

## Commitment to alcohol fuel production needed

READING—A serious commitment to alcohol fuel production should help stabilize our motor fuel juices and send a strong signal to those supplying our oil imports that we are not totally at their mercy.

Berks County Farmers Association President Jack Kooker announced today that these and other comments were presented to the House Agriculture Committee in Wash. D.C., by

Warren Lamm, Sinking Spring, RD 5, a member of the local association. The testimony was presented to urge support for an enactment of the National Alcohol Fuel and Farm Commodity Act of 1979. "The Berks County Farmers Association believe that the production of alcohol fuel will reduce our dependence on oil imports and Berks County Farmers are ready to play an important role in this

effort," Kooker added. "We do have the potential agricultural products such as sugar beets, potatoes, sweet soybean and varying quantities of sub-standard grains which are unfit for their normal use. In addition, we also have considerable quantities of by-products from food processing operations such as potato chip plants which result in culls and peels on a year round basis and con-

siderable amounts of whey from cheese plants which are very efficient in the production of alcohol fuel."

Lamm commented that "A great deal of research has been done in the general area of fuel production from agricultural products. This research should be consolidated using the most current facts available." He felt that the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture should assume

the responsibility if making this information available to anyone seriously interested in the production of fuel alcohol from agricultural products.

"With the wide range of resources available to us, we should establish our own goals to diminish our dependence on oil imports," Lamm continued. This should have several very positive factors for us.

It would utilize resources which presently are considered to be either surplus commodities or waste products. It would provide a continuing market for the productive capabilities of American Agriculture which are not fully utilized at present. Much of the residue from the alcohol fuel production is of considerable

value for our livestock industry so there would be little waste material. Production of alcohol fuel would also create a market for agricultural commodities where the capability for production exists but no market at present. A good example of such a crop for the Northeast is sugar beets. This would have the fringe benefit of increased agricultural income and provide employment.

"The evidence presently available points to environmental benefits from the use of gasohol, an increase in miles per gallon and improved engine performance," Kooker concluded, "and farmers can provide products for production."

## Poultry regulations dropped in urban areas

NEW YORK, N.Y. - The U.S. Department of Agriculture has dropped regulations covering live-poultry handlers who operate in six major metropolitan centers

because live-poultry marketing in the areas has become almost nonexistent.

Charles B. Jennings, deputy administrator for the packers and stockyards

program in the department's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the rule change will not result in any less protection for persons involved in the production or marketing of poultry.

Areas affected are: Boston, Mass., and surrounding area; New York, N.Y., and northern New Jersey, including Jersey City; Newark, N.J.; Philadelphia, Pa., and surrounding area, including Camden, N.J.; Chicago, Ill.; and St. Louis, Mo.

The rules which were revoked were put into effect in 1935 after Congress amended the Packers and

Stockyards Act to require licensing of all poultry dealers and handlers operating in the major designated areas.

Jennings said the department published rules in 1971 which cover live-poultry dealers and handlers operating throughout the United States.

"These rules will be retained. We believe they are adequate to deal with any unfair practices that may occur in the marketing of live poultry anywhere in the nation," Jennings said.

The rule change was published in the Aug. 7 Federal Register.



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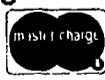
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