

National Grange Master wants government out

EDAR RAPIDS, Iowa — "While we recognize a need to have government involved in production agriculture, that involvement should be held to a minimum," said Ed Andersen, Master of the National Grange, during an address here Monday on the opening day of the 114th annual session of the National Grange.

Andersen said the Grange would support a new farm program similar to the one which will expire in 1981. He said a reserve program should continue to be the cornerstone of any new farm act. "We have seen during the past year just how valuable and necessary a reserve program is," said the national farm leader.

Andersen was addressing the Grange delegate body for the first time since his election last November. He said the resolutions before them to deliberate during the week would have a profound effect on the future of agriculture and rural America during the 1980's. He expressed particular concern about soil and water conservation practices.

He cited as problems the increased demand for American agricultural products around the world, an increase in the erosion of top soil and the loss of prime farm land to non-farm use. He said new equipment is now available to help farmers with major new tillage practice.

He suggested tax funds be made available on a participating basis to encourage farmers to use the best conservation programs and practices on their farms.

Prior to his election as National Master, Andersen was a dairy farmer in Waterloo, Nebraska. He said present dairy surpluses due to increased production in 1979 and 1980 could effect the dairy price support program. He recommends that dairy farmers reduce their production in 1981 to

prevent any drastic changes in the dairy program.

He said the dairy industry and consumer cannot afford to lose the dairy program which assures an adequate and steady supply of fresh milk.

In the field of transportation, Andersen feels the de-regulation of the rail and trucking industries will increase competition and give agricultural shippers better service and greater protection from rate increases. He expressed concern about Congressional action this year that reduced revenue for the Highway Trust Fund. He opposes the exemption of the federal excise tax on gasoline and the plan to supplement the Highway Trust Fund from general revenues.

He said the Fund pays for highway construction and maintenance and the money should continue to come directly from those who are the users.

Andersen also spoke out in opposition to the American Agricultural Investment Management Company and similar groups which are taking pension funds and purchasing farm land

because of tax advantages. He said this practice will cause the price of farm land to escalate and be unfair to bona fide farmers. He recommends a change in the tax laws so pension funds invested in farm land would be liable for the same taxes as are the assets of the family farm owner.

In an interview prior to his Master's address, Andersen said his personal view of the economic future of American agriculture rests with the willingness of American farmers to organize themselves into marketing groups.

He said he feels the weakest point in the family farm structure is the marketing system. Andersen said dairy farmers do well because 90 percent market their product through cooperatives. He also said farmers number one problem today is inflation.

He said production costs continue to rise well beyond what the farmer realizes from his crop and until inflation is brought under control both the farmer and consumer will continue to be hurt.

Watkins elected director of Red Angus group

MT. AIRY, Md. — Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Watkins, Jr., R4, Mt. Airy; and Mr. and Mrs. Albert McPherson also of Mt. Airy, recently attended the 27th Annual Red Angus Association Convention in Dallas, Texas.

In addition to the Committee meetings attended, they also enjoyed the Texas State Fair, toured J.R.'s "Southfork" Ranch, attended Blue Grass Night in Texas, and also enjoyed a Texas Style Hoe-Down.

Watkins was elected Director-At-Large of the Red Angus Association of America at this Dallas meeting.

As a part of this new position, Watkins will be representing the Red Angus breed, one of the 15 affiliated beef cattle breed associations, at the National Cattlemen's Association Purebred Advisory Council Symposium in Denver, Colorado, December 1 and 2.

This Symposium provides an opportunity for cattlemen to become better acquainted, to exchange ideas, and to better understand the cattlemen's place in the Nation's beef cattle industry.

Mr. and Mrs. Watkins were instrumental in forming a new local Red Angus Association called the Mason-Dixon Red Angus Association. This group is for Red Angus Breeders from the Northeast States.

If you would like more information on this new association, please contact Watkins, Watkins Glen Farm, Mt. Airy, Md. 21771.



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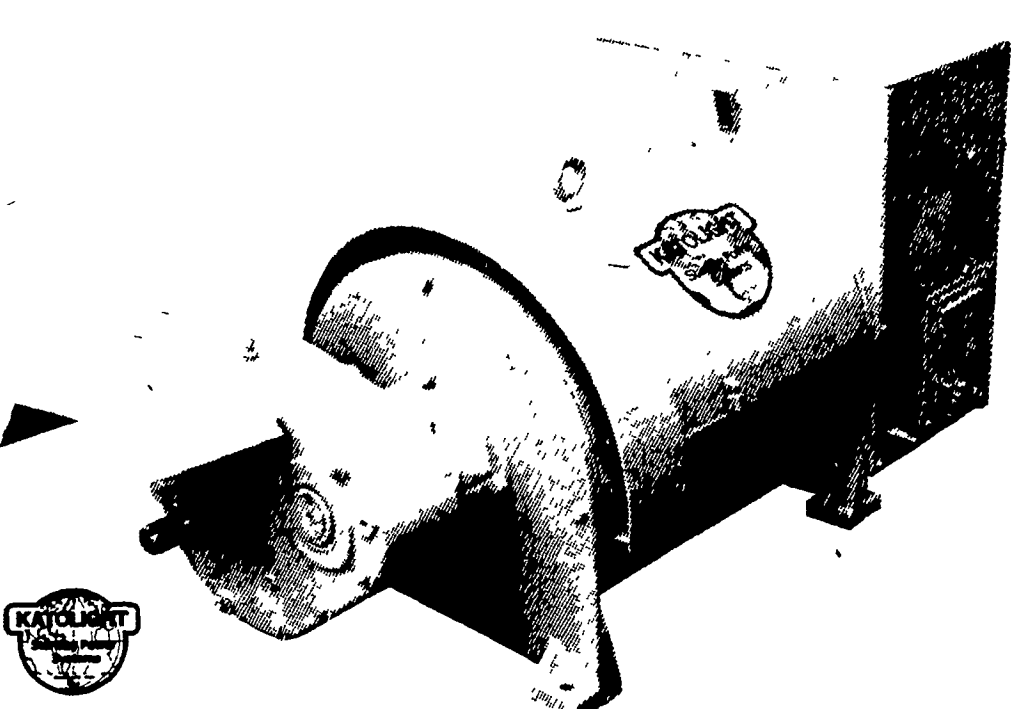
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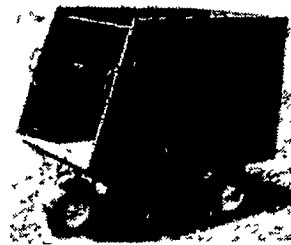
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