



Bob Stahl, Foreground, Somerset Farmers Union President and convention delegate; and Dick and Marge Edwards, Oxford, Chester County, were among the Pennsylvania members who attended the 79th annual Farmers Union Convention.

NFU

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plained "Seven of them are former recipients of Food for Peace aid"

"All of our major customers for nonfat dry milk and grain sorghum are graduates of the Food for Peace program, as well as eight out of 10 of our largest customers for wheat, cotton and rice and seven out of 10 of our largest buyers of soybeans, corn and feed grains. This should be remembered in planning our food power strategy"

Looking toward the adoption of a 1981 farm bill, Stone said the single most important provision would be a substantial increase in commodity loan levels

"Much less net cost to the Treasury is involved in the commodity loan program than in direct payments to farmers," he argued. In addition, higher crop loan levels would enable farmers to

keep pace with inflated costs, would make the farmer-held grain reserve work more effectively both for farmers and consumers, would enhance U.S. export earnings and our balance of trade, and would make it possible to bring additional acreage into cropping as needed in response to growing demand"

Stone recalled that when shortages developed in 1972 there were 62 million diverted acres which could be brought back into production

"Now there is no cushion of set-aside acres," he asserted "We are not out of land, but the available acres tend to be less productive and will, therefore, require higher commodity prices to be converted to cropland use"

The USDA summary report on the structure of agriculture in the long term "may be more fundamental to America than most of us yet realize" National Farmers Union Vice President, Stanley M. Moore of Jamestown, N.D., told the organization's convention

In his annual report, Moore said

the USDA structures report "places into real perspective the challenges that lie ahead for the American family farmer" He said the report also outlines the challenges that face the nation and its position in the world "because it points out the trend of private and public policy that will determine who will control the land and in turn our food supply of this nation."

He emphasized the USDA study must be thoroughly reviewed by farmers and nation in the development of future farm policies, and those decisions must be made in the near future "Time is not necessarily on the side of the family farm, and the challenges are real. It is time to choose"

Moore said while the national farm group may not necessarily agree with all of the conclusions and recommendations of the USDA report, it is imperative that the farm group continue in a leading role to address the issues of land ownership, soil and water conservation, tax policies, commodity programs, credit policies, public research and extension policies, agriculture labor and trade policies which are outlined in the report He reminded the farm organization delegates that the national dialogue on the structure of agriculture was initiated two years ago in an address by former Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland at the National Farmers Union Convention in Kansas City.

Kenneth L. Motz, treasurer of Farmers Union, said the group experienced its 11th consecutive year of membership growth in 1980

"We gained 8600 families in 1980, and we're proud of that increase at a time when our nation is losing farmers every year," Motz said He said membership increases

occurred in Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Wisconsin, New Mexico, Oregon-Washington and Pennsylvania

"With major membership recruitment now underway for 1981, I hope to be able to report an even larger membership increase at next year's convention," he said.

Motz said the National Farmers Union also had a good financial year he said income from dues, insurance fees, the budget fund, investments, subscriptions and service fees slightly exceeded the

organization's expenditures in a budget of more than \$2.2 million.

"I am proud to tell you that the budget of the National Farmers Union is used solely to promote the interests of family agriculture and the cooperatives that serve family farmers and ranchers," Motz said. "Our first consideration in every expenditure is what it will do for agriculture"

"With threats to the dairy price support program and other farm-related programs of the federal government, the work of the National Farmers Union and every one of our members will be extremely important throughout 1981," Motz said.

NFU delegates approve mushroom policy

ORLANDA, FLA. — Delegates to the 79th Annual Convention of the National Farmers Union Wednesday unanimously approved policy calling for quantitative limits on imported mushrooms

The Farmers Union is the first national farm organization to address the problems facing the mushroom industry with a specific policy statement. Most of the industry is centered in Chester, Berks and Lancaster counties of Pennsylvania

The family farm organization's position is that an absolute import quota of 30 percent of total domestic consumption of mushrooms be enforced, based on the previous year's volume.

