

U.S. Chamber ag director to address Lancaster Ag Council

LANCASTER — E. Clinton "Smokey" Stokes, Director of the Food and Agriculture department of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce will address the Lancaster County Agriculture Council at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 21, at the Lancaster Chamber office.

The Lancaster County Agriculture Council was organized by The Lancaster Chamber of Commerce and Industry to identify and represent key agricultural and business issues impacting of Lancaster County agricultural procedures. The chairman

president of each agriculture related association located in Lancaster County serves on the Council to represent the issues and programs of interest to their members.

This umbrella organization meets on a quarterly basis and

provides a forum for the agricultural community of Lancaster County to receive information on a particular subject or to come together on an issue and motivate their own memberships in support of, or in opposition to, as needed.

Stokes's presentation will focus on the key provisions and current status of the farm bill which is currently being considered in Congress. This bill, which includes provisions on agricultural research, exports, conservation and agricultural commodity support programs, will determine the direction of federal farm programs for the next four years. Stokes will also briefly overview other pending legislative issues in agriculture, both domestic and international.

Stokes has been a staff specialist on issues related to agriculture, rural and regional development since 1954. His work at the U.S. Chamber brings him in frequent association with members of Congress, officials of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and other executive agencies, with farmers and agri-business leaders and with national trade associations in agriculture and allied industries.

Grain dust emerges as fuel, feed

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Grain dust—difficult, dangerous and expensive to handle—may be put to use in the future.

Small grain particles wear off of corn, wheat, sorghum, soybeans, and other grains as they move through facilities and equipment from farms to final destinations.

Researchers see it as a possible source of fuel, feed, or fertilizer, with its use as a feed ingredient apparently having the most potential in terms of cost and nutrition.

Although little information is available, some feeders are already feeding their cattle, swine, and poultry rations that contain grain dust.

Some sources contend grain dust has 80 percent of the nutritional value of its original source. Estimates show the dust to have a value of \$72 per ton when corn is \$2.52 a bushel. Although a cost analysis was not made for han-

dling, grain dust likely has more value as a feed than as a fertilizer or fuel in most situations.

Grain dust has been compared to gunpowder because of its explosive characteristics when combined with oxygen. It can be burned under controlled conditions though for heat. A public utility is exploring this possibility. A drawback is the possibility of silica, particularly in soybean dust. Glass created when silica is incinerated causes problems in incineration equipment.

Grain dust as a fuel could be

combined with or substituted for coal, but coal, with over 1.7 times the energy per pound as corn dust, is superior as an energy source. Coal is also superior on a cost basis. So, with processing and transportation costs considered, a subsidy of \$13.71 per ton would be needed to make grain dust competitive with coal at \$38.92 per ton.

Grain dust could also be used to produce fuel alcohol because of its starch content, but again the cost comparison with other feedstocks would be the determining factor.


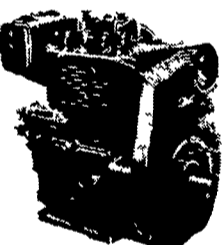
Spreading dust on cropland

poses weed and insect problems, but because of its high organic content it is ideal as a compost for greenhouses and gardens. Costs would have a negative effect here also. Composted products which sold at \$4 per hundredweight in the Midwest last year suggest that processed grain dust retail prices would have been \$80 a ton.


Most of the retail value is accounted for by wholesaler and retailer margins, transportation, and processing, leaving a small proportion, if any, of the value allocated to the raw product.



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