

Bergland asks farmers to expand energy efforts

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland today called on agricultural organizations to expand energy conservation programs to farmers and other rural Americans.

Speaking at a White House ceremony launching the second phase of the President's energy conservation outreach program, Bergland said, "Energy in fuel, fertilizer and agricultural chemicals is the largest

single production cost facing farmers today. It is almost one-fifth of each farmer's expenses."

"This fact alone has encouraged farmers and other rural Americans to pioneer the development and adoption of energy conservation practices. We want to build on that excellent record of achievement in this effort initiated by President Carter," Bergland said.

Bergland outlined a program to ask farm and

rural organizations to make a special effort to encourage farmers to adopt new energy saving ideas that will help reduce their individual energy consumption by five percent.

"While this reduction seems small, it is extremely important. It has the potential of reducing farmers' expenses by \$425 million in a single year. Notwithstanding the drought, which is extremely serious, energy conservation must be a priority con-

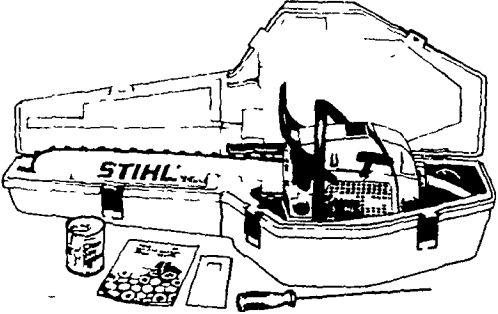
sideration in agriculture today," the secretary said.

Bergland told the agricultural leaders that many programs will be used to promote energy conservation and alternative energy sources for farmers. These include the \$525 million in funds to the Department of Agriculture under the President's Energy Security Act to finance alternative energy development, the beginning of a new program to permit rural electric cooperatives

to finance home, building, and business weatherization measures by their consumers, and the development of an agricultural energy information clearinghouse by the Department of Agriculture.

"If we take these steps and continue to work closely together, farmers and all other rural Americans will benefit, and we as a Nation will move much closer to becoming energy self sufficient," Bergland said.

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Tested boar sale set for August 20

STATE COLLEGE — Pennsylvania's swine producers will have an opportunity to participate in Pennsylvania's Third Performance Tested Boar Sale, August 20.

Currently, Chester, Duroc, Hampshire, Landrace, Spotted and Yorkshire boars are on test at the Agriculture Department's Meat Animal Evaluation Center in State College. Approximately 75 percent of the top boars will be sold beginning at 6 p.m.

Each boar will be indexed at the end of the test, with the highest indexing boars sold first. Traits measured in the performance test include average daily gain, feed conversion, and fat thickness.

"Performance testing is the most important tool available to the swine industry to measure the

genetic merit of potential breeding animals," Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell said.

"Average daily gain, feed efficiency and fat thickness are performance traits that are important to buyers of breeding stock for two reasons. These are the major economic traits measured on pigs in most performance testing programs. And, these traits respond most rapidly to selection."

According to Hallowell, "The genetic flow of animals that have bred-in superiority for the economically important traits, starts with the seed stock producer. A few, influential breeders, by identifying the genetically superior animals, can have a large impact on the progress made in the swine industry."

"This is the type of in-

formation that will be available on boars being sold at Pennsylvania's Third Performance Tested Boar Sale."

This is an excellent opportunity for Pennsylvania swine producers to purchase boars that are genetically

superior in the traits that are important to the industry.

The testing program is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture in cooperation with The Pennsylvania State University and the Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council.

Herr lambs to compete at Eastern States Expo

WEST SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — Barbara Herr, Nix Besser Farm, Narvon, has entered two market lambs in competition at the 1980 Eastern States Exposition Sheep Show scheduled at the Big E, West Springfield, Mass.

Herr's entires will compete with other market lambs on Wednesday, September 10 at 8 a.m. in Mallory Arena.

Other sheep entered in the show will be judged by breed according to the following schedule: Cheviot, Wednesday, September 10 at 4:30

p.m.; Dorset, Thursday, September 11 at 8:30 a.m.; Hampshire, Thursday, September 11 at 1 p.m.; Corriedale, Southdown and Suffolk, Friday, September 12 at 8 a.m.; and the Northeast Open Regional Shropshire Show, Sunday, September 14 at 2 p.m.

The Eastern States Exposition Sheep Show will also include shearing contests, fleece judging, a Shropshire decorator costume class, handmade wool articles judging, junior and senior lead line events and a sheep-to-shawl contest.

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