

## Co-op chairman reports on 1979-80 year

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — A year of record sales and rising costs was reported by George Steele, chairman of the board of directors of Agway Inc. at the 16th annual meeting.

More than 5000 stockholders and guests attended the two-day meeting in the Onondaga County War Memorial in Syracuse, N.Y. They heard officials of the farm supply

and food marketing cooperative report on the 1979-80 year and give a preview of things to come in northeastern agriculture.

Steele, a dairyman from Pocopson, Pa., noted sales were up substantially, but due to the inflationary pressures prevalent during the year, so were the costs of doing business.

"This is the same situation faced by Agway members as

they try to cope with a severe cost-price squeeze that has cut deeply into farm profits," he stated.

"As production costs rise, year after year, it becomes increasingly difficult for farmers to meet either the short-term or long-range income goals they've set for themselves," he continued.

"One way to offset rising costs is to boost production and cut per unit costs," he

said. "Another and one that holds greater promise is to find new ways to market our products and share in profits from the sale of what farmers grow or produce."

The past year has seen an example of dairy farmers working together with the formation of Agri-Mark/Hood milk marketing system in New England, according to Steele.

"Agway's acquisition of a

majority interest in H.P. Hood, one of the most successful milk marketers in the Northeast, means that control of this new milk marketing system by farmers will be assured," Steele said.

"I am convinced that this project will prove beneficial to the farmer-members of Agri-Mark and Agway. It could open further possibilities for other far-

mers in the Northeast in adapting the concept to their own needs and economic goals," he stated.

Steele stressed that northeastern agriculture will remain strong, and that the family farm will maintain its vitality.

"We have become a part of a new world food system," he stated.

"The soybean, the kernel of corn, and the grain of wheat will become more important symbols of prosperity in the future than a barrel of crude oil," he continued.

"Just as a good farmer regularly checks the tilth of his soil, so we must continually check the tilth of our cooperative to insure it is meeting the needs of our members, and the public, in years to come," he concluded.

### Community decision

#### film available

ITHACA, N.Y. — How often do people in your community become upset after public decisions are made?

Involvement in community actions and decisions can be concentrated in a relatively few participants—while a much larger group feels left out or adversely affected. Apathy too is a stumbling block to broader participation.

Cornell University Extension has published a number of informative booklets that can help groups and individuals become better informed and more effective participants in community decisions.

Land use decisions frequently inspire community involvement, and Cornell extension has recognized this in a recently produced motion picture, "Land with Love and Respect."

Since this film was released, it has attracted national attention—the subject matter is of concern virtually everywhere, to rural and urban communities alike.

For more information, contact Audio-Visual Resource Center, 8 Research Park, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14850 or phone 607/256-2090.

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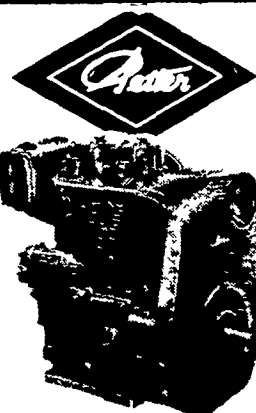
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