## **Peterson addresses Hanover AAM meeting**

## **BY PATTY GREEK** Staff Correspondent

HANOVER - The American Agriculture Movement was conceived to preserve the most important food producing system in the United States, the family farm. And to this goal, is what the meeting held December 2, at the Community Room of National Central Bank in Hanover was all about.

The speaker for the evening was Wayne Peterson from Highmore, South Dakota. Peterson started out by saying that he was like all of us. He wanted something to be done but didn't know how.

In 1977, he was invited to an AAM meeting. Peterson has been in Washington, D.C. ever since fighting for the American farmer. He has never been paid but has had help by people who thought his being there was necessary.

Peterson stated that two out of every three dollars of capital investment in this country are in agriculture. Since these two dollars are not making a substantial return; our economy is in trouble.

Farmland itself is in trouble. With expanding communities and high taxes, approximately one and a half acres of farmland is lost for every baby born in the United States. It has become a constant fight to maintain our farmland. A USDA study estimates there will be a 20 percent drop in farmland by 1980. The Department of Labor Statistics also states that by 1985, 43 percent of the current owner/operators will be off the farm. And for every four that leave the farm, only one will ever return to it.

Peterson quoted Secretary Bergland as saying in the Washington Post, "I seethed with contempt when far-

mers drove their new tractors and 4-wheel drive trucks to town crying for more." Bergland also told the country that those of the American Agriculture Movement gathering in Washington were victims of their bad business decisions, and that they were greedy to want incomes on par with the United States inflationary economy. And all

parity.

To obtain 100 percent parity would not mean having a guaranteed income, but would insure a fair price. Under 100 percent parity farmers would have received \$6.09 per bushel of wheat in October, 1979. Instead they received 64% parity, or \$3.90 per bushel. Hog farmers would have gotten \$72.80 per hundredweight under 100 percent parity instead of \$34 at 47 percent parity. This is one of the goals to which the American Agricultural Movement is working.

we want is 100 percent

The subject then turned to the topic of Gasahol and its use. AAM could not understand why progress was so slow in the development and production of vehicles that could run on alcohol or gas.

Peterson states, "Other counties have been using alcohol as a fuel for years, why not us?"

The USDA dislikes grainmade alcohol because they feel food will be much higher in cost. It has already been proven that the feed residue from the production of alcohol is very high in protein, for feedlot use. So the grain will not be wasted, as every part of it will be used during the alcohol making process.

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In Pennsylvania, the fee to uptain a license to make alcohol-fuel is an outrageous \$2500. Pennsylvania farmers are trying to get the fee down to \$25. At this cost, more farmers would consider producing alcohol on the farm.

The book "Making It on the Farm - Alcohol is the Road to Independence," was made available at this meeting. For the price of \$2.95 a book, farmers could find out all they need did to know about how to make alcohol on their own farms.

Peterson presented one of these books to Hanover Librarian, Priscilla Mc-Ferren, for display in the Hanover Library.

If you would like to be informed of the new ideas and receive more information on alcoholproduction send \$10 to: American Agriculture Movement Foundation, Box 57, Springfield, Colorado. This will put you on their mailing list for one year to receive information. The money goes toward grants for two alcohol plants.

If you are interested in helping to organize a PA Association of the AAM or would like to join such an association, contact: Bernard Gardner (717) 225-1959 or Edward Murphy (717) 632-6100. These two men seek

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support in this worthwhile After all, they are fighting project: the American for all farmers, not just



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the Farm to Pricilla McFerran of the Hanover

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