Knouse Food Co-op cited for waste recycling idea

PEACH GLEN — The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources last Friday praised Knouse Food Cooperative, Inc., Peach Glen, Adams County, for its resourcefulness and ingenuity in developing a system of converting apple pomace into useable energy.

Adams County Commissioners were in turn commended for recognizing the need for such a project in meeting today's energy demands and in resolving a serious county waste disposal problem.

These tributes were given by William B. Middendorf, DER deputy secretary for enviornmental protection, as he signed an agreement authorizing a \$300,000 grant to Adams County Commissioners to help fund the pro-

Speaking for DER Secretary Clifford L. Jones, Middendorf called the proposal "a perfect example of how industrial research and 'know-how' can join with government efforts to help solve environmental problems.

"If this system works, it could be adopted by other food processors to help alleviate a serious waste disposal process while also cutting fossil fuel use," Middendorf said.

"The public knows about the energy crunch but probably does not realize that the management of wet food processing wastes, such as

apple pomace, long have a \$2 million energy-recovery been recognized by the industry and government agencies, including DER, as a problem.

'Such waste cannot readily be incorporated in large quantities into a landfill because of its high moisture content and its tendency to ferment and preserve itself by pickling."

He said landfill equipment becomes mired down in landfills receiving large quantities of fruit pomace and that application of such wastes to agricultural lands is limited both by season and by distance of fields from points of waste generation.

The \$300,000 DER Solid Waste Resources Recovery Act demonstration grant to the Adams County Commissioners, as the responsible municipal agency, will be used by Knouse Food towards

system at its Ortanna food processing plant.

The money will go towards the pomace-drying phase, the second stage of the threestep pilot which the firm hopes will cut its fossil fuel use at the plant by up to 90 per cent.

Middendorf commended the company for spending \$750,000 of its own money for the project's initial stage and for contributing more then 65 per cent of the \$880,000 estimated phase two costs. Phase three is hoped to qualify for federal aid.

The technology gained can be applied by other apple processors in the state in the development of food waste to energy projects and can be instrumental in reducing the need to use valuable agriculture land for land disposal sites.

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Schuylkill farm estate planning meeting scheduled

SCHUYLKILL HAVEN -The Schuylkill County Extension Service will be conducting a meeting entitled, "Estate Planning For Farm Families."

According to County Agent, Allan Shoener, the meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 19, 1980 at the Conference Center of the Penn State Schuylkıll Campus. This will be an allday meeting beginning at 9:30 a.m. and adjourning at 3:30 p.m.

Program speakers for the

for alfalfa seed!

session include Attorney Lanny G. Felty, Pine Grove: James Flannery, Trust Officer of the American Bank, Pottsville; and Frederick Hughes, Farm Management Extension,

Further information is available and reservations the Schuylkıll County Extension Service, P.O. Box 250, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972 or by phoning (717) 385-

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