

Federal budget cuts shouldn't hurt soybeans

LITITZ — Farmers don't have to worry about the effects of federal budget cuts on soybean income. Soybeans are one of the few farm commodities that have escaped federally supported programs to manipulate price or supply.

There never has been a soybean target price, a federally-financed soybean reserve or a soybean set-aside program. In fact, federal net price support outlays for soybeans have been minuscule when compared to other crops.

There has not been a net federal price support outlay for soybeans since 1973.

Free to function in the free market, soybeans have become the nation's No. 1 cash crop with an estimated 1980 crop value in excess of \$15 billion. Fueled by an aggressive promotion effort funded by soybean growers and

USDA, worldwide demand for soybeans has climbed to 55 percent of U.S. soybean production.

Soybeans and soybean products are now America's greatest agricultural foreign exchange earners with a combined export value in excess of \$9 billion in 1980.

In recent testimony before the Senate Agricultural Committee, American Soybean Association President Frank Ray of Baker, Florida said, "the soybean industry in America has evolved around a free world market. The basic laws of supply and demand in the world marketplace have signaled farmers when to increase or reduce production and we feel those laws should be allowed to continue to work in the future."

In his testimony on the 1981 Farm Bill Ray asked

*That Title I of the 1981 Farm

Bill be designated an international title and devoted entirely to policies for expanding world demand for U.S. agricultural commodities Ray suggested that a provision of Title I be the establishment of a revolving fund for CCC short-term credits to assure U.S. agriculture of sufficient non-subsidized export credit to take advantage of foreign demand for our commodities

* That federal foreign market development funding be increased by 1985 so that it will equal 0.2 percent of average annual agricultural export value during the preceding two years.

* That Congress restrict the president's authority to enter into bilateral supply and purchase agreements for agricultural commodities with other nations

* That soybeans be recognized

and provided for under a separate title in the farm bill as opposed to the current bill in which soybeans are included in an area designated non-basic agricultural commodities

Under the soybean title Ray recommended the following provisions:

—That the soybean loan rate be equal to 75 percent of the average Chicago quoted cash price for No. 1 yellow soybeans for each of the last five years excluding the high and low valued years

—That the secretary of agriculture be prohibited from requiring a set-aside or other

production adjustment program for soybeans or any other crop as a condition for eligibility for the soybean loan program.

—That the secretary of agriculture not be given the authority to offer a target price for soybeans.

—That the secretary of agriculture be specifically prohibited from offering a soybean reserve program or being able to make storage payments on soybeans put under loan.

—That all producers be eligible to place as many soybeans as they desire in the loan program.

Hog producers set feeder pig show

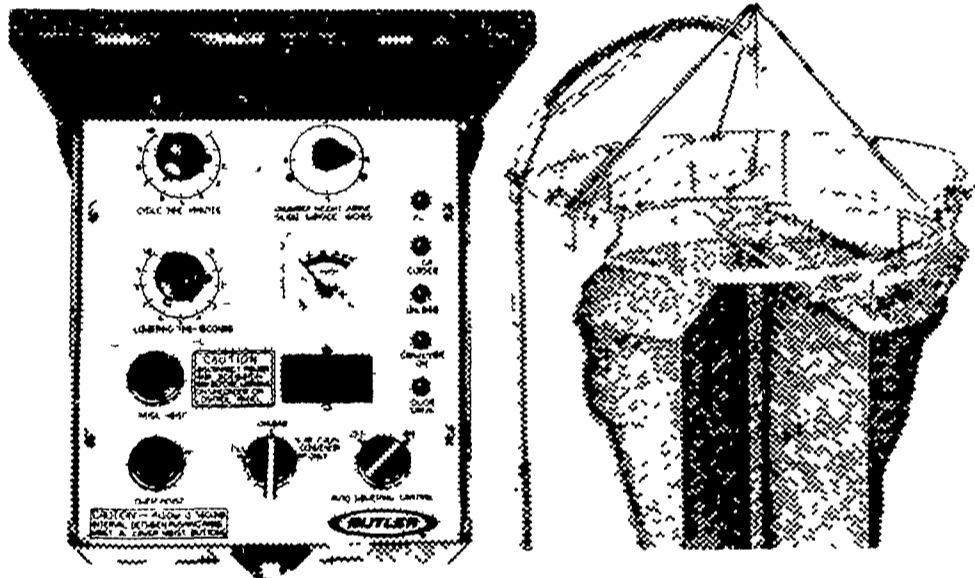
SHIPPENSBURG — The South Central Pennsylvania Pork Producers Association will hold their Annual Feeder Pig Show and Sale on Friday, April 10.

Approximately 100 top quality feeder pigs will be offered. These feeders will be suitable for 4-H and FFA projects

The show will begin at 3:30 p.m. and the sale at 6:30 p.m. The event will take place at the Shippensburg Fairgrounds, Shippensburg.

For more information contact Ken Ketterer, R2, Newville, 717/423-6250 or Laura Watts, Cumberland County Extension Office, Carlisle, 717/249/7220

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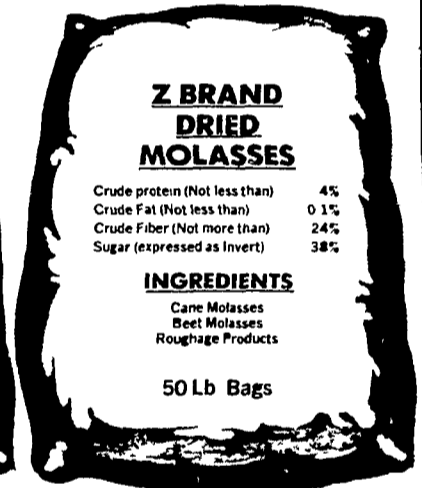
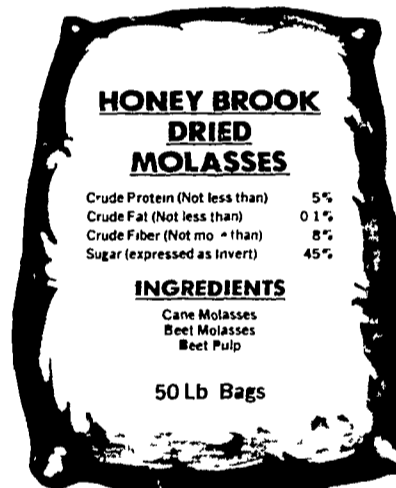
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