

Nominating committee chosen for soybean referendum

DOVER, Del. — A nominating committee of five members has been chosen to select names for members of the Delaware Chapter of the Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association.

Included are former Delmarva soybean growing contest winner Homer Torbert, Frederica; Bill Mitchell, University of Delaware agronomist; Bill Henderson, Georgetown, former Sussex County extension agent; Henry Retz, Middletown, President of the Delaware Crop Improvement Association; and Cliff Parker, Jr., Frankford.

The naming of the committee is the next in several steps needed to institute a soybean checkoff program for Delaware.

When HB 410 was passed and signed late last year, it provided the enabling legislation for a referendum.

The Commodity Development Act allows farmers to vote on programs to raise money for marketing, research, and development of their commodities.

On December 28, 1979 a petition was presented to

Delaware Agriculture Secretary Alden Hopkins along with a list of 10 names for candidates to serve on the nominating committee.

The five members listed above were chosen from that petition.

Delaware soybean producers ultimately will vote on those nominated.

Although the Delaware Department of Agriculture will have a seat on the Delaware Soybean Association, if the referendum is passed, only farmer-producers will have a vote in the Association's activities.

All farmer-candidates will be selected by the producers. They will not be appointed by the Agriculture Department, according to Mark Kooker, commodity development specialist for the Department.

By law, the names of the board must be submitted by the end of February. The question of whether that is the 28th or 29th has been raised but probably will not become a problem.

The board will be voted on sometime before the end of March.

After that time they will write the referendum the farmers will vote on.

According to Kooker, the program should be ready to go by the beginning of this July.

At present, it looks like Delaware farmers will follow the lead of Maryland and New Jersey growers and assess themselves a full penny per bushel soybeans produced.

Delaware's 2200 soybean producers, in a normal year, produce about 5.5 million to 6 million bushels of soybeans.

At a one cent contribution rate, they would raise \$50,000 to \$60,000 per year for research and education on Delaware soybeans.

Delaware Governor Pierre S. DuPont IV has said he favors the referendum concept.

He said he prefers to see farmers and others avoid the use of tax funds for supporting programs of this nature.

Kooker said he felt it is important Delaware farmers have a better voter turnout than Maryland, where only a relative handful of farmers even bothered to cast a ballot.

"We don't want the

legislators to say farmers don't care," Kooker said.

Delaware has gone to great lengths to assure farmer participation, including the provisions for two separate votes, one for the board and the other on the referendum itself.

In many other states, the board has been appointed by

the state agriculture department.

Maryland, the most recent state to approve a soybean checkoff, was the 21st state to do so. New Jersey, where voters this week got ballots to vote on their referendum, may become the 22nd.

This would leave Delaware the opportunity to

be the 23rd state to have a soybean checkoff program.

Of those states currently running a program, the majority have checkoffs of one-half cent per bushel soybeans.

At present 460,000 growers across the country participate in grower checkoff programs. — CH

4-H roast beef supper

NORRISTOWN — Anyone who enjoys delicious roast beef should plan to attend the annual 4-H roast beef supper to be held on Saturday, January 26, at the Northern Montgomery Vot-Tech School on Sumneytown Pike near Lansdale. The dinner will be served from 3 to 8 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Montgomery County 4-H Livestock Club and features beef from project steers purchased at the 4-H shows in Allentown and at the

Farm Show in Harrisburg. Proceeds from the dinner will go to help the livestock club, the 4-H Center and the county program in general. Over 2,400 youth are enrolled in the 4-H Clubs.

The club plans to serve 1,500 people. The dinner is served country style. The cost is \$5.00 for adults, \$2.25 for children 6 to 12 years of age. Volunteer leaders and members will be preparing and serving meal. For more information or tickets call the 4-H office at 277-0574

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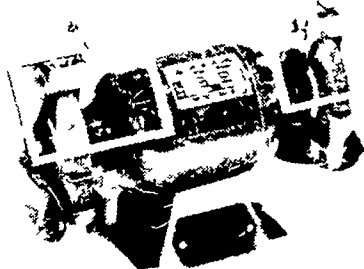
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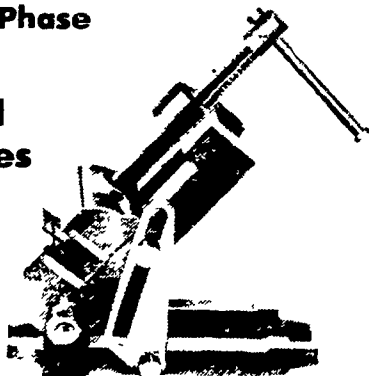
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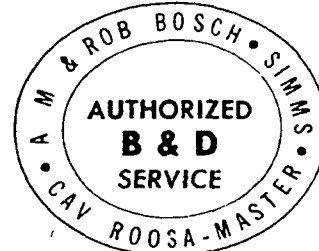
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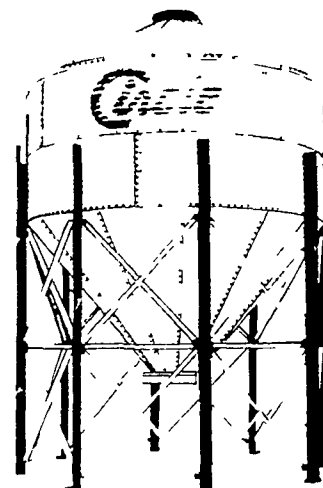


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