

NACD President Stresses Teamwork At Convention

BY SHARON SCHUSTER
Maryland Correspondent
HAGERSTOWN, Md. — "Expanding the Conservation Team" was the theme of the 1986 Northeast Regional Meeting of the National Association of Conservation Districts held here on Aug. 12 to 15. Addressing an audience of about 400, Maryland Secretary of Agriculture, Wayne A. Cawley, Jr. lauded the efforts of the statewide conservation team. "Our conservation team in Maryland has expanded by the 2,200 satisfied farmers who installed Best Management Practices to treat 110,000 acres in 1985," reported Cawley.

Executive vice president of the American Forestry Association, Neil Sampson, echoed the sentiments of his colleague. "Go look at a state whose early efforts were marked by committed cooperation, and look where they are today. History proves that cooperation works," he said.

"Build the framework at the state level," he advised. "I liken it (the conservation issue) to a runaway truck with 100,000 fleas jumping around on the steering wheel trying to make their influence felt. If you want to have something to do about the direction... you have to have skill, resources and friends," quipped Sampson.

Referring to the 1985 Farm Bill, Sampson said it represents "an historic new linkage" between conservation and commodity programs. He continued with an

advisory to his fellow conservationists. "You better get ready to fight just as hard in 1987; we may end up looking for a way to hold onto what we already have. History could write it off (the 1985 Farm Bill) as a fluky experience." He added that "it is very important that the 1985 Farm Bill stay intact and stay funded."

Clarence Durban, president of the NACD, added to the idea of the runaway truck, as he announced, "Your National Association is going to blow your horn in the coming months." He said, "I would predict that we're going to be more successful in the next five years than we have been in the last 40."

The president focused on three of his eight goals for the Association in 1986 to illustrate the importance of the "Team Theme." First, he said there should be an SCS technical presence in every conservation district. "NACD's goal is to see that the on-the-ground aspect of the agency is maintained," he explained. "We have all read the accounts out of Washington, D.C. over the past several months about how budget constraints are transforming many federal programs. Together, we can beat this attack on conservation programs... but it means working as a team. And that team has to include NACD, the districts, states and the SCS."

Secondly, the president submitted that perhaps, "we haven't done enough to showcase our efforts (as district officials.)" The

third issue involved absentee landowners. "This is the last major group which still lacks a strong commitment to conservation," said Durban. "Our task is to make all absentee landowners more aware of the benefits of land management on the soil and water in the long run," he said. "When the land is torn down, it's gone. We must get that message across."

Durban also commented on the 1985 Farm Bill. "To make it work, we need to enlarge our circle of influence," he advised. "Without the support of Sierra Clubs, the Audubon Society and other organizations, we would have had a terrible time."

The president concluded with a formula for success: "Showing up is 80 percent of our success," he said. "Once you have shown up, go that extra step and take action."

The reports and challenges that the officers offered to the audience also fell on the ears of the Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Peter Myers, who offered challenges of his own. "Conservation really came alive in the 1985 Farm Bill," said Myers. "We feel very optimistic about this sign up (projected for ten million acres). We are going aggressively after that ten million acres," he said.

"Appropriations are the final issue," reported Myers. The 1987 appropriations have not been totally decided. In essence, it will probably be a repeat of 1986 funding," he said. We are working on

the 1988 budget right now." Though the budget can not be officially discussed before the President's State of the Union Address in January, Myers offered his opinion "without divulging any State secrets. We have projected over one billion dollars for the SCS budget for 1988," he confided.

Myers summed the long range conservation plan. "After 1990, anyone that is farming highly erodible land will have to implement a conservation program approved by the local SCS. We've got four years to start writing conservation plans. You are going to have the responsibility of informing your neighbors of the

effect of conservation compliance." He continued, "The point is, we don't want farmers, ranchers and landowners to wake up in 1989 and find out that they don't qualify for these programs."

Myers concluded his message with an observation on "the mood of the people of the country." He said, "they are ready to tie agriculture and conservation programs together. As I travel around the country, I look at the resources God gave us and also see a spiritual and physical renewal; that's for the benefit in the long range of the generations to come. The main thing is, let's work together."

Thornburg To Attend Outing

LANCASTER — Gov. Dick Thornburg will be on hand to kick off the festivities at the "Wenger for Senate Family Outing" to be held here at Dutch Wonderland on Tuesday, September 2.

"I am delighted that Governor Thornburg will be joining us for a few hours of fun, food and friends," said Republican Senator Noah W. Wenger. "We are anticipating attendance by many other special guests, including a number of cabinet members, elected officials at both the state and local level, and other dignitaries." Wenger is running for reelection to the 36th Senatorial District seat.

According to Bob Brenneman, chairman of the "Wenger for Senate" finance committee, the atmosphere at the well-known

resort, located east of Lancaster along Route 30 (Lincoln Highway), will be casual. "We want everyone to enjoy their evening at the park," he said. The park's amusement rides will be operating from 4 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. A picnic buffet will be served from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m.

Brenneman said the cost for the entire evening's entertainment is just \$25 per adult and \$5 for children under 12 years old accompanied by an adult.

For tickets and information, contact the Republican Committee of Lancaster County, 220 North Duke Street, Lancaster, PA 17602, telephone 717-392-4165; or the Chester County Republican Committee, 16 Wilmont Mews, West Chester, PA 19382, telephone 215-696-1842.

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