

# Adams Farm Forum

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Poultry Flock Management Specialist PSU, said there is someone meddling in the farmer's business and these are the people concerned with animal rights.

Stated Jordan, "Statistics now show that 5-10 percent of the public is concerned with animal rights. I believe that in the next few months we're going to be asked to formulate legislation on these issues. The important thing in formulating that legislation will be to ask the right questions. The bottom line is to ask ourselves what the animal wants, what it needs, and what it has to have."

Jordan pointed out that one of the big questions seems to be

whether we are equating animal rights to human rights. He stated that the people who complain are not all wrong. These people question agriculture and its profit motive.

Jordan stressed that the direction any legislation should take to answer those questions would have to address the issue of what are normal farming practices. He continued though, "These people must realize that if we are going to produce higher quality food products, we're going to get more costs into them and we'll have to have a higher price from them."

"Facing the Challenge of the Animal Rights Movement" was

discussed by Dr. Robert Eckrode, University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Eckrode, who is on the staff at New Bolton and serves on several national committees concerning animal rights, told the group that the first thing farmers should do is to work on changing the terminology. He urged that the issue be termed animal "welfare" rather than animal "rights" since the latter is highly emotional in its connotations. He encouraged moving away from words such as "factory farming" to preferred "intensive agriculture." He pointed out that farmers are the experts of animal welfare and must do a better job of educating the public about the industry's

management techniques.

When confronting the animal welfare issue Dr. Eckrode said farmers have several courses of action. They can ignore it and hope it goes away. They can join the welfare group and attempt to make changes from within. Or, the

best option may be to join and support organized farm groups in an attempt to increase awareness of the problem, to set up a dialogue with the animal welfare people and the public, and to provide a rational response to their concerns, Eckrode said.

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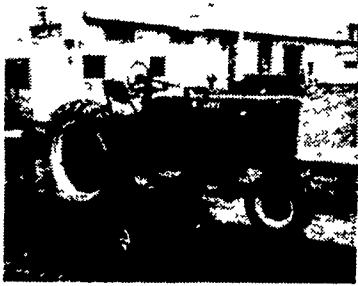
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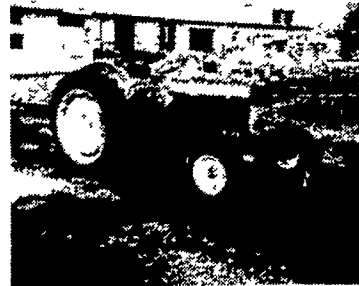
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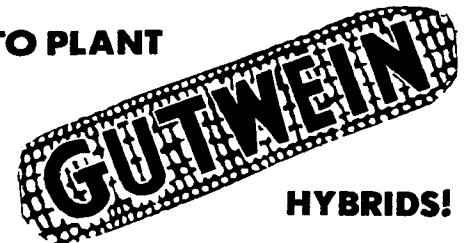
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