

Cattlemen foresee changes due to Reagan election

LANCASTER — The recent general election is expected to bring significant changes in approaches to issues which affect cattlemen, Merlyn Carlson, president of the National Cattlemen's Assn., said Tuesday.

changes in both the executive branch and Congress.

The more conservative trend - which is a bipartisan development - should result in less government interference with the free enterprise cattle business, Carlson said. However, it is

necessary to recognize that much of the unelected bureaucracy - less responsive to the electorate - will remain in place.

Also, the NCA president noted, a mass of regulations resulting from legislation passed in the 1960's and 1970's will not go away. Even without new government programs, the industry will have a heavy regulatory burden, and this is one of the areas where NCA and its affiliated organizations will have to continue working.

"The new administration is expected to listen more closely to the beef cattle industry on a number of matters important to an efficient agriculture," Carlson said. "We hope to see a more realistic approach to environmental matters in particular - including such issues as public and private land, pesticides and water."

"The Interior Department in particular has been loaded with professional environmentalists who have no practical desire to help keep agriculture strong. This situation should change. More attention will be given to a weighing of costs and benefits, and there should be a more reasonable balance

between economics and environmental goals.

"So far as USDA is concerned, President-Elect Reagan has promised to put more producers emphasis back onto the department. Assuming this happens, we can look for more emphasis on such things as production research and steps to help improve agricultural productivity.

"Don't look for less attention to such things as food inspection and human

nutrition, but there should be a better balance between producer and consumer issues. Human nutrition programs should be based more on impartial science, with less activism involved."

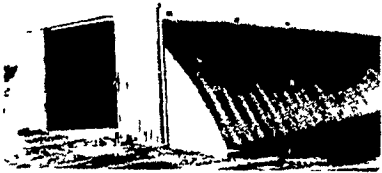
Carlson said it appears that the House of Representatives as well as the Senate definitely will be more conservative. Also, there will be major changes in important committee staff

positions in the Senate.

There should be intensified efforts to balance the budget, cut out unnecessary government programs and restrain inflation - which is one of the cattlemen's greatest problems, because of effects on both production costs and beef demand.

In the new Congress, a number of legislative moves can be expected - on such things as tax laws and food safety.

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York Farmers Union to discuss dump, FUEL

YORK — Many York County farmers have voiced concerns about the dumping of hazardous industrial wastes in rural areas. So the York County Farmers Union will hold an open forum for its members and the general public to discuss this issue.

The Farmers Union policy meeting is slated for 7-30 p.m. on Friday, November 21, in the Production Credit Offices at 3301 West Market Street in York.

York County Farmers Union President Albert Bentz said that most of the

concern centers around the disposal of toxic waste from industries in York County and abroad.

"Certainly, the disposal of waste is necessary but the farm land of our county is also necessary," Bentz said. "Waste disposal sites have cut down on our dwindling acres of available farm land, besides posing a threat to health through leaking and spillage."

A permit for a hazardous waste disposal site has been sent to the Department of Environmental Resources by Stabitol Incorporated. If granted, the site would be located in North Codorus Township, consuming 155 acres of usable farm land. Bentz said farmers, and residents of surrounding communities are opposed to the construction of the dump facility.

Residents fear the area's water supply could be in danger since abandoned mines are located in the

area. If a leak occurs the mining shafts could tunnel toxic chemicals into underground streams.

Those attending the November 21 meeting will also hear a status report on the York County Farmers Union Energy League Cooperative, which in recent months has been experimenting with straight alcohol as a fuel in farm vehicles. FUEL recently filed for a \$1 million grant from the Department of Energy to build a facility for the production of alcohol fuel.

All members of the Farmers Union and the general public are invited to attend the meeting. However, only current York County Farmers Union members are eligible to vote on policy recommendations.



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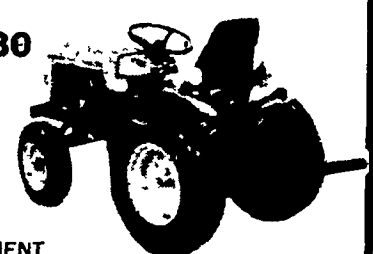
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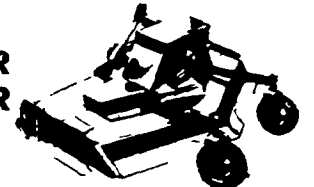
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