

State Grange To Meet In Reading

HARRISBURG — Reading will be the site for the 114th Annual Session of the Pennsylvania State Grange on Oct. 27-30, the state's largest annual agricultural convention.

Approximately 1,500 members from around the Commonwealth are expected to attend the convention. Six hundred voting delegates will attend this year's convention, representing 550 granges and 55 counties.

Berks County will host the 1986 session. Each year, the Grange's state session is hosted by a different grange. The grange begins to prepare for this annual event years in advance by holding fundraisers.

Major officers, including state master (president), overseer (vice president) and executive committee members will be elected during the four-day session.

In addition to the voting activities, the state session also includes state-wide competitions. Needlework, quilting, baking, photography and Christmas tree ornaments, naming only a few of the many contests conducted. A

talent shows helps to highlight the evening's events on Wednesday, Oct. 29.

Members of the Grange, a fraternal organization, will have the opportunity to participate in the ceremony to obtain the Sixth Degree, received only at the state level. The Grange has seven degrees. Four are given by the local grange and one by the county. The highlight is the Seventh Degree, which is done only at the national level.

One hundred and thirteen resolutions will be voted on at the state level. These resolutions originate at a local community level (a sub-ordinate grange), then they are presented at the county-wide meetings (a pomona grange), then they are taken to the state level. Those issues which are national, will then be considered at the national convention in Madison, Wisconsin on November 12-16.

Issues before the delegates for the 1986 convention include:

- * Revision of the General Agreement of Trade and Tariffs negotiations that injury test return

to what it was before 1979 and that agriculture have a fair representation on the GATT negotiating team.

* Congress re-adopt legislation to allow agricultural leaders on conservation district and extension service boards to serve as Farmers Home Administration directors.

* Records to show the PA State Grange is opposed to any and all mandatory quotas for the production of farm products.

* The two hazardous waste repositories and one low-level radioactive waste repository (which is required of PA) be located as close to the major generators as feasible, and preferably near a major four-lane highway since the greatest danger in disposing these wastes is in the transportation to the site.

* Support for the State and National Granges' work with their respective maximum amount of liability insurance awards per claim with the suggested cap of \$500,000 throughout the state or the United States of America.

* Revise the law so that in no

case is the landowner liable for persons entering and/or hunting upon his or her property with or without consent of the owner.

* The Grange urge Penn State University to use both anthracite and bituminous coals in the slurry boiler so as to increase sales of both hard and soft coal.

* The PA State Grange keep in close contact with Penn State University on the use of anthracite coal and make reports of the research findings to the Grange members involved in the anthracite business.

* Oppose any increase in telephone companies' charges for local services, as long as they are

showing a profit.

* The Pennsylvania State Grange work with the Pennsylvania State Legislators for some type of matching funds to fund an eradication program farmers will cooperate with.

* The Pennsylvania State Grange and National Grange seek to have FmHA follow its own rules and regulations now mandated pertaining to the time limit FmHA must process, approve or disapprove applications for said loan programs.

These and other issues will be decided by delegates during the week-long Grange session.

USDA Slates 'Outlook' Conference

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Agriculture's 63rd annual agricultural outlook conference, "Outlook '87," will be held Dec. 2 to 4, 1986, at USDA headquarters in Washington, D.C., a USDA official announced today.

USDA Assistant Secretary for Economics Robert L. Thompson said the two and one-half day conference will cover prospects for farmers, farm commodities and consumers in 1987. "This year, more time will be devoted to the commodity outlook, including ample time for informal discussion between the audience and speakers," said Thompson.

In addition to the 1987 outlook, conference speakers will focus on two themes: prospects for U.S. agriculture in the late 1980's, and marketing farm commodities more effectively. A special session during the first afternoon of the conference will focus on global

economic and agricultural trends and their impact on farmers, business, and farm programs for the balance of the 1980's.

Other sessions will examine food prices, family economics, nutrition, the farm financial picture and the rural economy.

Main conference sessions can be heard nationwide by telephone callers who direct dial 900-410-5333 during the meetings. Callers will be charged 50 cents for the first minute and 35 cents for each additional minute.

Registration is free, and preregistration is advised. To receive conference information, call (202) 447-3050, or write Outlook Conference, Room 5143 South Building, USDA, Washington D.C. 20250. USDA will provide a staffed room for journalists. For further information, call Diane Decker, (202) 786-1494.



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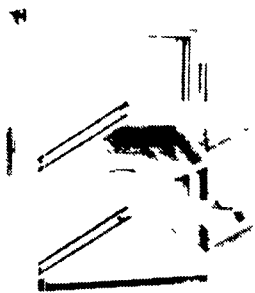
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