

Block to participate in soybean study

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — Secretary of Agriculture John Block heads a distinguished group of agricultural leaders who will serve on a Blue Ribbon Panel to help direct a study of the future of the U.S. soybean industry over the next 20 years.

A joint project of Elanco Products Company and the American Soybean Association,

the study, "2002: A Blueprint for Soybeans" will outline alternative futures for the U.S. soybean industry.

ASA Chief Executive Officer Kenneth L. Bader who will chair the Blue Ribbon Panel says, "The project is designed to bring together the best thinking in the soybean industry and other related

agricultural interests. Panel members include decision makers and thought leaders for all segments of the industry from farmers to equipment manufacturers and processors.

"The results of the 2002 study will assist soybean farmers in planning their investments in land and equipment, help direct future

farm policy and aid in constructing research and exort promotion programs to build soybean profits."

According to Bader, the first task of the Blue Ribbon Panel will be to identify the crucial issues that will affect the soybean industry over the next 20 years. As the project nears completion in June of 1983, the panel will assist in formulating the final report, including strategic recommendations based on information gathered during the next 12 months.

"The entire "Project 2002" study is divided into two segments," explains Project Manager Dennis Sharpe. "The first segment will be completed this summer and will be a progress report outlining and the key issues facing the soybean industry as identified by the Blue Ribbon Panel. The report will be presented at ASA's SOYBEAN EXPO in Minneapolis, August 6-9."

"The second part of the project involves in-depth research on the key issues and development of strategic recommendations to guide industry planning for the next 20 years," Sharpe explains. "This final report will be presented at ASA's SOYBEAN EXPO in Nashville in 1983."

"The soybean blueprint project represents an overall, unified approach to the challenges and opportunities ahead for soybeans," says Elanco Group Vice President for Agricultural Marketing, Bob Book. "This approach is superior to piecemeal studies and complex industry challenges. Elanco has supported yield contests and international market-building missions over the years. The 2002 project is our way of assuring that farmers and others in the soybean industry can capitalize on future opportunities."

Elanco, manufacturer of Treflan and Surflan herbicides, is jointly sponsoring Project 2002.

Screwworms threaten Texas livestock

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The first case of screwworms in the United States since May 1981 has been found in the Rio Grande valley of south Texas.

John K. Atwell, deputy administrator of U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said that larvae were collected about 15 miles northwest of McCook in Starr county on May 17 by an inspector of the Texas Animal Health Commission.

"Activities to stop this Texas infestation have already begun," Atwell said. "This includes releasing sterile screwworm flies, inspecting animals, trapping flies and distributing a combination bait-attractant-insecticide known as SWASS—Screwworm Adult Suppression System.

"The animals in the affected herd have been sprayed," Atwell continued. "In addition, we have sprayed a shipment of animals from the ranch that went through a sale barn at Alice during the past week. Another shipment of animals to Olton is being traced so it can be sprayed."

The nearest known infestation is some 200 miles south near Soto la Marina in the Mexican state of Tamaulipas. Inspectors in the United States as well as in Mexico

are searching for additional screwworm infestations.

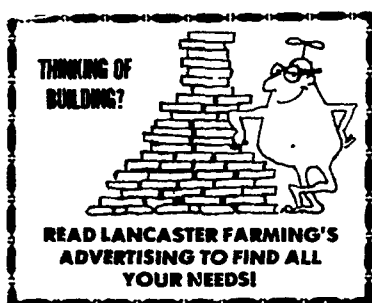
Screwworms are the larval stage of the screwworm fly, which deposits its eggs on the edges of wounds in warm-blooded animals. As the eggs hatch, the tiny larvae enter the wound to feed on living flesh. Odors from the infested wounds attract other female flies, which lay more eggs. Repeated infestations can kill the host animal.

Screwworms were eradicated from the United States and much of northern Mexico by releasing millions of artificially reared sexually sterile screwworm flies that mate with native screwworm flies, causing them to produce only infertile eggs

A cooperative U.S.-Mexican eradication program is currently underway to eliminate the pest from most of Mexico and establish a permanent barrier zone of sterile flies at the Isthmus of Tehuantepec in southern Mexico.

"It's extremely important for all livestock and pet owners to watch their animals carefully for signs of screwworm infestation," Atwell said. "They should submit samples of any worms found in a warm-blooded animal for laboratory identification. Postage-paid sample collection kits are available from county agents, animal health officials, veterinarians and feed stores.

"Only in this way can we locate any additional infestations that may exist," Atwell said.



Clinton farmers say "no"

(Continued from Page A30)

budgets for the Army and Navy — interchangeable under no circumstances.

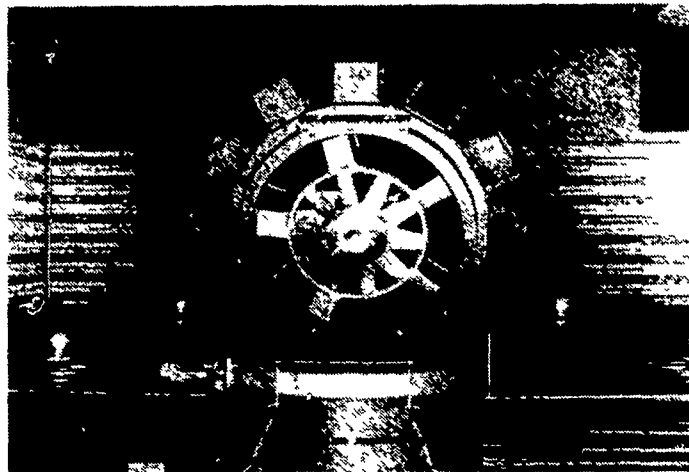
The FmHA director had no firm answer for why the federal government does not provide a one percent loan to farmers. "That's a question you'd have to ask Congress," he said. Currently, the lowest interest rate available to farmers is seven percent — limited resource loans for farmers who show they can't pay the going rate of 14 percent.

Hawbaker admitted that "more than twice" the amount of monies were available for FmHA housing

loans than farm loans. In this year's farm allocations, Pennsylvania's FmHA office received \$46.2 million for farm operating and ownership loans where housing and community water and waste allocations totaled \$182.8 million.

Over the years, Congress has gotten the idea there is an acute housing shortage in rural areas, and sends ameliorating funds through the federal FmHA channels. But, if Dotterer's local survey is an indicator rural housing needs, such is not the case in Clinton County.

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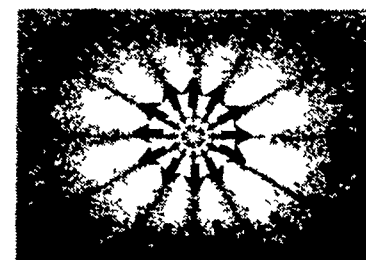
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