

Call in questions to political candidates

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "Campaign 80: what are the major farm issues?"

Farmers are invited to help answer this important question by participating in the nation's first "National Farm Issues Primary", being sponsored by the Agriculture Council of America.

This unique program features a special bank of 25 toll-free WATS lines that will be available to people anywhere in the continental U.S. on Wednesday, February 20th between 6 and 11 p.m. (Central Time). Anyone can participate by calling ACA's toll-free number (800/821-5401).

All the major presidential candidates from the Democratic and Republican parties have been invited to participate or be represented on the panel that will monitor the toll-free phones and speak directly with callers.

Each caller will be asked to respond to an "issues" questionnaire so that information can be systematically collected, tabulated and analyzed.

The "Primary" is being sponsored by ACA to explore

how individual farmers, ranchers and farm-related businessmen view major issues in the 1980 campaign. The program kicks-off ACA's Annual Membership Meeting, being held at the Crown Center Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri, February 20-22nd.

"In light of recent international developments, agriculture issues now rank among the foremost on our national agenda", commented ACA chairman Chris Joufflas, a sheep rancher from Grand Junction, Colorado.

"We think it'll be extremely valuable to identify how farmers and ranchers — the people most directly affected by these developments — feel about these and other national issues."

Results of the call-in will be discussed at a special briefing scheduled for the morning of February 21st. All participating candidates will be given an opportunity to comment on the findings.

"We've used this same technique many times in the past and based on this experience and the strong current interest in farm issues — we expect to attract a very large public

response", added Joufflas. "We hope as many presidential candidates as possible will join us in communicating directly with the American people through this unique medium."

As a private and non-partisan organization, ACA's role is to provide a forum for discussion; all views and opinions expressed will be strictly those of program participants. ACA emphasizes that all aspects of the program will be conducted with strict neutrality.

The basic technique being applied to the Primary has been pioneered by ACA in programs called the "Farm Line" and "Washington on the line". Their purpose is to bring top decision-makers and experts closer to the people affected by their decisions.

ACA has coordinated these programs on many occasions over the past six years involving prominent national leaders from the Administration, the U.S.

Congress, and leading representatives of the news media. Grassroots response has been generated from every one of the 48 continental states.

ACA cautions callers that although 25 WATS lines will be in operation an extremely high level of public participation is expected. Anyone reaching a busy signal during the program is advised to wait for a short period of time before dialing again. People unable to complete their calls are encouraged to respond to a printed version of the questionnaire by writing to: National Farm Issues Primary, Box 23421, Washington, D.C. 20024.

The Agriculture Council of America, formed in 1973, is made up of individual farmers and ranchers, farm and commodity organizations, and businesses serving the agricultural community. Its purpose is to communicate what modern agriculture contributes to a modern society.

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Boots and Saddles elects president

MANHEIM — Sue Evans was elected president of the Boots and Saddles 4-H club at their first 1980 meeting, held January 11. Sue also volunteered to represent the club at the 4-H County Council meetings held throughout the coming year.

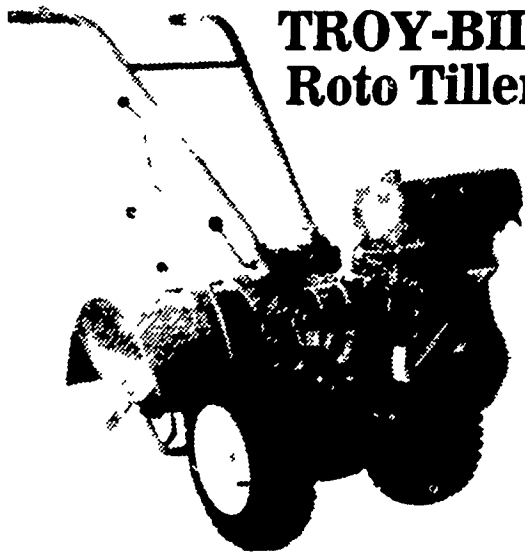
Other officers elected were: Valerie High, vice-president, Sharon Snyder, treasurer, Gail Graver, secretary. New teen leaders were selected and parents were asked to lead several

committees.

The club made plans for the new year, including more horse shows, and more gymkansas; speakers at meetings; money-making and community service projects. They will also have the annual awards banquet.

The next meeting will be held on February 8 from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. in the Farm and Home Center building. New members and parents are welcome. For further information call 898-8955.

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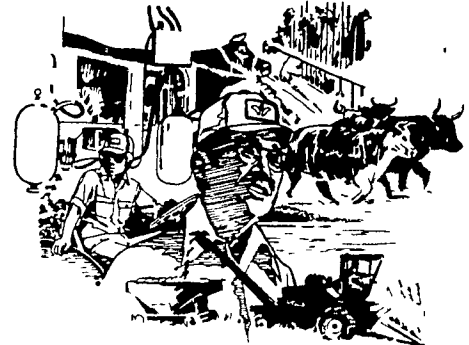
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Evening Banquet — Buyers and
exhibitors welcome 6:30 p.m. Open to
the public, tickets \$6.50

February 28
Afternoon — Tractor Pull Competition
Morning — Draft Horse Show
Noon — Tack Sale
Afternoon — Draft Horse and Mule Sale

February 29
Morning — Swine Show
Afternoon — Horse Pull Competition —
Lightweights (under 3,200 lbs.)
Evening — Horse Pull Competition —
Heavyweights (over 3,200 lbs.)

March 1
All Day — Tractor Pull
All Day — Swine Sale

For Further Information Contact The State Farm Show Office — 717-787-5373