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Yeutter Gives Views At Local Fund Dinner

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

HERSHEY (Dauphin Co.)—“In my judgment, American agriculture will need to pick itself up by its own bootstraps more in the future than in the past,” said Clayton Yeutter, national agriculture secretary. “And this need will happen irrespective of the political party in power.”

Speaking at the 10th annual F.A.R.M.E.R. fund raising banquet at the Hershey Country Club Tuesday evening, Yeutter said this may not necessarily be a disadvantage to farmers. Some segments of agriculture that do not receive substantial help from government are still quite economically healthy. The challenge to the national agriculture secretary is to make sure revenues come from the marketplace both domestically and internationally.

The secretary said not much additional demand can be created for food in the domestic market. But non-food uses can be developed. For example, the prospect of cleaner fuel from crop-related additives has a potentially bright future.

Overseas, the potential to negotiate and sell ag exports has great

possibilities. In fact, according to Yeutter, we have no choice to expand the markets to the five billion people who live outside the U.S. borders.

“Not all the wealth of the world

lies within our borders,” Yeutter said. “Foreigners are investing in U.S. property. So, maybe they could spend some of their money on our food we could export to them.”

Yeutter cited the negotiated

agreement with Japan that has resulted in \$1 billion worth of beef to be exported in 1989. That figure is expected to be exceeded in 1990. This export market alone has been credited with adding \$2 per

hundred to the price of US fed cattle, indefinitely for many years to come.

“I happen to think we could export dairy products too,” Yeutter said. “Unfortunately, we have had a mind set to keep other dairy products out of this country. But no one has thought much about selling dairy products elsewhere. I hope we can change that mind set and market dairy products around the world. We will not know if we can do it if we don’t try.”

To answer questions from the participants in the \$125 per plate dinner meeting, Yeutter said:

—We need to curb the federal budget or we will have another wave of inflation with higher interest rates.

—We need to do a better job of education in our school system to keep us up to the standards of other countries.

—Food embargoes will not be used as negotiating tools in the Bush administration.

—Food safety laws need to be changed from zero residue levels to negligible risk management.

—We need to standardize pesticide laws so government agencies do not make conflicting standards.

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In the receiving line at the F.A.R.M.E.R. banquet are, left to right, Richard Newpher, executive secretary, Pennsylvania Farmers Association; Clayton Yeutter, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture; Keith Eckel, president, Pennsylvania Farmers Association and Boyd Wolff, Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture.

Does Biotechnology Put The Food Supply At Risk?

Editor's note: The 1990 Food Safety Conference, held for the general media in the Northeast, was an attempt to bring newspaper, radio and TV journalists together for an orientation to farm food production problems. The event was held at Cornell University at Ithaca, NY, last week and was sponsored by: Cornell's Institute of Food Sciences, Cooperative Extension, The Northeast Farm Communicators, the New York State Col-

lege of Human Ecology and Agriculture and Life Sciences. One of the presentations at this conference follows.

D.H. BEERMANN
Associate Professor
of Animal Science
Cornell University

ITHACA, NY — This is a technological age, and the rapid-fire advances in technology are not limited to development of Space Shuttle and space exploration programs, satellite surveil-

lance of weather or military activities or developing even more powerful super computers. Technology advances in the physical sciences, medicine and agriculture are also making history. We refer to this new technology in medicine and agriculture as biotechnology because it pervades nearly all aspects of the biology of plant, animal, human and other forms of life.

Biotechnology applications in agriculture are perceived by some

to put our food supply at risk. I want to share with you today the rationale or reasons for use of biotechnology in animal agriculture and how it may influence our food supply. I want to provide examples of how this biotechnology can be used, and I want to share with you how safety and wholesomeness of our food supply is assured when molecular biology and other tools of biotechnology are applied to animal agriculture. My talk is not meant to include a

comprehensive treatment of all issues which could be raised concerning food safety. Hopefully it will provide you a better understanding of the scope and diversity of information which must be sought and included in a balanced reporting of the impact of biotechnology on our food supply and where that information is available. I also want to point out how new data, information or claims are evaluated by scientists and

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Dairy Farmer's Involvement Goes Beyond Fenceline

GAIL STROCK
Mifflin Co. Correspondent

BELLEVILLE (Mifflin Co.)—Who would fly to Scotland to give a speech, manage a 450-acre farm with a 70-cow herd, and serve as local president of Rotary?

A man of many different hats would! And John Reed Rodgers from Belleville, Mifflin County is that man.

In addition, Rodgers is currently serving his second term as president of the Pennsylvania Ayrshire Breeders Association. Rodgers' commitment to being involved and moving forward is evident in just about all he does.

“If you're green you're growing, if you're ripe you're rotting...and being a part of something that is growing is stimulating to me,” he said.

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John Rodgers presides over the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Ayrshire Breeders Association, one of the many positions he holds.

Veterinarians Hear BST Research Background

VERNON ACHENBACH, JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.)

— Although not everything is known about how bovine somatotropine (BST) works to stimulate milk production in lactating cows, researchers said they are sure that use of the product does not injure cows and does not produce any health hazard to humans consuming the milk.

This message was delivered during a BST informational seminar held Tuesday by representatives for BST-manufacturer, Monsanto Agricultural Co.

Held at Days Inn, the purpose of the seminar was to provide area veterinarians and other dairy animal professionals with updates on BST and to answer technical questions that may have not been asked in previous seminars on the subject.

BST has been the focus of dairy industry controversy for more than a year with research showing promising results toward safe and possibly profitable application of the product to increase milk production in cows that fall within certain criteria.

However, controversy has resulted because of several different objections to its use.

By holding public meetings and seminars, researchers, representatives and consultants with Monsanto (and other manufacturers of BST) have been attempting to lay to rest fears of BST based on a lack of information.

Most fears seem based on speculation that the product may have some negative side effect to cows under BST therapy or humans who consume the resultant milk. General mistrust of manufacturing

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