

## Grange withdraws Salt II, Farm Credit Act support

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Grange Executive Committee, meeting at Grange headquarters this week in Washington, D.C., rescinded action taken by its delegate body in 1979 and has withdrawn Grange support of the Salt II Treaty.

Edward Andersen, Master of the organization, said "The conditions that led the Grange to support Salt II have changed drastically. The recent act of aggression against Afghanistan by the Soviet Union cannot be accepted by freedom loving nations. Therefore, as an organization that believes

in the right of self-determination for all people we can no longer support the ratification of the Salt II Treaty."

The Committee also voted to oppose the Farm Credit Act Amendment of 1980. The Grange strongly objects to provisions in the Act allowing the Farm Credit System banks to form corporations such as casualty and property insurance companies within the System.

The Grange also opposes changes in the lending authority of the FCS banks which would permit

Production Credit Associations and Federal Land Banks to lend funds to borrowers for the establishment of marketing and processing facilities that would be in competition with family farmers, ranchers and their cooperatives.

Jack Silvers, Master of the 73,000 member Washington State Grange and chairman of the National Grange Executive Committee, said, "Unless the Act is changed by removing these two provisions, the National Grange will oppose the entire Farm Credit Act Amendment of 1980."

Other action taken by the Committee included support of a paid acre diversion program for the 1980 feed grain crop, a call for USDA to make a full commitment to the production of alcohol from grain and other agriculture bio-mass, support for the President's request for boycotting the 1980 summer olympics in Moscow and support for the employee-shipper ownership approach of the New Milwaukee Lines as the best means of achieving an effective and long-term solution of the Milwaukee Road reorganization problem.

## Cattle, dairy cow numbers up slightly in state

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania farmers had 1,900,000 cattle and calves on hand January 1, 1980 according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. This is up three percent from the January 1, 1979 level of 1,840,000.

All cows that have calved at 887,000 was one percent more than a year ago. The Keystone state's calf crop for 1979 was 760,000, down one percent from the 1978 crop.

Milk cow numbers at 712,000 were up 9000 head from the January 1, 1979 inventory. Beef cows at 175,000 head were two percent greater than a year earlier.

Milk cow replacement heifers (500 pounds and over) at 266,000 were up 16 percent. Beef cow replacement heifers at 46,000 were up ten percent. Other heifers 500 pounds and over at 51,000 were down 14 percent, while bulls in the same weight category were down seven percent at 38,000 head.

Steers 500 pounds and over were up three percent to 238,000. All calves under 500 pounds numbered 374,000

which represents a gain of three percent from last year.

There were 49,000 cattle farms in Pennsylvania as of January 1, 1980; of these 22,000 had milk cows.

At the United States level all cattle and calves on January 1, 1980 totaled 11,000,000 head, a fractional increase from last year's level but down five percent from January 1, 1978. This breaks the downward trend of the cattle cycle.

All cows and heifers that have calved numbered 47.8

million head, practically the same as January 1, 1979. Beef cows at 37.0 million are virtually unchanged from last year while milk cows at 10.8 million are down slightly from a year ago.

Other class inventories on January 1 and their changes from last year are as follows: all heifers 500 pounds and over, 17.2 million, up two percent; milk replacement heifers, 4.17 million, up six percent; beef replacement heifers, 5.93 million, up eight per-

cent; other heifers, 7.13 million, down four percent; steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 15.9 million, down three percent; bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.49 million, up four percent. Heifers, steers and bulls under 500 pounds totaled 27.5 million, up slightly from a year ago.

The 1979 calf crop is estimated at 42.8 million, down two percent from 1978 and seven percent below 1977.

## Broiler placements climb 5 percent

HARRISBURG — Placements of broiler chicks in the commonwealth during the week ending January 26, were 2,283,000, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

The placements were four percent above the corresponding week a year earlier and five percent above the previous week. Average placements during the past nine weeks were four percent above a year earlier.

Placements in the 21 key

poultry producing states were 78,744,000, two percent above the previous week and six percent above the same week a year earlier. Average placements during the past nine weeks were five percent above a year

ago. Broiler-fryers slaughtered in Pennsylvania under federal inspection for the week ending January 16 totaled 1,990,000, with an average liveweight of 4.16 pounds.

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