

Protest bias in ag news, media

expert tells Cornucopia

BY JOYCE BUPP
Staff Correspondent

HERSHEY — Members of the agriculture community should register protests when they hear distorted facts from the print and broadcast media, says Cornucopia speaker Bernard Yoh.

Yoh is communications director since 1974 for the Washington-based media watchdog organization, Accuracy in Media.

Born and educated in China, he joined the nationalist underground movement in 1937 when the Japanese invaded his country, and later fought as a guerilla leader during World War II. He was a personal advisor to South Vietnamese president Ngo Dinh Diem, and has counseled a number of other governments.

Yoh has lived in the United States for the past thirty years, traveling and speaking extensively, including lecturing officers at the Air War College on counterinsurgency and psychological warfare.

Having seen at close range the destruction of personal freedoms through communist takeovers in China and Vietnam, Yoh has become an outspoken proponent of

democracy. He addressed what he labeled widespread bias in both the print and broadcast mediums, especially citing presentation of the Vietnam War.

"Journalists were willing to sacrifice that country to the communists," Yoh observed. He further criticized lack of coverage of the widespread personal destruction that followed, calling it a "bloodbath."

Noting that 25 countries have been taken over by communism, Yoh further suggested that with even a tiny "crack in the system," there would be a mass exodus of citizens fleeing communist oppression in many of those over-taken nations.

"If life under communism was tolerable, why would so many still want to leave?" he continued

Yoh paid tribute to the agriculture community, calling it "still number one in America."

"You don't realize how tremendous it is to have milk at such events — you think nothing of having chicken — these things are still a luxury in most parts of the world."

Yoh further singled out agriculture as the recipient of poor media coverage. Sensationalist stories of failing farmers, and distorted facts about such issues as chemicals and farm labor, create a poor and unfair public image of American agriculture.

"If you see something presented that you disagree with, act quickly!" Yoh urged the Cornucopia audience "The only way they can get away with it is if you do nothing."

Applicator session slated

NEWARK, DE — The University of Delaware Cooperative Extension Service has rescheduled its private pesticide applicator training session in Sussex County for Wednesday, Feb. 26, 7 p.m. at the University of Delaware

Research and Education Center (formerly the university sub-station), Georgetwon. The original date, February 5, conflicted with the Delmarva Corn and Soybean Technology Conference

Co-ops training school graduates 27

UNIVERSITY PARK — Cooperatives have been an integral part of the success of agriculture in Pennsylvania and require strong leadership and a continuous sharpening of management skills to guide them through the turbulent '80s.

That theme was echoed by a variety of speakers at the third Pennsylvania Cooperative Director School, which graduated a class of 27 recently.

The three-year-old program is a joint venture of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, the Pennsylvania State University and the Pennsylvania Association of Farmer Cooperatives.

The two-part, five-day training program is designed to develop director leadership skills in a variety of areas — basic board powers, financial responsibilities, board-management relations and policy formation, to name only a few

At graduation, State Bureau of Markets Director James Sumner said, "This is one of the programs which the Department is involved

with which will have the most far-reaching impact on the future of Pennsylvania's agriculture."

Other speakers who appeared during the program include Dr. Wayne Hinsh interium dean, PSU College of Agriculture; Dr. Randall Torgerson, administrator, USDA, Agricultural Cooperative Service; George Steele, former Agway board chair; Dr. James Honan, professor of agricultural economics, Cook College; and Gerald Alsentzer, Baltimore Bank for Cooperatives.

Those cooperative directors graduating Friday included the following: Richard Barth, Pennsylvania Dairy Herd Improvement Association (DHIA), University Park; Lee Brown, Inter-State Milk Producers, Oxford; Wilbur Burkholder, York Farm Credit, Chambersburg; John Castrogiovanna, DHIA, Montrose; Dale Chapman, Meadville Farm Credit, Waterford;

Johnny Corle, Bedford Farm Bureau, Imler; Galen Crouse, Lancaster Farm Credit, Stevens; Charles Freligh, Eastern Milk Producers, Cayuga, NY; Lee Greenwalt, Eastern Milk Producers, Lawrenceville; Martin Grey, DHIA, York; Carlton Groff, Lancaster Farm Credit, Kirkwood; Marlin Hitz, Lancaster Farm Credit, Lebanon;

James Kennedy, Butler Farm Credit, Butler; Clair Koontz, Atlantic Breeders Cooperative, New Enterprise; James Madigan, Dairylea, Towanda; Alfred Munro, Northeast Farm Credit, Jersey Shore; Frank Orner, DHIA, Rockton; Dale Paulhamus, Eastern Milk Producers, Jersey Shore; Carolyn Rutter, PACMA, Dover; Earl Shutt, Mountain Orchard Cooperative, Orrtanna, Robert Smyser, York Farm Credit, York;

Bryon Sollenberger, Inter-State Milk Producers, Curryville; Paul Turner, Bedford Farm Bureau, New Enterprise; Robert Weaver, PACMA, Winfield; Boyd Wolff, West Central Farm Credit, New Alexandria; and Frank Yost, Atlantic Breeders Cooperative, Newville

The Pennsylvania Association of Former Cooperatives, organized in 1933, is a trade association representing about 45 agricultural cooperatives that operate in the Commonwealth. Agricultural cooperatives generate about \$3.2 billion in economic activity in the Commonwealth each year

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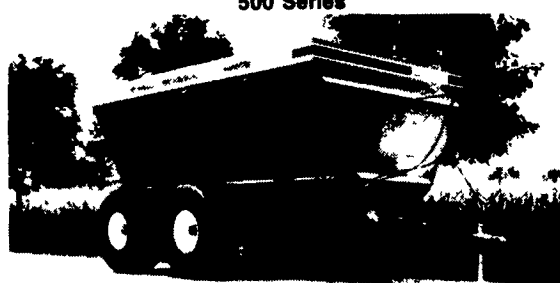
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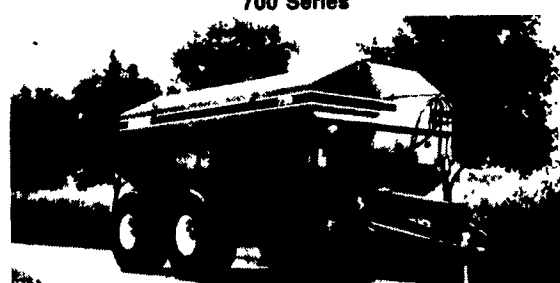
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