

Farm Bureau Chief Calls For End To Export Subsidies

BRUSSELS, Belgium — The United States and the European Community should work toward the phase-out of all agricultural export subsidies over a reasonable, specified time to reduce protectionist pressures around the world, an American farm leader told a forum of

European agricultural officials and journalists.

Dean Kleckner, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, presented his remarks on Nov. 5 at the "Club de Bruxelles" in Brussels, Belgium. The club, founded by press and

information agencies within the EC, organizes conferences on major issues affecting the European Community. Kleckner represented the private sector of U.S. agriculture.

"The world is awash in farm production, for which there is too

little demand," he warned. "Much of this production has been unwisely stimulated by governments and stored or dumped by governments. The exchange of accusations have become ritualized and without real benefit. We need resolution, not recrimination."

The farm leader rejected the suggestion that market "fair shares" be established between competing countries as the solution to the problem. "It is our experience that by 'cooperation' many Europeans mean government designated market-sharing through such things as international commodity agreements that parcel out quotas. This type of cooperation is unworkable and unacceptable to the United States and especially to U.S. farmers," he added.

Kleckner said the U.S. and Europe would have great difficulty agreeing on what is a fair share. "Are they the shares we had in the mid and late '70s or are they the

shares we had after the EC became a net grain exporter by using subsidies?"

He warned the Europeans the United States will not accede to the trade losses caused by the addition of Spain and Portugal to the community.

"The misunderstanding in the EC about our corn exports is one example of our difficulties. We hear that such duty-free grain imports force the EC to increase its grain exports. (Yet), U.S. exports of corn gluten have stayed virtually flat since 1983 and grew by less than 4 million tons since 1977.

"EC grain exports have grown by 14 million metric tons since 1977 while imports (primarily from the U.S.) were reduced by about 25 million tons. "If our relatively small corn gluten feed imports are irritating to you—please consider how devastated we are by the lost corn and wheat markets due to EC actions," he concluded.

Hunterdon County Ag Board Celebrates Century Mark

FLEMINGTON, N.J. — The Hunterdon County Board of Agriculture will celebrate its 100th birthday on Saturday, Nov. 15. This is the organization's annual dinner meeting and it's scheduled for the Quakertown Fire House, social hour at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m.

During the early years the County Board of Agriculture was instrumental in nurturing a number of significant projects. One was the founding of the first cooperative egg auction in the nation. This expanded into handling of poultry and livestock in addition to eggs.

The County Board, through its Dairy and Field Crops Advisory Committee, provided money and leadership to establish the first artificial breeding cooperative for dairy cattle in the country. This concept spread across the dairy industry and has developed through the years to be one of the most significant technological advances in the livestock world.

The Hunterdon Medical Center was established in the county with strong support from the County Board of Agriculture. Many innovative health care programs have been developed at the Medical Center and have evolved and been widely accepted in other areas.

The Hunterdon County Board of Agriculture has had an impressive history of accomplishment, of continuous concern and interest in the community. It's been responsive to needs and the present leadership hopes that it will continue to serve as a strong body of people deeply involved in the county.

President Richard Gulick, a West Amwell dairy farmer, will be

reporting at the annual meeting on activities of the past. There have been many: the Farmer's Businessmen's Picnic at Herman Panacek's Nursery and Farm with a record attendance; the Dairy Farm Open House at Charles Rogers' farm; Ag Awareness Day, and much more.

The board schedules timely topics at its monthly meetings. These are held in the Hunterdon County Extension Center, first

Wednesday of the month, 8:00 p.m., and are open to the public.

Concerns of farmers and others are discussed and appropriate action taken at these meetings.

The County Board of Agriculture relates closely to several other bodies: the State Board of Agriculture, the New Jersey Farm Bureau, and in addition serves as the advisory body to the Rutgers Cooperative Extension agents here in the county.

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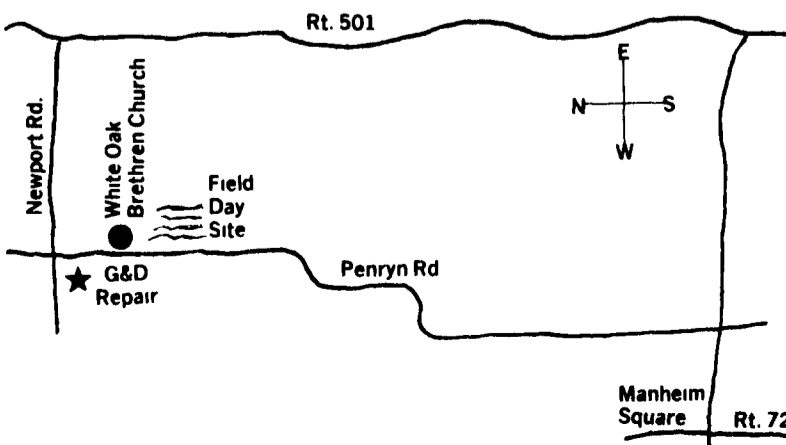
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