This is the first time in the history of import problems in the mushroom industry that any farm organization has introduced a plank into their national policy," said Margaret Edwards, a Far-

mers Union member from Chester County "I think it will be a great help to the mushroom growers because now we have someone to stand behind us."

Besides limiting imports, the policy position states that imports should meet the same health, sanitation, pesticide and species requirements imposed on domestic producers.

The policy position states that "A tariff of 13 percent should continue to be imposed on imported mushrooms subsequent to the expiration of Executive Proclamation 4801," which was a tariff imposed by the Carter Administration on all imported mushrooms

"The tariff remedy is just not enough, we must find a way to protect these growers," James Brown, Pennsylvania Advisory Committee Chairman stated.

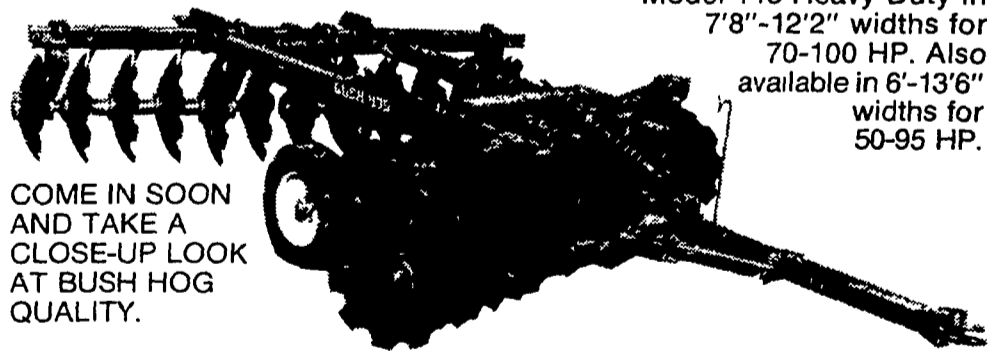
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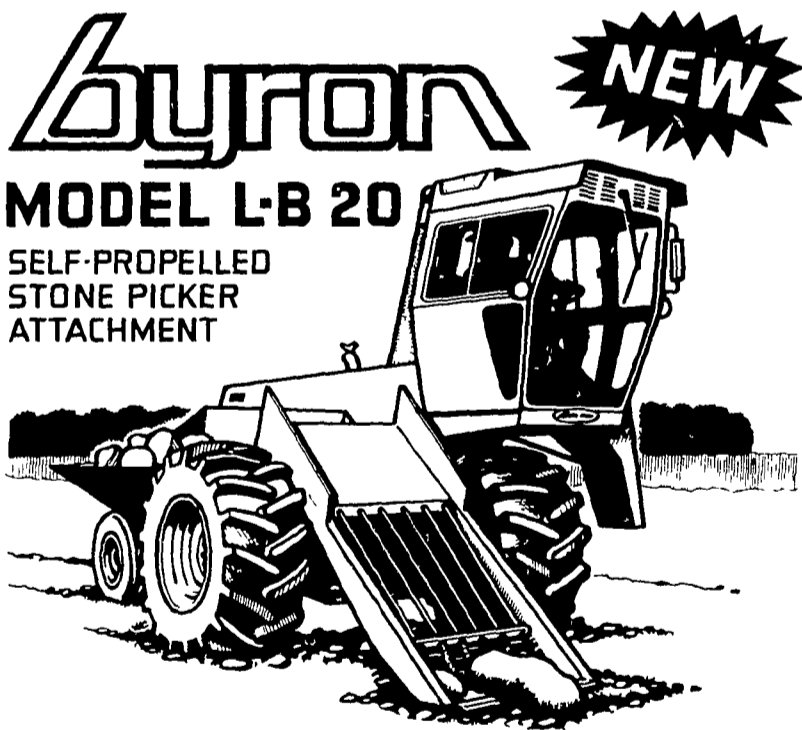
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