

Group asks USDA to oppose Labor Relations Act

WASHINGTON, D.C., — Agricultural Policy being developed for the 1980's should include a strong statement of opposition to extension of the National Labor Relations Act or similar legislation to agriculture, the Chairman of the Farm Labor Research Committee has told Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland.

Writing to the Secretary at the conclusion of the Agriculture Department's series of hearings on the "structure of agriculture," FLRC Chairman W.B. Camp pointed out that American agriculture is "the envy of the world."

Camp, who has over 60 years' experience as a farmer and representative of the United States at international agricultural meetings, emphasized that

farm products provide the major positive element in the U.S. balance of trade.

"Productivity has increased steadily despite the vagaries of the weather, insect and disease outbreaks, and other factors which set agriculture apart from other industries," Camp wrote.

"One of these distinguishing factors is that agriculture remains free from government interference in farm labor-management relations, while industry has suffered under the National Labor Relations Act for 45 years," he continued.

The FLRC Chairman explained that the basic problem with labor law is that it organizes workers and employers into warring camps, treating workers' rights as bargaining chips and seriously interfering

with the employer's right to run his own business.

"Industry's experience under the NLRA has shown that this atmosphere encourages violence and disruption," Camp said.

"In an effort to buy peace and protection from strikes and boycotts, employers often agree to union officials' demands for contracts re-

quiring all employees to join a union or be fired from their jobs. Employees thus lose their fundamental freedom of choice, and employers subject themselves to further demands by union officials who literally control the workforce.

"Inflationary wage demands, featherbedding

and made-work practices usually follow. As a result, many American-made goods have been priced off world markets.

"We know that your goal is formulating agricultural policy for the next decade is to enhance and productivity," Camp concluded to Secretary Bergland. "Keeping agriculture free from the

constraints of federal labor law is vital to the achievement of that goal."

The Farm Labor Research Committee is a non-profit, non-partisan organization which researches and analyzes farm labor relations, paying particular attention to proposed legislation in this field.

William Baker receives Jersey calf

FLEMINGTON, N.J. — William Baker, 19, of Rick Road, Alexandria Township, recently received a registered Jersey Calf for his ten years of participation in Hunterdon County's 4-H dairy project, and his interest in Jersey cows.

The calf was presented to Bill by John Bishop, of Ogston Farm, Columbus,

N.J., on behalf of the Jersey Cow Association of New Jersey.

Bill bought his first Jersey heifer in 1969. Since then he has acquired other heifers and bred them. His awards have included Grand Champion Cow at the 1979 Hunterdon County 4-H Dairy Show and Reserve Grand

Champion at the State FFA Show.

Bill has been a member of the Milford 4-H Dairy Club

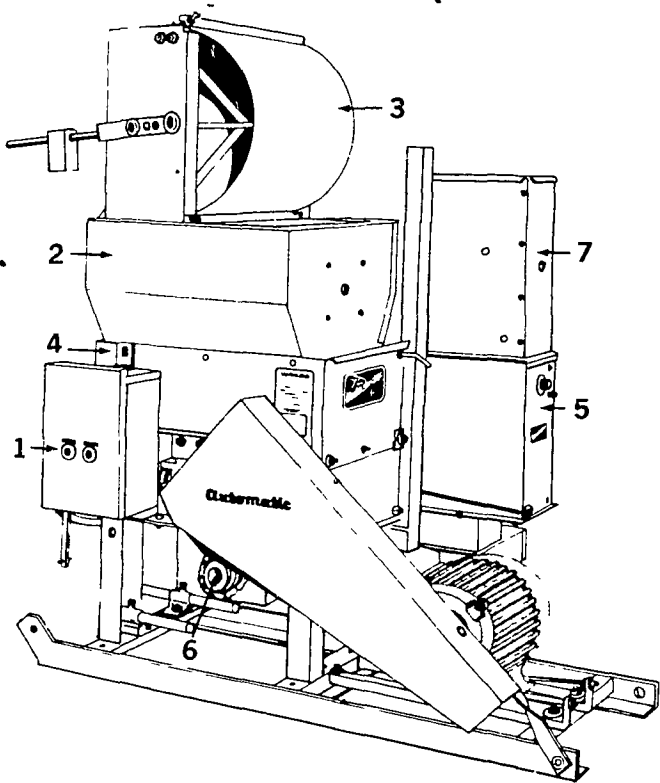
for ten years and has served as its president and as treasurer of the Hunterdon County 4-H Dairy Council.

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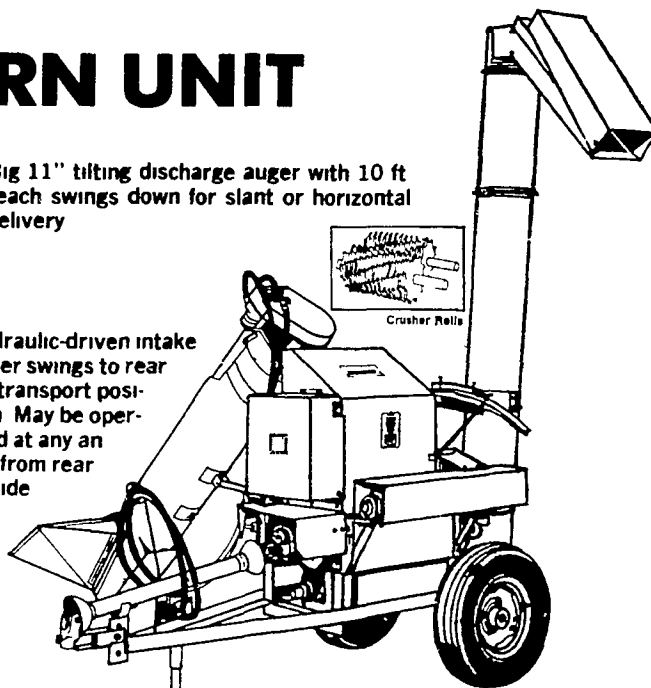
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