

Alcohol, politics, computers highlight PennAg meeting

HERSHEY — "Anyone contemplating getting into the production of alcohol should be made aware of the economics involved and the possible pitfalls which could develop."

That's the opinion of T. A. Bailey, president of Distillers Feed Research Council, Muscatine, Iowa.

Speaking at the 102nd convention of PennAg Industries Association held here last week, Bailey said that due to the recent energy crunch, corn raisers, who for years had been battling rising costs and lower prices, have been caught up in the dream of higher corn prices.

But for gasohol to be competitive in the fuel

market, it has to be subsidized Bailey explained.

"Between 1.55 and 1.80 times as much energy is expended to produce ethanol as is recovered by burning the ethanol," he explained. "And that doesn't include the energy necessary to produce the corn."

Bailey noted that as corn is diverted away from livestock into gas tanks, the livestock will lose the energy, which will probably be replaced by more corn grown. The doubling of the corn demand will cause price increases which will not only put the gasohol plant out of business, but will drastically increase food costs.

In the end, he believes, the "protests of the housewife

will drown out the moans of the gasohol entrepreneur."

"Use your Congressman first, not last" to fight the regulatory jungle facing ag businessmen today. That was the word from a panel including Jeffrey Böese, Director of Member Services, Indiana Grain and Feed Assoc., Indianapolis, Ind.; Gerald V. Livadas, Manager of Public Affairs and Government Relations, Agway, Inc., Syracuse, NY; and Donald Parke, PennAg Industries Vice-President.

Part of the problem in the past with government regulatory action was that businesses were not politically aware, they noted. In the future, this attitude must change.

There will be seven key states in the political race for President, and Pennsylvania is one of them, according to Bernadette Budde, Director of Political Education, BIPAC, Washington, DC.

"Whoever carries Pennsylvania will have a good chance at winning," she noted. Other key states include New York, Texas, Ohio, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Indiana. She also stated that farm-related groups will be one of the determining factors in many states, deciding which way the state will vote.

Objectives of your farm or farm business need to be analyzed before one decides whether to purchase a small computer. Costs, needs, and business objectives should all be considered, experts noted.

An afternoon session on microcomputers and calculators led by Earl Fuller, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minn.; Richard S. Adams, Lester Burdette, and David MacKinsey, all from Penn State, and Sandy MacGilvray, Victor F. Weaver Co., New Holland, showed some of the varied uses of computers in agriculture.

Benefits are not all in dollars and cents though they warned, many of the assets occur in terms of personal satisfaction. But the cash flow will have to



Elected at its recent convention in Hershey, PennAg officers for 1981 are, from left, front Morris Brown, Jr., Reading, president; Jay Wolgemuth, Mt. Joy, retiring president; George Blankley, Narberth, vice-president; and rear, left, John J. Hess II, Paradise, treasurer; Tom Zeigler, Gardners, vice-president; William Brubaker, Lancaster, vice-president; and Donald W. Parke, Ephrata, executive vice-president.

stand the purchase of such equipment or competitive needs should be considered. Programmable calculators, and other kinds of farm record books for cash flow may be the answer.

Trucks were also the subject of a special session at the convention. Deregulation, maintenance and accounting were discussed by Tom Mannix, President, Transportation Advisors, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; Ernest Horn III, Pennfield Corporation, Lancaster, William J. Poorbaugh, Poorbaugh Grain, Lancaster, and William D. Angstadt, Reading Bone Fertilizer Co., Reading.

Representing the Governor's Energy Council in Pennsylvania, Robert Shinn told his audience that it is in everybody's best interests to support a plan to help manage the cost and availability of energy prices. A bright future will be maintained if all make a massive commitment to increased energy efficiency, he stressed.

PennAg Industries Association, the state-wide trade association of

agribusiness firms, for the first time has over 500 members, it was announced at the general business

meeting. The group's 1981 convention will be held September 15 to 17 at The Inn at Buck Hill Falls.

FFA members win at Beaver Fair

BEAVER SPRINGS — At the 52nd Annual Beaver Fair in Beaver Springs, PA, the West Snyder FFA members went home as happy prize winners.

The long list of prize winnings include, showing, dairy cattle, market hogs, hay, grains, project books, small display exhibits, and a large FFA exhibit booth.

The individual prize winnings include: FFA large exhibit booth which won a first out of 4 entries. Of the small class exhibits, the Vocational Agriculture classes won a 1st, second, and a fourth place. James Hassinger from McClure took home a sixth place with his dairy heifer and a first place with his entry of grass hay.

Robert Waite placed tenth with his dairy heifer and second place with an entry of Timothy seed. In the market hog category, Bryan Kuhns garnered the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion, with Calvin Romig following at 1st place and Ed Mulaney in second place. The Grand Champion market hog sold for \$2.70 per pound.

In the Dairy Shows, Barry Waite, Tim Reich, Annette Shirey, and Jackie Beaver were the prize winners. Barry's winnings include Senior Champion and Grand Champion in the Youth Show with his two-year-old Holstein and Master Showman with a junior calf in the Youth Show. He garnered a second blue with his junior yearling in the Youth and Open shows. He also placed 2nd with his two-year-old in the open show.

Tim Reich placed second with his two-year-old Holstein and fourth with his junior calf.

Annette Shirey's placings were: In the Youth Show, 1st with her senior calf, second with her two-year-old cow never fresh, first with her four-year-old, 1st in the aged cow category. In the open class she won a 1st with her senior calf, 1st with her two-year-old never fresh, first with a four-year-old and 1st with her aged cow.

Jackie Beaver garnered the Master Showmanship of the entire Youth Show.

Other activities included livestock judging classes, and a chicken barbecue.

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