

Grangers warn Reagan of economic recovery failure

If farm programs are ignored

SPOKANE, Wash. — The National Grange, in session here last week, sent a telegram to President Reagan voicing concerns about the economic crisis of depression proportions in agriculture. They cited that estimates for net farm income in 1982 are the lowest for agriculture producers since the 1930's.

"We do not believe that any economic recovery program can be successful if it's being led by a depression in agriculture," said the farm leaders.

Grange officials said climbing production costs together with increased stocks of every major commodity make a recovery based solely on market forces a near impossibility. They warned the President that without improved government farm programs on basic commodities, highly competent farmers and ranchers will be unable to pay off current loans and obtain financing for the 1982 crop. The message strongly urged the President to deliberate "most carefully these crucial economic issues as they relate to the level of price supports for the next four years."

During the first days of deliberation at the 115th Annual Session of the National Grange, delegates called upon Congress to establish agricultural programs that would not put an undo share of economic adjustments on the

agricultural economy. Representing farmers in 41 states, the delegates said farmers should not be asked to produce through government sponsored programs and then be subjected to trade disruptions such as embargoes. In the event of an embargo, the Grange leaders said it should apply to all trade and adjustments of prices to farmers should be made in order to be fair to agricultural producers.

The Grange also said it is imperative that agriculture be represented in deliberations and the implementation of trade agreements. The Grange supports the reduction of barriers to trade which were initiated in the recent multi-lateral trade negotiations. The farm leaders see the potential of trade expansion as a bright spot on the horizon in the 80's for agriculture.

The nation's farmers are major producers of export commodities. These commodities contribute to the overall reduction of the nation's trade deficits. A continuing policy to reduce these trade deficits to effectively decrease inflationary pressures is considered essential to the economic health of agriculture and the nation as a whole.

The Grange also sent a telegram to Rep. George Brown, Chairman, House Sub-Committee on Department Operation, Research

and Foreign Affairs. The message expressed the Grange's opposition to changes in the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, Rodenticide Act, Section 24 (a) which would reduce the ability of states to respond to pesticide regulatory

needs. Section 24 (a) provides the states with authority to regulate the sale or use of any federally registered pesticide within the state.

This provision has been in effect

since 1972 and has worked smoothly and without controversy. The Grange leaders said it gives states the flexibility they need and has posed no impediment to pesticide registrations in these states since its enactment.

"Burning Wood," a source for the consumer

LANCASTER — If you have a fireplace in your family room, living room, or vacation home, you probably already know that there's more to burning wood than cutting a few logs and tossing them into the fireplace. But you might benefit from information on cutting, seasoning, and storing wood, contained in "Burning Wood", a booklet available for \$1 from The Penn State University Extension service, says James J. McKechn, Delaware County Extension agricultural agent.

If the high cost of gas and oil has started you thinking about the purchase of a wood stove, you might save some trouble by reading what to consider before buying a wood stove and consulting the stove insulation checklist contained in the booklet. For anyone who has even been surprised by showers of sparks and billowing smoke from a harmless-looking log, there's a chart listing which woods produce heavy smoke or sparks, and which woods are

easiest to cut or to ignite. And if you buy wood from a commercial dealer, it might be useful to know the difference between a long cord and a face cord.

The booklet discusses heat efficiency for different types of stoves and fireplaces, and the advantages and disadvantages of masonry fireplaces, metal fireplaces, and a 1/2 dozen types of stoves. A section about wood-burning furnaces is also included. Important factors, such as cost, must be considered before converting your entire home to wood heat. Timber harvesting can be dangerous, time consuming, and increasingly inconvenient. You may decide against making the long-term commitment required

after reading the facts.

Perhaps you never realized it, but you can supplement your wood heating with the use of coal. This booklet explains how it's done. And even if you're only an occasional wood burner, you need to recognize the dangers of chimney fires and know how to keep your chimney clean. If you want additional information, the booklet includes a list of books, articles, and pamphlets on the subject of burning wood.

For a copy of this 30-page resource booklet, send \$1 to: "Burning Wood," 204 Agricultural Engineering Building, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa. 16802. Make checks payable to Penn State.

Farm Talk

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nursing homes, soup kitchens, churches, and other organized, non-profit programs.

It's too early to tell if a Delaware food bank will work, but I know one is working in Baltimore, and in Philadelphia, and in many other

locations throughout the country. These are self-supporting operations that take food that would otherwise be wasted and get it to people who truly need it. And the government isn't involved. I like that idea.

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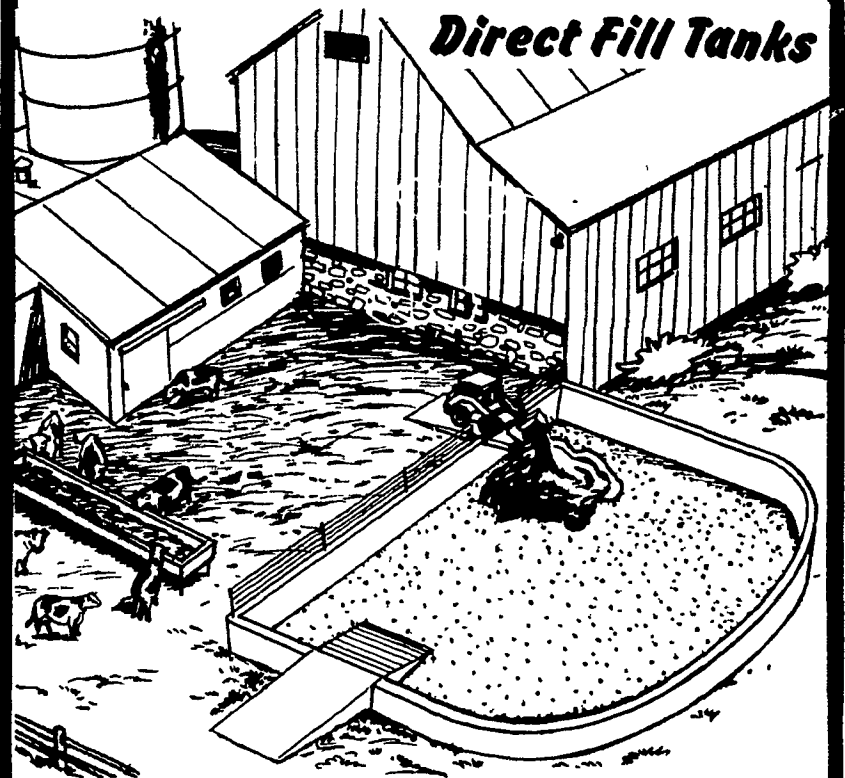
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