

Farmers Union to establish alcohol fuel cooperative

HARRISBURG — A group of York County Farmers Union members decided at a special meeting Wednesday night to establish the state's first farmer cooperative to produce and use alcohol as a fuel on the farm.

Albert Bentz, Thomasville, president of the York County Farmers Union said, "There is a lot of talk about alcohol from the government, business concerns, and individuals, but this group has decided to act by establishing a farmer-controlled and owned cooperative to produce and distribute straight alcohol as a farm fuel."

The group adopted the name "Farmers Union Energy League" cooperative, "FUEL".

It will meet March 10 to approve by-laws, elect officers, and complete application forms for the Pennsylvania Department of State.

They have retained attorney Marian Furman, Dillsburg, to oversee legal aspects of co-op formation.

FUEL is being assisted in its effort by the state office of the Pennsylvania Farmers Union. State Director Leonard Zemaitis said an early action will be to apply for developmental funds to the Federal Department of Energy.

"The project will not depend on receiving grant funds," Zemaitis said, "this group has the determination to proceed on its own if necessary."

FUEL wants to demonstrate that on the farm plants and small cooperatives can make a significant contribution to energy independence by constructing an alcohol plant to produce approximately 100,000 gallons per year, and then documenting the success of engine modifications and alcohol use.

A consultant to the group, Trond Grenager, Lewisberry, said it is important to make the distinction between gasohol and straight alcohol use.

"Gasohol" is the term most people would use to

describe the use of alcohol as a fuel, but the alcohol necessary for mixing with gasoline to make the product requires an expensive process to produce, and even then it is only 10 percent of the mixture.

"The co-op will produce straight alcohol, of a lesser proof, and use it as a farm fuel without the addition of gasoline," Grenager said. He noted that the nation of Brazil has a master plan calling for 100 percent use of 100 percent alcohol.

Ford, Volkswagon, and other concerns already have agreed to manufacture engines to burn 100 percent alcohol.

"We are in the business of providing information and helping farmers to do for themselves," Zemaitis said.

"Farmers Union wants to be sure that this nation's alcohol production does not fall completely into the same hands of the giant oil companies that now are promising us \$2.00 a gallon gasoline while earning 800 percent refinery profits.

"It's farmers who will produce the grain for alcohol production, and its farmers who should share in America's energy independence."

The March 10 meeting of FUEL will be held in conjunction with the regular monthly meeting of the York County Farmers Union. It is still possible to have a part in establishment of the co-op if

the individual farmer lives in York or an adjacent county.

Interested persons should contact the alcohol Committee chairman, Victor Hebel, of R2, Stewartstown.

Charter members of the Farmers Union Energy League are: Victor Hebel, R2 Stewartstown; Albert Bentz, R2 Thomasville; Mr.

& Mrs. George Hoke Sr., R3 Spring Grove; Roger Perry, 2531 Edgewood, York; Mr. & Mrs. Frank Goodlander, Box 178, Lewisberry; Barry Johnson, R2 Airville; J.E. Johnson, R2 Airville; Lester M. Doyle, Jr., R1 Thomasville; Dennis Hedrick, R2 Delta; Everette Hedrick, R2 Delta; Jonas Knissley, R1 Brogue; Trond Grenager, R1 Lewisberry.

Hunterdon Horse Bowl contestants win

FLEMINGTON, N.J. — Hunterdon County 4-H Horse Project members really learned about horses. They came out on top of sixteen other county teams at the New Jersey State 4-H Horse Bowl Competition, held at Cook College on February 9, 1980.

Team members competing were: Virginia Mahler, Sky Manor Road, Alexandria Twp.; Shelley Kephart, Philhower Road, Lebanon; Liz Harrod, R.D. #3, Milford; and Wendy Picard, Hill Road, Glen Gardner. The team was

coached by: Margaret Mitchell, Little Brook Road, Glen Gardner; and Carol Lee of Laning Avenue, Pennington.

The team members practiced with their coaches once a week for over three months in preparation for this contest. They had been selected through an elimination contest held in early November that involved 4-H'ers throughout the county.

Elaine Edson, Port Murray, the fifth member of the team, was unable to complete because of sudden

illness. Through five rounds of elimination competition, the girls from Hunterdon County were the leading team, scoring well over 100 points in each round.

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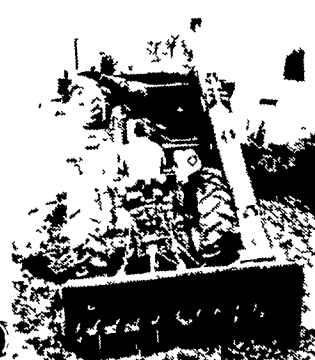
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