the returns accorded to comparable resources and services in other sectors of the economy."

The IFAP statement viewed on the "Tokyo Round" of trade negotiations as favorable for agriculture but stressed that immediate benefits would be limited.

"Producers of grain in the exporting countries received no significant benefits from the negotiations," the IFAP statement declared while noting that agreements for other major commodities "will likely have limited effect on trade flows," since most provisions relate to minor processed and semi-processed products.

Representing the U.S.

National Farmers Union at Sorrento were George Stone, NFU vice president, Robert G. Lewis, NFU secretary,

and Douglas Caruso, general manager of the Farmers Union Milk Marketing Cooperative.

## Legislator calls for TMI assistance

HARRISBURG — State Representative Don Dorr, R-York, in letters to United States Congressman Bill Goodling and Senators Dick Schweiker and John Heinz, has asked that the federal government take steps to spread the adverse economic effects of the Three Mile Island incident as broadly as possible.

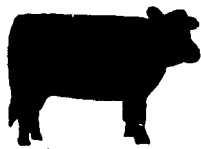
"Amendment of the Price-Anderson Act would be one avenue of assistance for GPU ratepayers," Dorr said.

Dorr noted the coverage of the Act is very restrictive.

"The federal indemnity involved in the Act amounting to some 500 million dollars could be used to help pay for the cleanup of Three Mile Island and the additional energy purchases which must be made by the electrical suppliers as a result of the damage to Unit #2 and the inability to start up Unit #1," Dorr stated.

"Another approach," the legislator added, "could be the use of federal disaster relief funds for economic assistance by supplying funds for cleanup and energy purchases."

"It is vital to prevent the justified outrage which will pour forth from the people in this area if they are forced to pay for this situation without seeing indications of support from other areas," Dorr said. "The people of this area have already suffered too much. Millions of Americans will benefit by the lesson learned from Three Mile Island and improved safety standards prompted by the incident. This is adequate justification for asking for their assistance," he claimed.



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