

Farm Bureau sues government to force coyote control

PARK RIDGE, Ill. — The nation's largest farm organization is suing Cecil D. Andrus and the Fish and Wildlife Service in an effort to force them to control coyotes.

Robert B. Delano, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, said the suit is concerned with the serious sheep and lamb losses from coyote predation in the United States.

The AFBF, together with the Wyoming Farm Bureau and several individual ranchers, filed a lawsuit in the federal district court in Cheyenne, Wyoming against Andrus, Secretary of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Robert Bergland, Secretary of Agriculture, the Forest Service and various officials of these federal agencies.

Farm Bureau alleges that the failure of these federal agencies and officials to take effective steps to control the coyote is a threat to the future of sheep production.

Eighty percent of the sheep in the United States are raised in the western states where extensive

private and public ranges provide most of the feed.

The suit alleges that uncontrolled predation, principally by the coyote, is causing a high rate of sheep and lamb deaths.

"Uncontrolled predation and an expanding coyote population," states Dave Flitner, Wyoming Farm Bureau president and himself a plaintiff, "is drastically reducing sheep production and forcing many sheepmen out of the business."

The lawsuit contends that the failure of federal agencies to control coyote populations violates the Animal Damage Control Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, and the Taylor Grazing Act. All these statutes require the agencies to develop maintain, manage

and protect federal lands in such a manner that the range resources attain their potential.

The Animal Damage Control Act specifically directs the Secretary of Interior to use the best methods available for eradication, suppression and control of coyotes.

Farm Bureau also contends that the Secretary of Interior's revised policy on predator control is contrary to the express purpose and mandate of the Act by abandoning and severely restricting traditional methods of coyote control.

The suit filed today requests that the actions of the defendants is failing to control coyotes be declared violative of federal statutes, that the federal agencies be ordered to adopt effective

programs for eradication, suppression and control of coyotes and that the individual plaintiffs be compensated for losses caused by the predators.

Commenting on increasing lamb losses, Delano observed that present government policy favors protection of predators — at the expense of the livelihood of individuals and the meat producing industry.

York dump

(Continued from Page C16) who heads up the OUCH group as their chairman.

Through press publicity on the fight against the dump, the Marsh's learned of a DER citizens' advisory meeting recently in Harrisburg. There they made contact with representatives from several other counties also doing battle against proposed waste disposal facilities by Stabatrol.

As a result of contacts made at that meeting, these York County farm families, worried about their family health and property values, have joined with others into a four-county information and communications exchange to strengthen the anti-dump campaign.

"Our hope here is to band together and get them out of the state of Pennsylvania," says Stacy Marsh.

Wins service award

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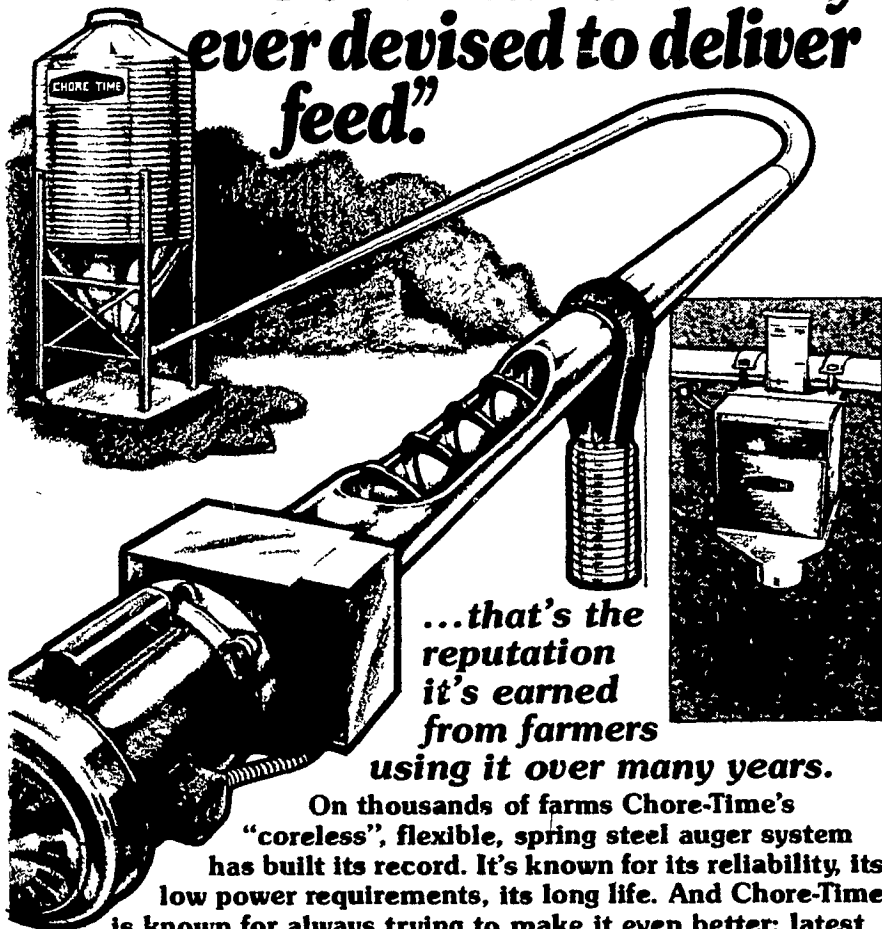
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