

# Insurance lobby favors house crop coverage bill

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The House version of the Federal Crop Insurance Act of 1979 is a reasonable compromise on insurer and consumer needs should be enacted, the American Insurance Association said today.

In a letter sent to Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Herman Talmadge, AIA President Larry L. Jones warned that the Senate version of the bill "is opposed by the entire private insurance industry. The bill does not contain adequate provision to protect the private crop insurers who are currently providing a vital market for the American Farmer. It would not permit competition in the all-risk market or protect the role of private agents," he said.

"While not perfect, H.R. 4119 is a reasonable compromise because of the amendment so carefully worked out by Represent-

tatives Ed Jones (D-Tenn.) and Edward Madigan (R-Ill.). The amendment has the support of the Administration and the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation."

Briefly, the House amendment does three things.

It permits farmers to substitute private hail-fire coverage under their federal all-risk policy and allows a 25 per cent reduction in the federal premium for those using the option;

It places private insurers on equal footing with subsidized federal coverage and requires that a federal reinsurance program be initiated by 1982.

And it requires the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation to offer agents contracts that meet industry standards.

Jones said the American Insurance Association shares Congress' concern for American farmers and

believes that their insurance needs can "best be met by providing a healthy, com-

petitive, private market...The American Insurance Association

believes that the amended version of H.R. 4119 will foster competition" while

costing the taxpayers substantially less than the Senate proposal, he said.

## New bulletin gives ideas on protecting stored grain

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A new bulletin for farmers on protecting stored grain against insect damage will be distributed nationally by the U.S. Department of Agriculture

The insect problem is expected to be a serious challenge in 1980 because of abnormally large amounts of grain in storage. Space in grain bins and elevators will be at a premium as a result of record crops in 1979 and the decision by the USDA to store 13 million metric tons of grain that may be delayed in entering export channels

As in past years during record harvests, some grain may have to be stored temporarily on the ground where it is much more susceptible to insect infestation

To aid farmers, USDA will distribute 200,000 copies of "Insect Control in Farm-Stored Grain," Farmers' Bulletin 2269, through county offices of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service

written by scientists of USDA's Science and Education Administration, will also be available through county offices of state Cooperative Extension Services

Participants in the ASCS loan program bear the responsibility for maintaining quality of the grain against damage by insects, which can reduce its quality and value substantially. The farmer must sustain any losses in the value of grain which is damaged in storage, even though it may be under a price support loan.

The bulletin, written by Charles L. Storey and Roy D. Speirs at the U.S. Grain Marketing Research Laboratory, Manhattan, Kans., and Lyman S. Henderson, now retired, tells how climate, harvest conditions, temperature and moisture effect pest infestations. It also explains how to prepare grain bins before storage, how to treat grain during binding, and

how to inspect, fumigate and aerate grain during storage

soybeans, according to the authors

Single copies of FB 2269 are available free upon postcard request to: Office of Governmental and Public Affairs, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., 20250



## Sikorski is Pa. P.H.A. queen

FAIRFIELD — The Pennsylvania Polled Hereford Association queen for 1980 is Jane Sikorski, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Sikorski, Emmaus, Lehigh County.

The Sikorski family runs and operates JEMS Polled Herefords, a farm of approximately fifty head of registered cattle.

Jane is a member of her county 4-H Club, serving as newsreporter and secretary and has been showing Polled Herefords for the past seven years

She is also a member of the Lehigh County 4-H livestock judging team,

which has entered local and state-wide contests in the past few years. Jane is proud of winning High Junior Individual in the Pennsylvania South Eastern Counties competition.

The Pa. queen is also secretary of the Pennsylvania Junior Polled Hereford Association and is serving a two year term as a director.

Jane's hobbies include music, sports and showing cattle. She is looking forward to representing Pennsylvania at the Junior National in Columbus, Ohio and the National Convention and Show in Denver in 1981.

## Conservation comic book

ANKENY, Ia. — The Soil Conservation Society of America released a new educational cartoon booklet designed to teach young people about the value of water as a natural resource.

"Water, the Basis of Life" explains the importance of water to plants, animals, and man; communities; agriculture; and industry. Emphasized throughout the booklet is the protection of water supplies and water quality.

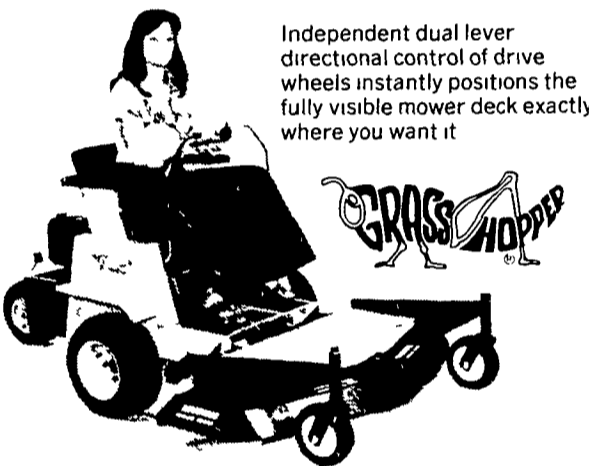
The booklets are designed to help young people in the

upper elementary grades understand the value and wise use of natural resources. A teacher's guide accompanies each booklet in the series.

Single copies of "Water, the Basis of Life" are 35 cents. The accompanying teacher's guide is 25 cents a copy.

The Society is a private, nonprofit association dedicated to advancing the science and art of good land and water use. It has 15,000 members in the United States, Canada, and more than 80 other countries.

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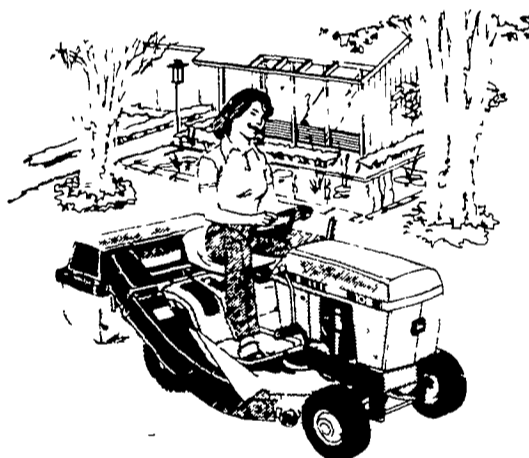
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