

USDA urges cattlemen to vote

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Beef producers will vote early in 1980 on whether they want a nationally coordinated beef research and information program. The upcoming referendum was announced recently by Assistant Secretary of Agriculture P. R. Smith. He said beef producers will be asked to register for the referendum between January 28 and February 6.

They'll vote by secret ballot February 19-22.

The order issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture authorizing the program provides for a beef board of up to 68 producers to administer the program. There would be as many as five non-voting consumer advisors to the board.

Each state or geographic area would be represented

on the board in proportion to its share of the U.S. cattle industry.

The program would be funded by assessments based on the value of cattle sold. During the first two years of the program, assessments could be up to two-tenths of one percent of the value of cattle sold (20 cents per \$100).

After two years, the board could recommend an increase up to five-tenths of one percent.

All sellers in the marketing chain would be assessed. The buyer at the point of slaughter would deduct the total assessment and forward it to the board. Any producer could request and receive a refund of the assessment paid.

Ray Fitzgerald, Administrator of the Depart-

ment's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, said his agency will conduct the referendum. The Department's Agricultural Marketing Service will monitor the program.

Rules for registering and voting in referendum have changed, noted Fitzgerald. He said the Department determined that 10 days (8 working days) would be sufficient for all producers to register and that the four-day voting period would result in a more efficient voting procedure and reduce administrative costs.

A similar order, issued in 1977, although favored by 56.4 percent of voting producers, did not receive the required two-thirds approval. Since that time, the Beef Research and In-

formation Act has been amended by Congress so that a majority of producers will be sufficient for approval of the order.

Following the change in legislation, beef industry organizations proposed a new order. A public hearing has been held in five locations. Based on the hearing testimony, the Department issued a recommended decision and order in September.

Comments were accepted for 45 days and were considered in developing the order announced recently.

Producers may register and vote at local ASCS offices. Registration and voting can be completed by mail if information and ballots are requested in advance.

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Farm methane system on display at Farm Show

HARRISBURG — Farm fuel systems to make methane and alcohol are being introduced for the first time at the Pennsylvania Farm Show by Martin Distributors Inc.

The digester produces methane gas from manure which provides the fuel to run an engine with a

generator, enabling a farmer to produce his own electricity.

The hot water from engine supplies free heat to operate the equipment to make your own farm fuel (alcohol) from corn, which is a good grade farm fuel to run your tractors, trucks and cars.

The exhaust heat from the engine is used to drv the

mash which is corn left over from making the alcohol that turns into 32 percent protein feed (brewers grain).

The same farm milling system that grinds the corn is also used to make a complete feed using the 32 percent dried mash to replace soybean meal.

The display will be set up and operating as much as

possible on the inside of a grain bin located outdoors in the parking lot on the West side of the large arena.

The bin will be heated from the excess engine and generator heat, showing how it can also dry grain at harvest time or either heat a building.

Regional soybean meeting set for January 17

WARRINGTON — A regional soybean meeting is scheduled for January 17 to bring together farmers, researchers, extension and commercial people to hear the latest on soybean growing for Southeastern Pennsylvania.

The meeting will be held at the Warrington Motor Lodge Restaurant, Routes 611 and 132.

The session will begin at 9:30 a.m. with coffee and rolls. Speakers' program begins at 10 sharp, according to Bucks County Extension Director Dick Bailey.

A buffet luncheon will be available for \$5. Reservations for the buffet luncheon must be made by January 10 through the Bucks County Extension Service office, Neshaminy Manor Center, Doylestown.

Bailey said the meeting will qualify farmers for their pesticide applicators certification renewal. Farmers should bring their permits with them to the meeting.

Included on the program will be such topics as grading a soybean crop, the soybean market, variety

demonstration results, double-crop soybeans, herbicide activity and no-till soybeans.

Panel members also will look at Dual, Blazer and Basagran herbicides. And they will take a short time to discuss corn production in 1980.

Among the speakers scheduled for the meeting are W.P. Sutton, Lovatt and

Company, Inc.; Bill McClellan, Penn State extension agronomist; John Yocum, Director of the Southeast Research Farm; Joe McGahen, Penn State extension agronomist; Jack Beideman, Ciba-Geigy; Mark Blume, BASF; and John Harman, with Rohm and Haas.

