

Farm Bureau vice president addresses PFA annual meeting

HERSHEY — "A good farming future — and a good economic future for the entire country — lies in a change in national priorities," stresses Cecil Miller, vice president of the American Farm Bureau Federation. Miller will address the 31st Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Farmers Association Monday evening at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center.

PFA leaders are gathering next week to adopt policies on statewide farm issues and to elect officers.

Keith Eckel, current president of

the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association will address the statewide farm organization's during the Tuesday luncheon. Eckel, who operates a dairy and vegetable farm in Lackawanna County in partnership with his father and brother, says everyone has a stake in a healthy agricultural economy.

He notes that agriculture and its related agribusiness is the second largest industry in the Commonwealth and is responsible, directly or indirectly, for one out of every five jobs in Pennsylvania. The story is the same nationwide,

Eckel says, "The American farmer produces enough food and fiber to supply the needs of 65 people. The average American worker spends less than 17 percent of the take-home pay to buy food," he adds.

"One reason why food is so relatively inexpensive, Eckel says is because farmers are very productive. "American agriculture has a productivity growth rate five times that of non-farming businesses in the U.S. during the past five years," he adds.

In addition to Eckel, the convention will also hear an annual report from PFA's Administrative Secretary, Richard Newpher.

The PFA Women's Committee will host a panel discussion on the animal welfare issue, Tuesday afternoon. Voting delegates will also meet in morning and afternoon sessions to continue deliberations on policy suggestions.

Tuesday evening, the PFA Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award will be presented during a special awards banquet. The 1981 All-Star county association award winners will also be recognized for excellence in PFA programs.

The 31st Annual Meeting concludes Wednesday with the adoption of state policies on issues affecting agriculture and the election of officers.

One hundred seventy-two voting delegates representing PFA's 54 county associations will be deciding on 1982 policies following three days of deliberation.

In addition, delegates will elect a candidate to complete one year of an unexpired two-year term as PFA president and will also elect a candidate to the office of PFA vice-president for a full two-year term.

Eckel is currently serving an

unexpired term as PFA president and D. Eugene Gayman, of Franklin County is completing his second full term as PFA vice-president.

Delegates will also fill nine vacancies on PFA's 16-member State Board of Directors.

Directors whose terms have expired and the county farmers' associations they represent are: James Cappucci of Mehoopany (Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming, Lackawanna); Arthur Hershey of Cochranville (Chester, Delaware, Berks, Montgomery); Frederick Tiffany of Athens (Bradford, Sullivan, Tioga, Potter, McKean); Russell Hummel of Selinsgrove (Snyder, Union, Montour, Northumberland); Horace Waybright of Gettysburg (Franklin, Fulton, Adams, Cumberland); Joseph Johns of Davidsville (Blair, Bedford, Somerset); Mrs. Richard Rhoades of Emlenton (Jefferson, Clarion, Elk, Armstrong); and Elder Vogel of Rochester (Butler, Lawrence, Beaver, Mercer). An election will be held for an unexpired term, currently held by Fred Slezak of New Alexandria representing Westmoreland, Greene, Washington and Fayette counties. In addition, eight vacancies on PFA's State Women's Committee will be filled.

Pa. receives interim payments from nat'l forest receipts

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Forty states and Puerto Rico will receive a total of more than \$171 million as an interim payment of their share of national forest receipts for fiscal year 1981, Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block announced recently.

The checks represent about 75 percent of the total amounts due the states as their share of receipts collected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service for the use of national forest products and services during the fiscal year.

Block said the remainder of the funds due to the states will be paid in early December, when the actual receipts for the fiscal year have been computed.

"We expect the total payments made to states this year will be

more than \$228 million," Block said.

By law, 25 percent of the revenues collected by the Forest Service from timber sales, grazing, recreation, mineral and land use charges on the national forests are returned annually to the states where those lands are located. The funds are to be used for schools and roads.

In March, the Forest Service assists the states in their budget planning by estimating the amount owed each state for the year. Then in October, the states receive an interim payment representing 75 percent of the estimated total they are owed so the states can receive funds as soon as possible

after the end of the fiscal year.

The five states receiving the largest interim payments are Oregon, \$71.5 million; California, \$28 million; Washington, \$23.5 million; Idaho, \$7.1 million, and Montana, \$5.6 million.

The interim payment and the estimated total amount to be received by Pennsylvania from the 1981 national forest receipts are: 486,000.01 and 648,000.01 respectively.

WATER WAR RAGES

Fellow Pennsylvanians:

HB 1483 IS NOT DEAD but it is mortally wounded. Supporters of this insidious bill have received a serious setback. In spite of support for HB 1483 by the Grange leadership, the 800 voting delegates to the annual session voted TO OPPOSE HB 1483. Congratulations GRANGE members

Because of my advertisements and public appearances exposing the exact language, word for word and page upon page of this insidious legislation, I have been accused of making HB 1483 a controversial bill. So be it GOD has been good to America. GOD has been good to me. Mrs. Watson and I have worked and saved and own 'free and clear' 150 acres and no one is going to tear down my flag or burn my deeds or steal my water rights without a fight to the bitter end. So be it.

Thank you for the thousands of letters of encouragement. This is your battle too. You must alert others to the dangers in HB 1483. It is lifted right out of the communist doctrine of STATE CONTROL OF ALL PROPERTY. An ex-state senator, who slithered around in the mire of water legislation for several years is now proposing that the new name for this bill shall include the word "emergency".

Hitler took control of Germany with 'emergency' powers. And did Mao and Castro and today the Soviets are exercising 'emergency' power in Poland where soldiers are 'fanning' out into the rural areas. Well HB 1483 will empower the governor to send out 'agents' with search warrants to "gain free and unrestricted access" to our property.

Majority Caucus Chairman Fred C. Noye put his finger on the culprit in withdrawing his name as a sponsor when he said, "It looks like DER tried to pull a fast one on us and many of us put our names on it trusting in their judgement". Representative Bittle of Franklin County seems to be the only spokesman for HB 1483.

Majority leader Samuel E. Hayes, Jr. says, "This is a bad bill".

Governor Thornburgh is still pushing for passage of HB 1483. You can write the governor at The Main Capitol, Harrisburg 17120 or call the hot line 1-800-932-0784.

Ask your Representative for a copy of HB 1483-it's free and you must read it. YOU must let your voice be heard. Thank you again for participating-if you need additional information, please write me.

Sincerely,
Andrew J. Watson

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