

DER's Jones talks conservation trends with Chester-Delaware farmers

BY SUSAN KAUFFMAN
Staff Correspondent

LIONVILLE — Chester-Delaware County Farmers Association held the annual Spring banquet here at the Holiday Inn recently to hear progress reports from working committees and to hear guest speaker Clifford Jones, Secretary of the Department of Environmental Resources for the State of Pennsylvania.

Harold Kulp, president of the local Pennsylvania Farmers Association, acted as master of ceremonies. Arthur Hershey, PFA State Director, brought greetings from the state association and encouraged the local group to "Keep up the good work."

He cautioned that the next few years will challenge farmers across the nation as a whole, and those in rapidly growing population areas in particular.

"It is a challenge we can meet if we are ready," he added.

Edward Taczanowsky introduced himself to the group assembled for the evening meal as the Regional Organizational Director for Region 1 of PFA.

Having recently taken this position he explained that he is responsible for the programs in a nine-county area, is the adjuster for the Safemark program and is presently initiating advisory meetings throughout the counties to develop recommendations and policy proposals from the membership at large.

Tom Wilkinson, membership chairman, announced the group had surpassed their membership drive goal for the year with 866 members, 22 over the goal of 844. He was given the King Pin award for registering the most members during the membership drive.

Leon Wilkinson, legislative committee chairman, commended the legislature in general and the commissioners for the active interest they have shown toward PFA policies.

The greatest thrusts at present in the PFA legislative policies at present, according to Wilkinson, are mushroom imports, deregulation of trucking laws, limiting national spending and balancing the national budget and revising farm credit laws.

Recognized as the state's highest salesman in the insurance program was the Chester-Delaware County agent, Mitch Edwards.

It was announced that the legislative tour to Harrisburg will be conducted April 29, 1980.

Dairy Princess Nadine Prange and Apple Princess Nancy Kupitz were guests at the dinner and brought greetings and expressions of gratitude to the group for supporting them in their promotional programs.

Before he began the major portion of his presentation, Secretary of the Department of Environmental Resources, Clifford Jones, commented on two items particularly of interest to the Chester-Delaware area.

First, he said Chester County was instrumental in sensitizing the department to the landfill problems.

Second, he reported that a proposal is working through channels to remove the right of condemnation from the French Creek Scenic River Project thereby giving landowners security that their land will not be taken out for municipal or federal projects such as highways or landfills.

Jones gave, as he said, an overview of the past decade.

He stated that the early seventies were a prosperous time, everybody spent and bought—the individual as well as the government agencies. Budgets were raised and so were taxes. As the decade wore on an anti-government sentiment arose, possibly from many things happening all at once—Watergate, the Vietnam War, political corruption. A lack of trust and reliability in the government resulted in the populous.

"It was also the age of environment," he continued in his overview of the seventies. "More laws on land, water and air were enacted," he added.

There has been much improvement since then in the quality of the resources, he said, but he added that some say there was too much regulation.

Jones explained that the "heritage" of the seventies is carried over into the present decade. Citing changes in lifestyle, rising divorce rates, live-in arrangements, changing moral standards have all added to a trend which creates people with independent attitudes responsible to very few other people.

"It was also the decade of no babies," he stated. The real challenge in institutions of higher learning in the near future will be educating fewer students at higher costs, he continued.

"This is an aging population. The ones in their fifties and sixties and seventies and on up will have greater demands and get more attention of those in public office than ever before," he said.

"This will be a decade of no public spending," Jones predicted. Proposition 13 points to that theory, he said.

The cutting of budgets, having no tax increases in a time when inflation has risen

13 percent will undoubtedly mean not only trimming programs but more than likely many programs being eliminated entirely, he warned.

"This is a decade of changing energy sources," he continued as he described the eighties as he sees it.

"Three Mile Island brought to a halt nuclear power building," Jones stated. Oil prices continue to rise when an alternative energy source, nuclear power, has reached a national standstill. Both factors have pointed to the critical need for alternative sources of energy.

"We must move toward dependence upon other energy sources such as coal," he explained.

In addition to the characteristics of the eighties he had outlined previously, Jones felt that the decade would be a time when the nation would be experiencing a "Hot-Cold War." Russia and her actions in the Middle East will cause the nation much concern for several years to come, he pointed out to the group.

Turning from the nation as a whole and getting to the subject of the farmer in particular, Jones said American food production will continue to be a challenge to the world. It can be used as a weapon for peace, he also stated.

However, the American food but also to grow fuel soil will be used not only for (Turn to Page B3)

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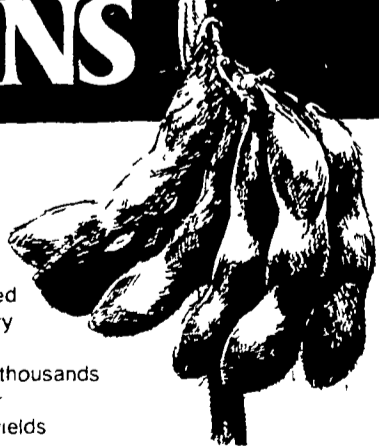


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