The meeting is scheduled to adjourn at 3:30 p.m.

Nurserymen to meet

NORRISTOWN — There will be a meeting of the Pennsylvania Nurserymen's Association on Thursday, January 10. The meeting is scheduled to be held at the Westover Inn and Country Club in Jeffersonville, beginning at 1 p.m.

Sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Service, Penn State's

Department of Horticulture, and the Small Business Administration, the meeting will feature updates and advice from many noted people in the nursery field.

Dr. Francis R. Goun, Department of Horticulture from the University of Maryland will speak to the group on current trends in the business.

In addition, Albert Moony of S.B.A. will discuss how his agency can assist nurserymen.

David J. Steiger, Pa. Department of Agriculture, and Stanley Green, Penn State, will talk to the nurserymen on pesticide certification and how pesticides work. And, Dr. Wayne Hinsh, Penn State, will be explaining the soil testing service available from the university.

One of the highlights of the meeting will be Joseph Cesarini, Phyto-Ecology, discussing the potentials of container growing.

After the evening dinner, William Fredericks of Private Gardens, Inc., Hockessin, Delaware, will talk to the group on using native plants in landscaping.

For more information, contact James K. Rathmell, Jr., the floriculture and nursery agent in Norristown.

Star Riders plan next meeting

FLEMINGTON, N.J. — The last meeting of the Star Riders 4-H Horse Club was a Christmas Party. Members played games, exchanged gifts and had a good time.

The December 7 meeting was a "Parents Nite-Out", where some of the parents

got together and got to know each other.

The next meeting will be on February 1 at 7 p.m. at the home of Judy Can. There is no January meeting. Reported by Mike Devins, Club Reporter.

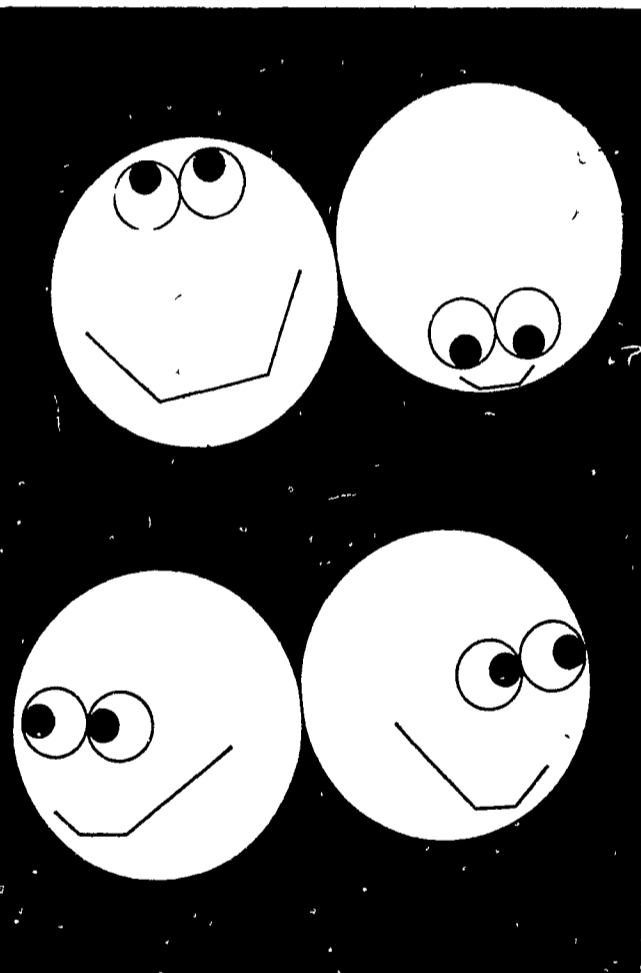


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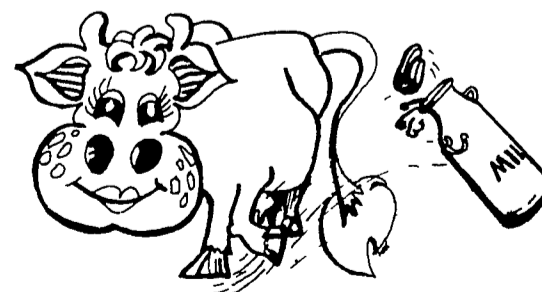
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