

*Exclusive interview*

# New Farm Bureau president will push legislative program

CAMP HILL — With just two weeks experience, Robert Delano is a newcomer in his present position.

But he is no stranger to farming nor to the back stage operations of a major farm organization.

The Virginia farmer was elected president of the American Farm Bureau Federation at the group's annual meeting in Phoenix during Farm Show week.

He travelled to Pennsylvania Monday to speak to members of the State Council of Farm Organizations. Before that meeting he took time to outline his feelings on a number of farm related topics.

While he repeated the standard statement that his first goal is to implement the policy of the voting delegates of Farm Bureau, he added he hoped to put major emphasis on the group's legislative program.

Delano said he felt inflation was the prime problem facing America and American farmers today.

He said there are two ways to reduce inflation: either balance the budget or limit government spending constitutionally.

Delano noted U.S. Senator John Heinz from Pennsylvania has put in a bill which would limit government spending.

"This is a preferable route to take," Delano said.

He said interest in writing an amendment to the Constitution is waning and said he feared some people were losing interest in the concept of balancing the budget altogether.

"If we do put a limit on government spending then we will be able to have a balanced federal budget, but not before," he said.

"Ninety percent of inflation is excess government spending," he added.

He said Farm Bureau would work to get legislation passed to eliminate this problem.

Delano said he came to the job with no "pet projects" or favorite ideas.

While he said he hadn't even talked to all the employees yet, he is no stranger in Farm Bureau circles.

He has been Vice President of the American Farm Bureau Federation since 1976 and served as



Robert Delano, a Virginia cash grain farmer and new president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, says he'll emphasize legislative activity during his tenure of office.

President of the Virginia Farm Bureau.

His home is located along the Chesapeake, about 100 miles South of Washington, D.C. and to the East of Richmond.

He admits his farm background makes him a more Midwestern oriented farmer than either an Eastern farmer or a Southern farmer.

"I know about the grain

end of agriculture and I am learning about the other problems," he said.

As a big grain producer he reacted quickly to the President's recent embargo of grain sales to Russia.

He was quick to point out that the amount of grain weighing on the American market should be considered as 19.5 million tons rather than 17 million tons.

He picks up the other 2.5

million tons from the grain which the Southern longshoremen have refused to ship out of the country.

"Even if the CCC buys all 19.5 million tons of grain it could cost agriculture between \$4 billion and \$5 billion.

"That will be taxpayer money," he pointed out.

He said he was interested in marketing and bargaining legislation which would allow farmers to bargain for the price they receive for goods.

He pointed out that farmers are at the mercy of the set prices and often fall victims to surprises such as the grain embargo.

"I hope to continue the kind of administration Allan Grant had," he said, adding "I will continue the emphasis on the export trade

"We need access to export markets.

"I have in mind sending a group to Brazil to study their use of gasohol. I want to see how they use corn and other biomass for fuel."

He said he felt programs to push for a bushel of grain for a barrel of oil were impractical.

"I'm against the use of grain as a weapon," he said.

"But we do support the President. If he has more information on the situation than we do, then we have to take his word for it."

Delano said he will continue to be interested in the thrust of agricultural labor unions, as was Grant.

"We will not waive in-

terest in sensible labor laws which allow the worker to make his own decisions," he said.

But he promised Farm Bureau would be against union boss control.

"Some union bosses have abused their privileges," he said.

Delano said he wanted to work with the Grange, National Farmers Union, National Farmers Organization and other farm and commodity groups to see that legislation and programs which would benefit the farmer are enacted.

He said he would work for some relief from the vast amount of regulations farmers have over their heads.

In particular, he cited the number of regulations on clean air and water which

have an impact on farming operations.

He said AFBF work on these programs, along with the legislative activity, should provide farmers with the forum they need in Washington.

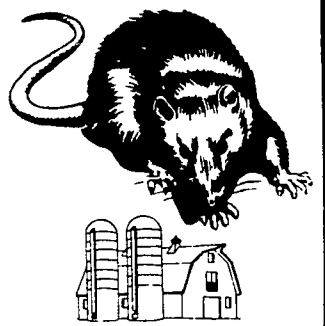
The 55 year old Delano, while a self-professed grain farmer, holds a degree in animal husbandry from Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

He pledged he would serve in his post with dedication and devotion.

Already, just two weeks into the job, he has made an impact in several agricultural areas.

A forceful speaker with a light Southern drawl, he should be an able representative for the nation's Farm Bureau members — CH

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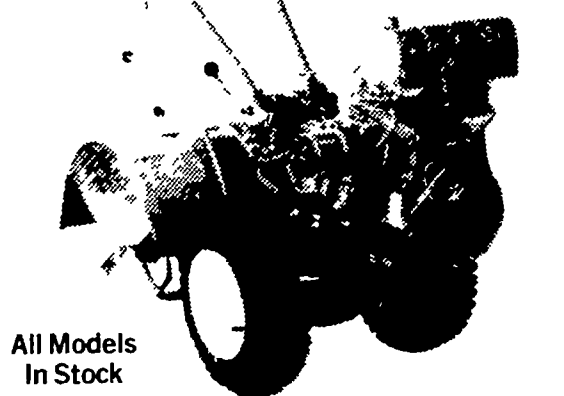
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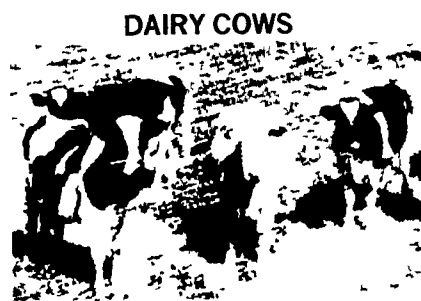
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