



Agri-business seminar panelists spoke from various viewpoints on agriculture's responsibility to the environment. From left are district conservationist Riggs Harwell, state Department of

Agriculture's pesticide inspector Don Lott, Tom Williams, a dairyman from Dauphin County and moderator John Smith, York County extension agent.

York ag-business seminar honors Beattie

BY JOYCE BUPP
Staff Correspondent

YORK — To appreciative applause and a standing ovation, James Beattie, Dean of Penn State's College of Agriculture, bid a retirement farewell to farmers and agribusiness representatives at the York Agri-business Seminar on Jan. 22 at Avalong Farms Restaurant.

Sponsor of the 18th annual seminar, and of the honor to Dean Beattie, was the York Area Chamber of Commerce. Over 100 participants turned out for the popular meeting, which focused this year on "Agriculture and our Environment."

The Chamber presented Beattie with a beautifully framed color print of majestic Mt. Nittany, "patron mountain" or sorts to the University and the community of State College. The Ag College head has been working in the agriculture field for over 40 years.

In thanking the Chamber, Beattie reconfirmed his long-time commitment to the farming community, adding that "agriculture is the most noble profession on earth. Nothing can happen until the needs of food, shelter and clothing are provided for."

Following up the presentation to Dean Beattie was keynote speaker Clifford Jones, secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources.

Jones bluntly told seminar participants that anything to do with the environment is costly. He warned that the popular slogan of "more or less" from government agencies means in reality that the public can expect "less for less".

An 18 percent cut in the DER budget, which like other state allotments is being decreased annually in relation to inflation, is leaving Jones short of manpower to enforce the environmental demands of the general public.

Looking realistically at those budget cuts and the ongoing energy crisis, Jones insists that allowances must be made for leeway in environmental compliance. Many of the strict regulations and the public outcries are responsible for other environmental worries now emerging.



York Area Chamber of Commerce honored James Beattie, right, the retiring dean of the College of Agriculture at Penn State University, with a framed colored print of Mt. Nittany. Extension agent John Smith made the presentation.

"Because of Three Mile Island, we've made a choice in this country," he said. "That choice is coal. There are no new nuclear plants scheduled for construction."

With increasing usage of coal, the Secretary added, comes another set of pollution problems. Higher stacks, built to stop coal smoke from smogging the air at ground level, instead release the contaminants much higher into the atmosphere. There, the minute particles join with moisture to fall as acid rain.

Coal burning is predominant in the West and high concentrations also center in the industrialized Ohio River Valley. Most states to the west of Pennsylvania operate under lower pollution standards, while the Keystone state has some of the strictest regulations. But the prevailing westerly winds carry industrial high-altitude coal contaminants to the entire Northeast, where acid rain is shaping up as a major environmental battle cry.

Coal has other pollution side effects. Sulfur and fly ash are both residues of coal burning and classified as industrial or hazardous wastes. Hazardous wastes are an especially tender subject with many of the York County farmers, since some of them are involved in battling a proposed industrial-hazardous chemical



Clifford Jones, secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources, was the keynote speaker for the York Agri-business Seminar.

waste burial site in North Codorus Township. Jones suggested that industrial wastes can not totally be recycled, but only five percent are really toxic

materials. Federal officials want states to handle the problem, perhaps using regional or state facilities

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