

Farm fuel

(Continued from Page A15)

get a new allotment, although they may install a tank and get it filled by someone with a surplus supply of gasoline.

Because of the current fuel situation, such a move by anyone who has no on-farm storage, may be a good short-term move.

Four suppliers, Ashland, Getty, Mobil, and Marathon are at 100 percent of requirements. Ashland has surplus, so purchasers may be able to pick up extra fuel from an Ashland supplier if they need it.

"Farmers will be given top priority for fuel as long as their forms are properly filled out and properly documented," said Cynthia L. McClain, associate director for fuel allocation and emergency preparedness for the State.

She said this year farmers probably will get everything they ask for.

Farmers who need fuel have a choice of numbers to call. The first would be McClain's office in Harrisburg. The number is 717/783-1650. People there can supply both information and forms required to get more fuel.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture can be reached at 717/787-1788. There, Fred Wertz, research assistant, can supply similar information, although it is probable farmers will be referred to the above number, too.

Extra fuel allocations are made on a month-by-month basis. To get extra fuel a farmer has to complete a one page application which is accompanied by two pages of instructions.

Farmers qualify under Group 6 provisions for "end users" of fuel.

Louise Thompson, U.S. DOE representative, pointed out that the state plays the largest role in allocating fuel to farmers.

According to government regulations, the state "Allocation Request Form" must be the farmer's first request.

If a farmer purchased fuel during the base period from a supplier who refuses to supply fuel equal to a far-

mer's base period use, the DOE has legal power to force that supplier to make the fuel available.

But a farmer who changes suppliers, perhaps for a better price, will lose all DOE protection and rights to his original allocation.

In short, the open market was taken away for farmers who wish federal fuel protection.

Several special cases also were covered at the meeting.

A farmer who takes over a farm that has an allocation also takes over that farm's allocation for fuel. If the farm has no allocation for fuel the farmer can get an allocation through the state office.

Farmers who take on more rented ground can apply for a larger allotment for as long as they farm the ground. If they give up the rented parcel, they also give up the fuel allotment.

There is no fuel entitlement for any farmer who does not have on-farm storage. The state may be able to make fuel available to a farmer through a local gas station.

But federal DOE regulations prohibit assignment to retail sales outlets.

In the case of farmers whose supplier has gone out of business, the state will assign the fuel allotment to another supplier.

Timber, nursery, Christmas tree and similar operations are not given farm priority. But they may be able to get some aid from the state.

Allocations are not necessarily distributed on a monthly basis. A supplier can aggregate the allocation and distribute it as the buyer needs, as far as the allocation will go.

A farmer who purchased fuel from more than one outlet during the base period will continue to have a split allocation. McClain pointed out the allocation is to the distributor and not for the end user.

Confirmation of farm need will be made with help from ASCS, according to State ASCS Director Richard Pennay.

Pennay said local ASCS offices also can help farmers fill out the required Allocation Request Form.

Planting intentions show more corn, tobacco

HARRISBURG — Commonwealth farmers intend to devote more acreage to corn and tobacco in 1980 and less to barley, sorghum and hay, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

Based on April 1 intentions, acreages and percentage changes from 1979 are: corn planted, 1,670,000 acres, up two percent; tobacco for harvest, 13,500 acres, up four percent; barley for harvest, 120,000 acres, down four percent; sorghum, 14,000 acres, down 22 percent; hay for harvest, 1,940,000 acres, down one percent; oats, 360,000 acres, unchanged; and soybeans planted, 85,000 acres, unchanged.

United States corn plantings are expected to total 82.0 million acres, three percent more than in 1979.

DOE, the Governor's Energy Council, the Department of Agriculture, and ASCS all emphasized the need for a farmer to anticipate any shortage rather than wait until the last minute and run dry.

They said it takes time to get the paperwork and take care of the physical movement of fuel.

They encouraged farmers to apply for extra fuel as soon as they see a problem coming.

Ordinarily, a farmer's paperwork will be processed and fuel made available rapidly—within seven to ten days of the request.

That can be a long time if those 10 days are good planting or haymaking days so anticipation of problems will pay off.

Also, because the state goes on a monthly basis, and it may take as long as 10 days to get an allocation, farmers should file for extra fuel before the 15th day of any month.

Earlier application will mean earlier processing of the papers for that month.

So that a farmer does not have to re-apply every month for a small quantity of fuel, the Governor's Energy Council may arrange for delivery of more fuel than requested to help tide a farmer over for a longer period.

Feed grain acreage (corn, sorghum, oats and barley) is expected to total 120 million acres, up two percent from 1979. Food grain acreage (wheat, rice and rye) intentions at 85.3 million acres are up ten percent from last year.

Tot mesmerized by rhetoric



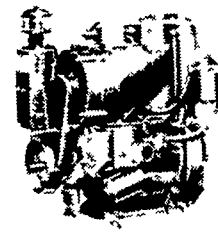
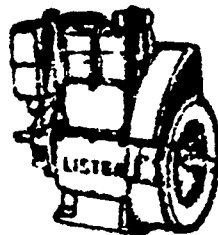
Listening to the campaign stomping was all in a day's work for nine-month-old Tyler Dehoff, who snuggled down into a milk case to ponder all those policies and promises. Tyler's parents are Sandy and Jack DeHoff, Dallastown area dairy farmers. Jack is the president of the York County Farmers' Association.

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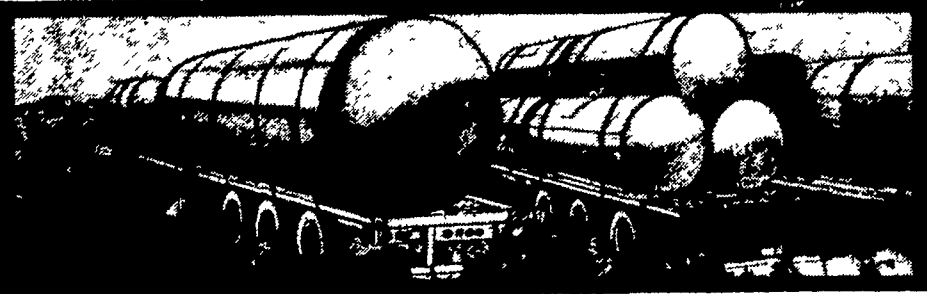
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