

Ag Council to conduct media call-in program

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A nationwide effort, coordinated by the Agriculture Council of America, will be conducted the week of June 30 to July 4 to present the nation's news media with facts about the current farm economic situation.

The project is "Press Call" and hundreds of individual farmers, ranchers and local farm-related businessmen will serve as spokesmen in personal meetings with editors and broadcasters all across the country, according to ACA Chairman Clifton Meador.

"When you fit all the pieces together, it's no great puzzle: this country has been following a cheap food policy — and it does not work," said Meador, a soybean, cotton, rice and wheat farmer from Dumas, Arkansas.

"The cheap food approach will end up costing consumers much more in the long run. We need to get this message across to the media — particularly the media in urban areas."

ACA is now offering a

special package of materials including facts, figures and useful information to demonstrate the realities of agriculture's economic situation. These materials emphasize points like:

In the past year, food prices have gone up only six percent — which is less than half the general rate of inflation.

Farm productivity is double the rate for non-farm industries, yet farmers are getting a return on their investment about one-third of what manufacturing industries get.

The farmer is receiving a smaller share of the retail dollar spent for food. On the average, the farmer today receives only 32 cents of each dollar spent for domestically produced foods; the remaining 68 cents pays for processing, transporting, packaging and selling.

"I think a big part of our problem is psychological," commented Meador. "We need to turn the farm markets around by Fall, and

I think we have to make our needs known."

Meador noted the cost-price squeeze in agriculture is so severe that the purchasing power of income earned from farming is likely to fall to its lowest level in 20 years.

"I don't think there's a better time to dramatize our message than the week ending on July 4th. Our nation's freedom is based on a strong and independent agricultural system. This system today faces a very serious economic threat which should be a matter of concern for every American," added Meador.

"Press Call" is being featured as part of a comprehensive ACA program to help people at the community level communicate the facts effectively about agriculture. Special materials are offered on a quarterly basis to present agriculture's views on major issue areas like inflation, trade, energy and government regulation.

Nationwide participation

in "Press Call" will be tracked and coordinated by ACA's Washington office to make the best possible use of manpower and resources and avoid duplication of effort. Anyone interested in participating in the project should write: ACA, Box 23421, Washington, D.C. 20024.

"This is a very tangible way we can all have real impact," concluded Meador. "We invite the participation of all people concerned about telling agriculture's story to the American people. The more people involved — the greater the impact will be."

The Agriculture Council of

America, formed in 1973, is made up of individual farmers and ranchers, general farm and commodity organizations, and businesses serving the agricultural community. Its purpose is to communicate what modern agriculture means to modern America.

Management tips given for alfalfa

LITITZ — Alfalfa, just like any other crop, requires top management practices to produce maximum yields.

After harvesting the first alfalfa crop of the season, several management practices must be put into effect in order to maintain a high level of production for the rest of the year and for several more.

Soil fertility is of utmost importance to high yielding alfalfa. Is the soil pH between 6.5 and 7.5? Is the soil capable of supplying adequate amounts of important nutrients like phosphorus, potassium, sulfur, magnesium and boron?

Each ton of alfalfa that's harvested at the one-tenth bloom stage removes 12 pounds of phosphate, 60 pounds of potash, six pounds of sulfur, eight pounds of magnesium and 30 pounds of calcium. If the alfalfa yield goal is eight tons/acre/year, then the soil must supply at least eight times the above rates. Part of this may come from soil reserves, but part will need to be supplied as fertilizer.

Based on soil test results and recommendations, applying one-half of the

recommended rate of fertilizer after the first cutting and the other half after the last cutting will aid in achieving high yields and winter-hardiness.

Two important alfalfa insect pests requiring timely management decisions are the alfalfa weevil and the potato leafhopper. The main concern for damage by alfalfa weevil is during the first cutting, but the fresh, small regrowth may be particularly prone to damage. If the effects of harvest, including exposure to sun and removal of food supply, don't substantially reduce weevil larvae numbers, their feeding on regrowth will be much more damaging than on 10 to 20-inch alfalfa.

