

Crop-hail insurers back new amendments

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Leading representatives of the private crop-hail insurance industry are supporting key amendments to the Federal Crop Insurance Act of 1979 that would protect their industry while benefiting farmers.

The decision to support the amendments was made at the 1979 annual meeting of the National Crop Insurance Association held in December at Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

The proposals were drafted by the bill's sponsor, Rep. Ed Jones (D-Tenn.), chairman of the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation and Credit and Rep. Edward Madigan (R-Ill.). They will be taken up when the bill goes to the House of Representatives for a vote in early spring.

Private insurers had previously opposed the bill unanimously on the grounds that it gave the federal crop insurance program an unfair advantage in the crop insurance marketplace through widely expanded coverage and heavily subsidized premiums.

The proposed amendments would:

Provide farmers with the option of substituting private hail insurance for federal hail insurance within the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation all-risk policy package. The option includes a flat credit toward the premium equal to 25 percent of the FCIC policy premium.

Provide federal reinsurance benefits for all-risk

policies written by private insurers and require test programs to guarantee that the reinsurance program is implemented in at least ten states by crop year 1982.

Require the FCIC contracts with private insurers provide terms and conditions compatible with existing industry standards for similar services in order to ensure that federal and private policies are complementary.

The changes would give the private crop-hail insurance companies an improved position in relation to the bill's benefits, protect agent's rights in selling, serving and owning the business they write, give farmers the option to choose the product and seller they prefer and put private in-

dustry and the federal government in a cooperative rather than competitive position.

The National Crop Insurance Association is an organization supported by the majority of private crop-hail insurers and service organizations.

At the annual meeting, the group also elected the following to serve as officers for the next two years: president — Donald E. Smith, executive vice president, American Hail Management Inc., Armand, Fla., first vice president — J.W. (Bill) Greene, assistant vice president, American States Insurance Co., Indianapolis, Ind., and second vice president — Roy E. Jeffries, vice president, Old Republic Insurance Co., Chicago, Ill

Crafty Creators stitch pillow wreaths

FLEMINGTON, N.J. — The last meeting of the Crafty Creators 4-H Club was used to finish work on clothing articles that were started earlier in the year. The meeting was also used to make Pillow Wreaths. These wreaths are made by making a pattern from a mason jar lid, stitching around the edges and pulling the thread halfway until

there is only a small opening. This opening is used to stuff the pillow. After it is stuffed, pull the string until the opening is closed. It takes twelve pillows to make a wreath. You then sew the pillows together forming a circle for the wreath which makes a nice Christmas decoration. Reported by Ruth Tannahill, Club Reporter.

Use gasohol carefully

LANCASTER - Gasohol, a highly volatile mixture of 10 per cent alcohol with gasoline, may be a means of easing the energy crunch for fossil fuels, says James Garthe, Extension agricultural engineer, The Pennsylvania State University.

Gasohol is becoming increasingly available in many areas and users should be made aware of precautions in using alcohol-gasoline mixtures.

A potential safety problem is the tendency for gasohol to spurt out of the fuel tank when the filler cap is removed. Another hazard is the deterioration of gaskets

and seals used in the fuel system.

Gasohol causes a much faster breakdown of gasket materials used in carburetors and fuel pumps today. This creates some serious leaks and wastes fuel. The fire hazard, especially with above-engine mounted fuel tanks, can be quite serious from an "eruption" or a "bad gasket".

Gasohol should be stored underground to minimize fuel losses from vaporization and to prevent excessive pressures.

Tanks, lines, connectors and associated parts should not contain aluminum. A

milky sludge will be formed of aluminum oxide and water. This sludge can cause clogging of the fuel system and other problems in an engine, cautions Garthe.

Some additional tips for using gasohol are:

—Make sure the fuel filler cap fits properly and vents in the cap are not "clogged".

—Inspect the fuel system regularly for leaks.

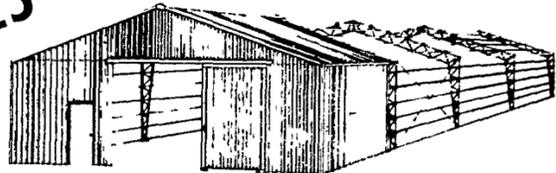
—Avoid aluminum contact with gasohol.

—Do not remove the gas cap when the engine is running or hot.

—Never use glass, plastic, or flimsy metal containers.

—Do not smoke around gasohol.

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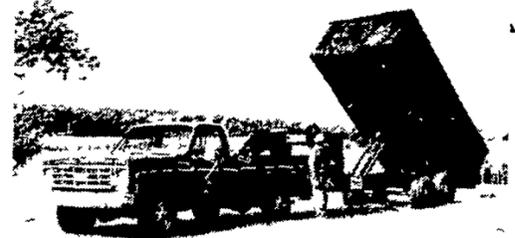
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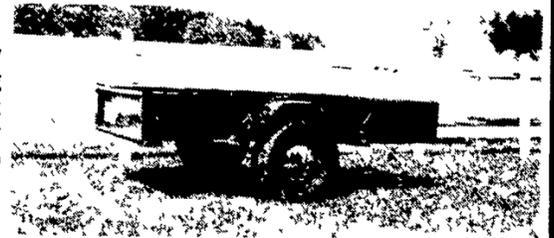
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