

Indiana County Farmers Association Holds Meeting

BY RANDY WELLS
Indiana Co. Correspondent
INDIANA — The passage of pending local tax-reform legislation and the possible reclassification of anhydrous ammonia would have a significant impact on Pennsylvania farmers, but a proposed increase in the federal minimum wage would have little effect on most of the state's farms.

Those were the conclusions and opinions of legislators and officials of the Indiana County Farmers Association, as they met for that group's annual spring dinner meeting Thursday, March 30, at Indiana's Rustic Lodge.

The Indiana County Farmers Association recruited 40 new members in the first quarter of 1989, enough to make it only the second county in the Pennsylvania Farmers Association Region III to already achieve its annual membership goal.

Bob Fabin of Indiana received the praise of the association members for his service as the 1989 membership drive chairman. Fabin said the 40 new members offset the loss of 36 others, giving the county organization a net gain of four new members and a total of 437, exactly what was needed to reach their goal.

State Rep. Paul Wass, R-Indiana, who also serves as the Pennsylvania Farmers Association state membership chairman, was recognized with a gold King-

pin Award, for recruiting 10 new members into the association in each of three years.

Legislative issues affecting farmers were a main focus of the dinner meeting, and U.S. Rep. Joseph Kolter, D-4th District, and state Rep. Andrew Billow, Jr., D-72nd District, also attended the dinner.

Larry Allison of Clymer, the county association's national legislative spokesman, reported on a recent Washington, D.C., meeting with Rep. Kolter.

Allison said the congressman opposes pending legislation introduced by the U.S. Department of Transportation, seeking to reclassify anhydrous ammonia as a poisonous gas from its present classification as a corrosive chemical.

Anhydrous ammonia is one of the most widely used nitrogen fertilizers, and the Department of Transportation is said to be concerned about the dangers of transporting the substance in its liquid form.

The association believes it would be very difficult to license transporters of anhydrous ammonia if reclassified, and the



Among those who attended the Indiana County Farmers' Association spring dinner were, from left, Brad Neal, association vice president; Pennsylvania Representative Paul Wass; U.S. Representative Joseph Kolter; Mary Neal, Indiana County policy development co-chairperson; and Pennsylvania Representative Andrew Billow Jr.

increased cost might make the use of the fertilizer prohibitive for many farmers.

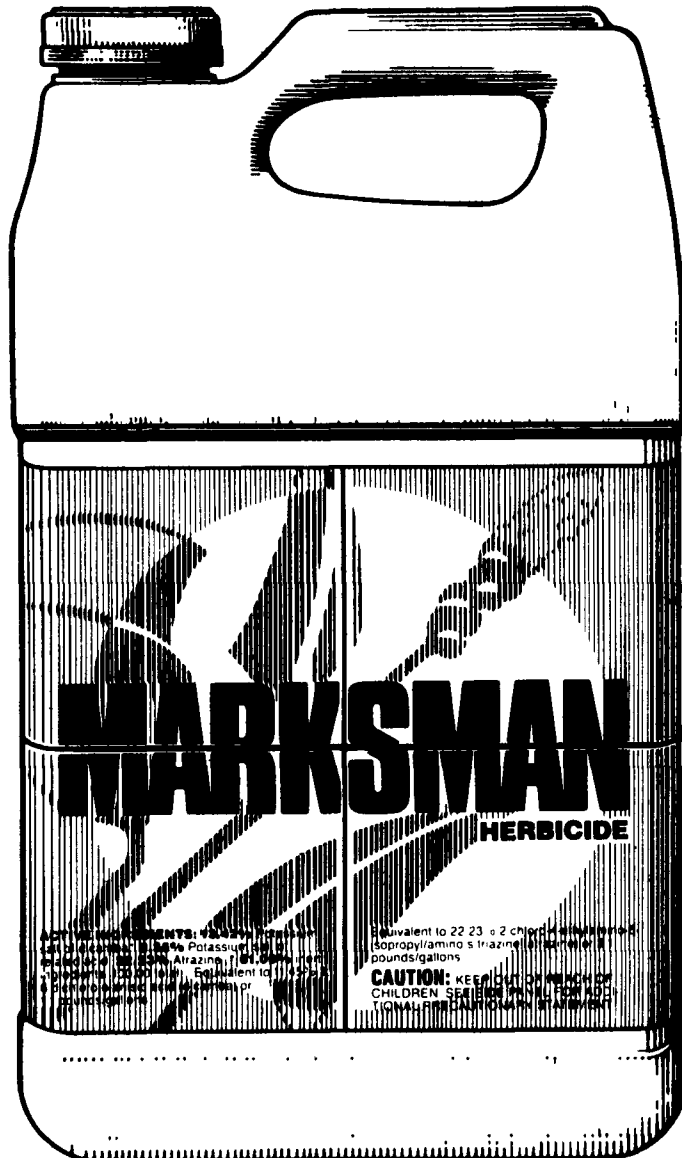
At the same meeting, Allison

said the congressman also indicated he was opposed to the idea of raising taxes, including the gasoline tax, as a way to get the

nation out of a deficit budget. Rep. Kolter said the pending legislation, which would increase

(Turn to Page A25)

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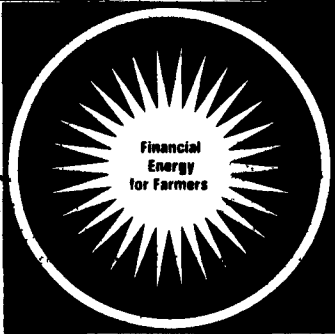
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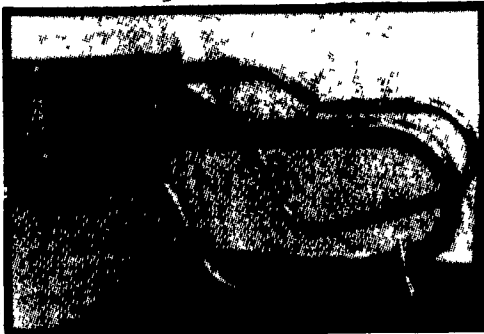


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