Potato leafhopper is generally most damaging to

the second and third cuttings of alfalfa. Unfortunately, the effect of potato leafhopper is sometimes mistaken for drought stress — stunted, yellow plants. However, these plants won't bounce back after a rain if potato leafhopper is the culprit. If wedge-shaped yellowing of the leaf-tips are noticed, that is evidence of the potato leafhopper and immediate action should be taken to control them before the population builds up. One adult per sweep with a net would indicate control measures should be taken.

To maintain alfalfa stand and yields in future years, don't harvest during the last five or six weeks before the average date of a killing frost. Six to eight inches of top growth is needed to build food reserves before winter.

Cedar Crest FFA participates in Food for America contest

LEBANON — The Cedar Crest Chapter of Future Farmers of America held its

first annual Food for America Program at each of the Cornwall-Lebanon Elementary Schools.

The program consists of FFA members explaining where food comes from. A movie entitled "Food From Farm to You" was shown.

All of the students were urged to participate in a coloring book contest. The placings were as follows: Ebenezer Elementary — 1. Scott Carrol, 2. Julie Tulli and 3. Roxanne Melton; Cornwall Elementary — 1. Darrah Grubb, 2. Jan Winters and 3. Katie Middlebrook; South Lebanon Elementary — 1. Cathy Jo Yiengst, 2. Jesse Beare and 3. Timothy Pantelich.

All participants received a lollipop and the top ten finishers at each school received a pack of crayons.

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- | | | |
|----------------------------|--|------------------------|
| (2) Farmall Cubs w/ hyd. | (1) JD 730 D | (1) Ford 861 G |
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| (1) Farmall Super A w/hyd. | (2) Ford 9N's | (1) Ford 4000 G |
| (1) Farmall C w/Cult. | (1) Ford 8N's | (1) Ford 335 w/ loader |
| (2) Farmall H's | (2) Ford NAA | (1) Ford 4000 SU D |
| (2) IH 154 Lo Boy | (1) Ford 860 G | (1) Ford 4500 D TLB |
| (1) Satoh S650-G 27 HP | | |

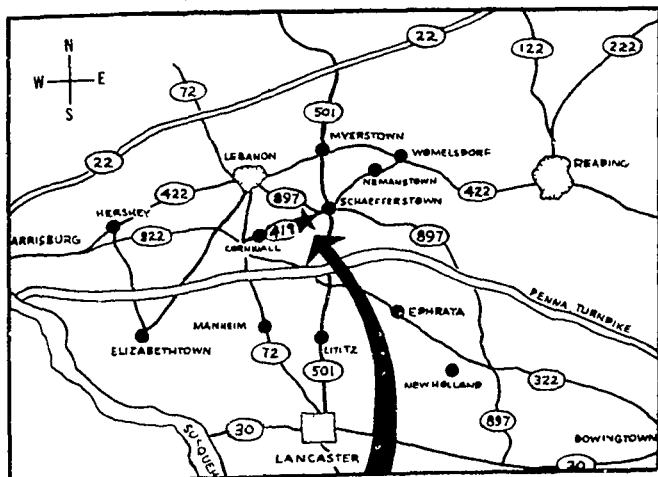
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| (1) 7 HP Cub Cadet | (1) 10 HP 102 Cub Cadet | (2) 16 HP MF's, hydro |
| (1) 8 HP Ford, hydro. | (2) 12 HP 102 Fords | (1) 16 HP 716H Allis, hydro |
| (1) 8 HP Wheel Horse | (1) 12 HP 125 Cub Cadet Hydro | (1) 14 HP 1450 Cub Cadet Hydro |
| (1) 8 HP 885 Jacobsen, hydro | (1) 12 HP 1250 Bolens | (1) 15 HP Homelite w/Mower & Tiller |
| (1) 8 HP 800 Bolens | (1) 12 HP MF, hydro | |
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