

Cawley says ag can handle pollution

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — "The United States doesn't have to suffer a famine before its citizens

can appreciate the need for chemicals in agriculture," Maryland Secretary of Agriculture

Wayne A. Cawley, Jr., told members of the Northeastern Weed Science Society at a recent

meeting in Baltimore.

"Common sense tells them we cannot return to a subsistence type of farming, and that's about what would happen if we abandon the use of chemicals," Cawley continued.

The Secretary further indicated that the American public isn't demanding that agriculture eliminate the use of chemicals but that it use them in such a way that they pose no threat to the environment. He cited as proof of this a recent Maryland survey in which 80 percent of the respondents said they would be willing to have their tax dollars spent in order to provide incentives to encourage farmers to undertake conservation projects aimed at reducing soil runoff into the Chesapeake Bay.

The major question on the mind of most Marylanders today is not who polluted the Bay but who and how are they going to clean it up. "As for agriculture", Cawley said, "we will do it ourselves. We understand our situation better than anyone else and we already have experience in dealing with certain types of pollution problems. The last thing we need is for someone who doesn't understand the problems of agriculture to begin

dictating to us with respect to what we must do in solving them".

"But, none of us can go it alone", said Cawley, "and we must slow those outside of agriculture that we are working in good faith. Whatever system we develop for dealing with the problem (pollution) must be one which will stand the scrutiny of a skeptical public. We must have confidence in the system and be proud to put it on open display for critical examination."

The Secretary indicated that Maryland agriculture is well on the road to the development of such a system and that control actions taken to date have received good public acceptance.

"We fully expect that before very long Maryland's agricultural pollution control program is going to be pointed out as a model which other segments of the industry will be urged to copy", he concluded.

The Northeastern Weed Science Society is composed of representatives of manufacturers and distributors of weed control chemicals, and weed control scientists from various universities and state departments of agriculture in the Northeast.

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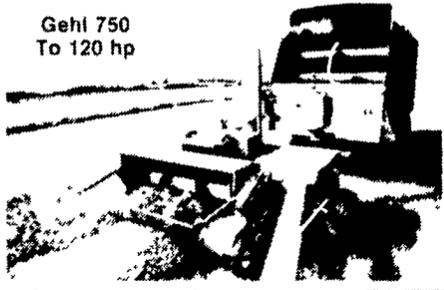
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Marketing on agenda

DOVER, Del. — When Delaware vegetable and potato growers gather for their sixth annual meeting Tuesday and Wednesday at the Sheraton Inn in Dover, marketing and business management will be consistent themes throughout the program.

"The board of directors of the Delaware Vegetable Growers' Association felt special emphasis should be placed on these subjects, in addition to the standard production topics," says University of Delaware extension vegetable specialist Ed Kee, who sat in on the planning sessions for this year's Delaware Vegetable Growers' meeting.

Aspects of marketing and finance to be covered during the two-day event include:

— Successful marketing of local

produce through chain stores; — Vegetable situation and outlook;

— Potato situation and outlook; — Tailgate marketing; — Pick your own experiences; — Cooperative packing experiences in 1983; — Managing your risk; — Promoting your products.

The meeting will also cover the usual complement of timely production topics, Kee says.

The event is being sponsored jointly by the Delaware Potato Growers' and Vegetable Growers' associations and the University of Delaware Cooperative Extension Service. It is free and open to all. For further program details contact county extension offices in Newark, Dover or Georgetown, or call Ed Kee at (302) 856-5250.

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