Farm Bureau favors market oriented ag

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A future farm policy that clears the way for profits in the marketplace and not unending reliance on government farm programs has been called for by the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Testifying on a 1985 farm bill, Dean Kleckner, a farmer from Rudd, Iowa who is president of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, told the House Agriculture Committee that the path to market led through modifications of farm legislation that would tie loan rates to market prices.

'Most important," he said, "is Farm Bureau's strong support for future farm programs that will contribute to a reduction in the level of federal spending and thereby get interest rates down, exchange rates in line, and exports back on the move."

Kleckner, who is a member of AFBF's Board of Directors,

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reminded the committee that domestic farm markets are growing "little - if at all", and that growth of U.S. agriculture depends on expanded export trade. To that end, he said, U.S. farmers must have a program that will allow them to compete favorably in world markets. And he said periodic adjustments in U.S. loan rates are the "best way to get the attention of foreign competitors, who often undercut U.S. prices that

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, March 10, 1984—F5

are propped up by high domestic loans.'

In stressing that loan rates should be set at "market-clearing levels," Kleckner explained it would best be accomplished by setting loan rates according to the recent three-to-five year average domestic price.

"This recommendation recognizes the general success of the price support loan programs for both cotton and soybeans, and suggests that this concept be extended to include wheat, feed grains and rice," he said. Kleckner said that "modifying

the present law to emphasize market-oriented loan rates and stocks policies is the key" to the longer-run policy objective of a market-oriented agriculture. Farm Bureau, he said, favors eliminating the farmer-owned grain reserve because it has "become a major obstacle for returning wheat and feed grains to the market system," instead of being an orderly marketing tool, as intended.

"Had the federal farmer-owned reserve not been such a handy tool for propping up market prices in an attempt to reduce taxpayer outlays for deficiency payments," said Kleckner, "we would never had accumulated the awesome wheat and feed grains stocks that gave need for a PIK program."

Soybean research approved

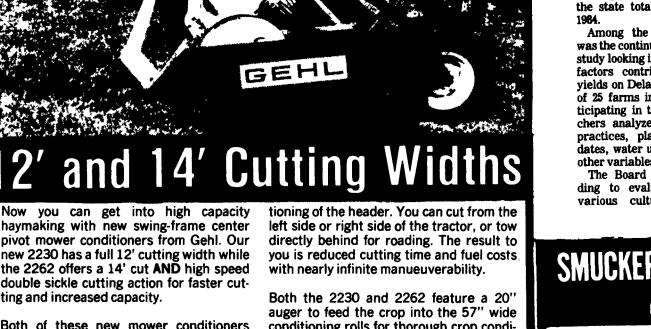
DOVER, Del. — The Delaware Soybean Board has approved funding for 17 research projects in the state totalling \$64,600 during 1964.

Among the projects approved was the continuation of a task force study looking into a wide variety of factors contributing to soybean yields on Delaware farms. A total of 25 farms in the state are participating in the study as researchers analyze varieties, cultural practices, planting and harvest dates, water usage, soil types and other variables.

The Board also approved funding to evaluate the effect of various cultural practices in managing the Dectes Stem Borer on soybeans grown in Delaware. That insect is becoming an increasingly widespread threat to yields in the state.

The Delaware Soybean Board consists on nine producer members elected by Delaware's soybean growers and the Delaware Secretary of Agriculture. Funding for the programs of education, research, product and market development come from a one cent per bushel check-off of soybeans raised in Delaware.

The funds are used only for projects that offer beneficial results to Delaware's soybean growers and industry.



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