

Specter announces federal funding for ag research

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa) announced that the U.S. Senate Agriculture Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee last Tuesday gave its approval for funding for a wide variety of agricultural research programs of particular importance to Pennsylvania.

Specter had been urging funding for these programs in both the full committee and the Agricultural Subcommittee of Appropriations. He is a member of both.

Among the programs which will benefit are research on the

Eastern Russet potato, gypsy moth control, brucellosis control and agricultural research grants to universities.

"I am delighted that the Agriculture Subcommittee has determined that these programs are necessary to the agricultural industry in the United States," Specter said. "I certainly know how important they are to the farmers of Pennsylvania."

He said that research grants to universities had been increased over last year's appropriation by \$11 million, from \$219 million to \$230 million. These grants, he said,

provide funding for soil conservation, farm safety and a large number of other programs, many of which involve Penn State.

Specter said the committee restored full funding—\$91 million—to the brucellosis program, which fights this disease in cattle, after it had been cut so drastically—to \$6 million—to make it impossible to maintain any kind of an effective program.

Some \$5.2 million was earmarked for research on ways of curbing the depredations of the gypsy moth, which last year defoliated 13 million acres of

forestland, he said.

Continued research on the Eastern Russet potato was funded at \$300,000.

"This research," said Specter, "has been successful in making the Eastern Russet, which is grown in Pennsylvania, comparable and competitive with the more expensive Idaho. Continuation of this

research is necessary to make the Russet competitive with imports of potatoes from Canada, which have been cutting deeply into the American market."

Regarding soil conservation, he said, Pennsylvania has ranked first in the nation in return on the dollar for this type of federal technical assistance.

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U.S. Senate Ag Committee pays tribute to Hayakawa

WASHINGTON, D.C.

— The Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry last Wednesday paid tribute to Senator S.I. Hayakawa for his service to the committee. Hayakawa is retiring from the Senate at the end of his current term.

The committee adopted a resolution honoring and commending Hayakawa for his dedicated service and presented him with a framed copy of the resolution signed by all members of the committee.

Committee Chairman Senator Jesse Helms called Hayakawa "a conscientious member of the committee, as well as a close and trusted friend." He praised the California senator for being a "man of principle who has always voted his conscience."

Hayakawa was appointed to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry on Jan. 10, 1977. He is the first California senator to serve on the committee in 31 years. Hayakawa said that despite his lack of background in agriculture, he asked to serve on the committee because California is one of the nation's top agricultural states and need to be represented on the agriculture committee.

Hayakawa has served as chairman of the Subcommittee on Forestry, Water Resources and Environment, and served on the Soil and Water Conservation Subcommittee, the Agricultural Research and General Legislation Subcommittee, and the Nutrition Subcommittee.

