

Farm Bureau head casts cautious, optimistic eye on future

By JOYCE BUPP
Staff Correspondent
MOUNT POCONO — "We have endured pain before; we'll live through it," predicts a cautiously optimistic Farm Bureau president Robert Delano.

Delano, a Virginia grain farmer who heads the nation's largest farm organization, was the keynote speaker at last week's Baltimore District Farm Credit Bank's annual meeting at the Mt. Airy Lodge.

Before a breakfast crowd of several hundred, Delano checked-off a list of corrective measures for the country's current economic woes, praised the Farm Credit System while warning that it must not be politically manhandled, and leveled a bit of criticism at the Farmers Home Administration.

While acknowledging that large numbers of farmers are "borrowed to the hilt," and that 1982 is expected to be the third consecutive year of depressed

farm income, Delano suggested that the mood on most farms is still "let's give 'Reaganomics' a chance."

He cited several reasons for the "pain" farmers are enduring, including carryover feedgrain amounts that are nearly twice the levels of the '70's, increased planting intentions, only modest participation in the feedgrain set-asides, runaway milk production, a slipping balance of payments, and high, volatile interest rates.

But, Delano counted those factors with some pluses. Monthly inflation rates are at a four-year low, and the consumer price index should hold at the six or seven percent level, if the Federal Reserve holds tight on the money supplies.

"I do not hesitate to say that most farmers, including myself, have faith that the economic recovery program is working, that interest rates will move down quite dramatically in the next ten



Virginia dairymen quiz President Robert Delano on self-help programs designed to cut Farm Bureau production. Delano was the keynote speaker at the opening breakfast of the Baltimore Farm Credit annual meeting.

Pheasant Hollow gears up

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horses before venturing the substantial investment necessary to purchase quality stock. She also recommends start by purchasing the best filly you can afford.

She further explained, "Don't buy anything with glaring faults but remember that you can improve your stock through breeding. Buy her when she's small enough to handle so that you can both learn together."

The Kinseys truly love their horses, but their affection for "critters" doesn't stop with the four-footed variety. Their farm is

registered wildlife sanctuary and is the home for over 200 pheasants. Their farm ponds have attracted over 800 geese, hundreds of mallard and wood ducks, blue heron, and even white egrets. Last year they fed a hundred pounds of corn a day by their ponds and over 150 pound of wild bird seed weekly through eight feeding stations across the farm.

The Kinseys are bursting to get on with farming full time and whether one comes in on two feet, four feet, or webbed feet, the Kinseys' welcome mat is always out.

months, and that there will be a strong national economic upturn in the second half of this year."

Delano tempered that prediction with his "if's."

"—if Congress is not allowed to use the budget deficit as an excuse to raise taxes and to continue deficit spending;

"—if there are truly significant cuts in federal spending involving the "uncontrollable" portion of the federal budget — including entitlement programs;

"—if the ten percent tax reductions scheduled for July this year and next year are not derailed by Congress.

"—if the Federal Reserve holds to a stable, modest growth in the money supply, keeping pace with national productive growth;

"—if voters in the fall elections pick fiscal conservatives dedicated to a continuing reduction in the size

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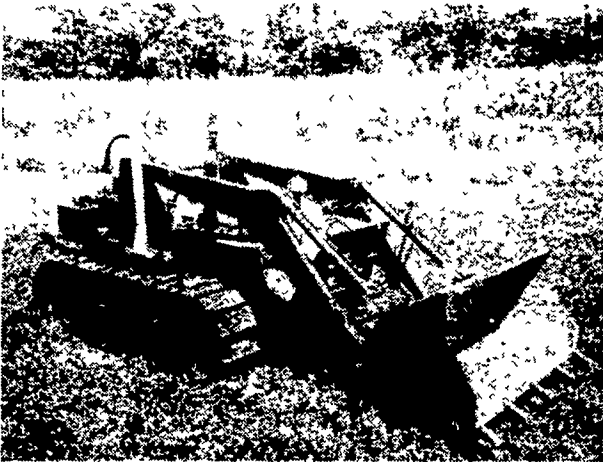
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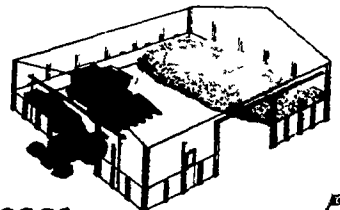
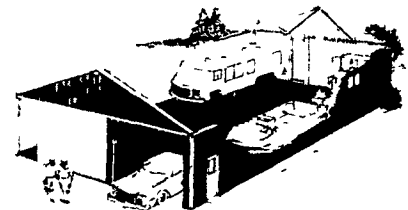
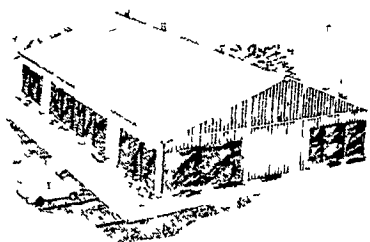
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