U.S. Deputy Secretary of Ag Paints Optimistic Future

Lancaster Co. Correspondent ROCK SPRINGS — Calling research the key to helping the farm economy "straighten out," United States Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Peter C. Myers, helped the Penn State College of Agriculture Alumni Society in its recognition of 1987 as the 100th anniversary of the agricultural experiment

Speaking on Ag Alumni Day during the three day Ag Progress Days, Meyers painted on optimistic picture of the immediate future for agriculture. He called the recent years of troubles on the farm a "time of tempering which most of us have never gone through."

Acknowledging that "we still have some people in trouble," Myers said, "Most of these are getting their houses in order and pay-



United States Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Peter C. Myers acknowledged the important role of research in the agricultural economy. Myers, speaking at the Collège of Agriculture Alumni Society luncheon during Ag Progress Days, told his audience that the United State is willing to stop all farm subsidies if other countries will do the same.



Dean of Penn State's College of Agriculture Dr. Lamartine Hood, center, greets Hempfield School District Superintendent Dr. Earl Horton, right, and Atlantic Breeders Cooperative's N. Alan Bair, director of member services. This year members of the College of Agriculture Alumni Society made a special effort to invite high school administrators, guidance counselors and science teachers to show them career opportunities for their students.

ing off their debt." He said the present low inflation rate and dropping oil prices will be beneficial to farmers, but added, "It is research that has kept us efficient."

Myers pledged that the Department of Agriculture will not "put the extension service on the table" nor "give up Soil Conservation Service's technical assistance." These are programs which are

rumored to be the subject of serious cuts during budget reviews.

He came out strongly in favor of eliminating subsidies to farmers, explaining that the administration has made just such a proposal at the bargaining table in Geneva "to get a handle on the deficit" and to cut the cost of farm programs. "We're willing to eliminate subsidies if other countries would do

likewise. We can't do it alone." Myers added, "What we are saying is that our goal is to get an

agreement in place within the next year and a half." The proposal would be phased in over a ten year

Myers readily admitted that this government is spending large amounts of money on agriculture,

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