

At national convention

Grangers ask extension of present farm bill

CEDAR RAPIDS, Ia. — National Grange delegates representing farmers from 37 states meeting here this week have called for a one-year extension to the present farm bill due to expire in 1981.

In telegrams sent to President-elect Reagan and members of his Agriculture Policy Advisory Committee, the Grange leaders stressed a one-year extension to allow the new administration time to properly evaluate present farm programs and policies before recommending any changes.

The Grange is the first general farm organization to meet following the recent Presidential election. It is the only farm group still in support of the Russian Grain Embargo. National Master Ed Andersen said this issue will be deliberated further.

However, delegates Tuesday passed a resolution calling for an amendment to the Food and Agriculture Act which would remove the negative impact of future embargoes of agricultural products. The amendment would stipulate that when

the President places an embargo on products such as grain and soybeans, the Congress must concur and a minimum 90 percent of parity be guaranteed to farmers during the embargo and for six months thereafter.

The Grange is also continuing their strong support of small family farms by urging legislation to help ease the financial burden of people entering farming.

Specifically, the rural leaders said that the Farmers Home Administration,

Extension Service, and other USDA programs should continue to provide increased emphasis on partnerships and other relationships that would encourage young people to enter to stay in farming.

The Grange commended the U.S. State Department and USDA for progress made in limiting textile imports, and expressed support of further efforts which would lead to a per-

manent agreement. They also recommended that the Defense Department's textile procurement policy be structured to supply present and future fabric needs from cotton. They further urged that all producer organizations maintain a loan level that would encourage the production of cotton.

ASCS county employees received particular attention by Convention delegates.

The Grange believes these employees deserve employment benefits equal to those received by federal employees such as leave, retirement, tenure, salary and insurance when they might transfer to other non-USDA federal agencies.

The Grange also endorses USDA's efforts to fill vacancies at the state and national level with persons possessing a background in ASCS county offices.

Now Is The Time

(Continued from Page A10)

livestock. Some attention to farm security at this time might avoid serious losses.

TO CHECK GUTTERS AND DOWN-SPOUTS

Buildings need the protection of gutters and down-spouts to take the water away from the

foundation. Since most of the leaves are off our trees, it might be a good idea to clean out these items before we get heavier rains, or melting snow. No doubt many spouts are full of twigs and leaves, which means they will clog and the water will run down against the foundation walls. This will help make wet

basements, or could result in water getting into the building. This clean-out process should be repeated several times each year if the building is under or near trees. The gutters and spouts are there for a very good reason; they should be kept open in order to function as planned.

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