## B2—Lancaster Farming, Saturday, February 21, 1981

## Pork producers gather in Washington

WASHINGTON, D.C - More than 200 pork producers gathered in Washington, D.C. last week to discuss major pork issues, visit legislators and present pork position papers to their home state Representative and Senators

Highlighting the National Pork Producers Council's Washington Seminar, was a reception and banquet last Wednesday evening, attended by nearly 400 people. More than 100 were Represen-Senators and tatives. Congressional aides

The purpose of the annual seminar is to communicate with legislators and keep them informed on issues of concern to the pork industry. Pork issue papers developed by NPPC's Legislative Committee and staff dealt with research funding, food safety, nitrites, animal welfare, sulfas, African Swine Fever, investment tax credit and nutrition.

U S. Department of Agriculture official Roger Gerrits was presented a plaque in recognition of meritorious service to the pork industry by NPPC President Bill Buller. Gerrits is National Research Program Leader for Swine Production and Swine Diseases for USDA's Science and Education Administration

Orville Sweet, NPPC's Executive Vice President, also spoke at the banquet. Addressing the topic, 'Agenda for the 80's,' Sweet spoke about "the ticking time bomb" of world hunger.

He issued a plea for all present to join him in alerting the public and Congress of the impending world food shortage threatening the decade of the 80's. Representative Ike Skelton, Missouri, is having the speech placed in the Congressional Record

The annual Clout Award was given to the Illinois Pork Producers Association The award winner's selection is based on having the highest percentage of Congressmen in attendance at the banquet, visiting the highest

percentage of offices, and state follow-up plans

Participants spent most of the three days visiting with home state Representatives, Senators and their respective staffs Special mention was given to pork producers Roy and Donna Sharp, Tulare, Califo

## SCS says reduced tillage isn't total answer

HARRISBURG -Pennsylvania farmers are overestimating the value of conservation tillage as a solution to their soil and water management program," states Graham T Munkittrick, State Conservationist, USDA, Soil Conservation Service.

According to Munkittrick, too many farmers are looking to no-till or minimum tillage as the solution to their soil and water conservation program. These practices are effective in reducing soil erosion but are only part of a total conservation cropping system, he said. However, other factors must be considered.

While conservation tillage practices can reduce erosion up to 95 percent under perfect management on ideal soils, under these same circumstances, runoff is reduced only nalf.

"Even a well drained soil can only absorb rainfall at a rate of 3/4 to 1 inch per hour What happens when a summer shower exceeds this rate?" Munkittrick asked. "What happens when the ground becomes saturated with water as often occurs in the spring? What happens when the ground is frozen

and water cannot soak into the soil?"

The answer, according to Munkttrick, is runoff occurs

A surface water management system should be planned as a part of a conservation cropping system along with conservation tillage, he recommended SCS conservationists can assist farmers in planning terraces and/or waterways to effectively control surface runoff.

Suitability of the soils for conservation tillage is another consideration Soils with drainage problems may require underground drains to permit the best utilization in a conservation tillage program. Cropping sequence must also be evaluated All of these practices are part of a total conservation cropping system

The USDA Soil Conservation Service, working through county conservation districts, can help plan a total conservation cropping system They can assist those who want more information before making a change in their farming operations. For more information contact the local SCS office



most legislators The husband and wife team visited 31 of 43 California Representatives and both Senators.

Seminars and brainstorming sessions also were included in this year's Washington Seminar

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