New Uses Council Lauds National Ag Secretary's Agenda

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — "Clearly, the time has come to intensify our efforts in the area of nonfood and nonfeed crops and uses of farm products," emphasized Agriculture Secretary Edward Madigan during a recent speech. "For one thing, the needs are greater: The Clean Air Act calls for cleaner fuels with a firm deadline. Landfill space is dwindling rapidly. Our dependence on foreign oil is growing. And the demand is more urgent for environmentally, safeto-handle biodegradable products."

The New Uses Council (NUC) couldn't agree more.

"New uses for farm products increase farm income, create jobs in rural America, reduce our dependence on foreign petroleum and put renewable resources to good use," said Jeff Gain, council chairman and chief executive officer of the National Corn Growers Association. "We are delighted to see Secretary Madigan taking the lead in this vitally important area."

NUC formed last year to serve as an advocate for the commercialization of new uses and help coordinate public and private sector initiatives in this area. Since that time, the council has served as an information clearinghouse, provided speakers for conferences and is helping organize an international trade show for later this year. They've also been advising government officials about specific policies and programs that can expand industrial uses of agricultural materials and use excess resources more efficiently.

"We want to make sure that worthwhile, new agricultural products have a fighting chance of becoming commercialized in this increasingly competitive world," Gain emphasized. "Government regulations and research priorities can sometimes make or break new products."

For example, the Clean Air Act regulations developed will have a tremendous impact on the demand for renewable fuels like ethanol and could ultimately, add millions to farm income, said Gain.

"In 1990, ethanol-blended gasoline used almost 400 million bushels of corn. The potential is

many times greater," Madigan added.

To accelerate the development of new crops and uses of farm products, Madigan recently announced several measures. These include:

- * Outline a plan to put additional USDA resources into research and development of new nonfood and nonfeed uses in 1992.
- * Review USDA programs to identify additional opportunities for developing new uses for farm commodities.
- * Seek close industry cooperation throughout the process of research, development and testing of products and materials, and step up the transfer of technology from USDA to industry and producers.
 - * Urge other federal agencies to

work with USDA to identify new market opportunities here and abroad. The goal: reduce or eliminate barriers to new industrial uses and encourage industrial and rural business participation in this effort.

* Expedite the establishment of the Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization Center (AARC) and its Board of Directors. The 1990 Farm Act authorized the formation of the Center and Board to oversee development and commercialization of new uses of agricultural products. With \$4.5 million appropriated by Congress, AARC will provide grants for research and development, offer seed money for new alternative agricultural businesses and act as a clearinghouse for

alternative agricultural product information.

* Urge farm groups and land grant universities to support and join USDA in this renewed effort to develop industrial uses for farm and forestry commodities.

* Create an annual Secretary of Agriculture Award to be given to an individual or organization that makes a major contribution to the successful development and promotion of new industrial crops and products.

The NUC has been very active in securing funding for AARC and in surfacing candidates for the AARC Board.

"The NUC is committed to seeing that the commercialization of new ag products through the AARC program moves ahead quickly. It is an idea whose time

has come because it is good for farmers, rural America, the U.S. economy and the environment," Gain said.

Officers elected at the NUC annual meeting in November for the coming year are:

Chairman, Jeff Gain, National Corn Growers Association. Past Chairman, Alan Tracy, Wisconsin Sectretary of Agriculture; Chairman Elect, Shelby Thames, University of Southern Mississippi; Vice Chair, Jack Firkens, A.E. Staley Manf. Co.; Secretary, Bruce Abbey, Communicating for Agriculture; Treasurer, Jay Swisher, South Dakota Department of Agriculture; At Large: Martin Andreas, Archer Daniels Midland, Richard Hahn, Kansas Added Value Center.

Kohl To Speak On Farm Management

BLUE BALL (Lancaster Co.) — David Kohl, professor of agricultureal finance and small business management and entrepreneurship at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, is to be one of several speakers highlighted during a Feb. 5 Blue Ball National Bank agricultural seminar.

It is the ninth such ag seminar sponsored by Blue Ball and is to be held in the Blue Ball Fire Hall, starting 9:45 a.m.

Because of limited space, only those who make reservations by Monday, Jan. 27, will be accepted, according to Kenneth Overly, agricultural lender at BBNB. To make reservations, contact Stacy Carpenter, at BBNB, immediately.

In addition to featured speaker Kohl, others to talk include Robert Yonkers, a Pennsylvania State University (PSU) professor of agricultural economics; Dough Clemens, director of hog procurement for Hatfield Quality Meats; and Glenn Shirk, Lancaster County dairy agent.

As featured speaker, Kohl has a reputation for offering advice free of endorsements to any one political, professional or educational



institution.

Kohl received his master's and doctorate degrees in agricultural economics from Cornell University in 1976 and 1978, respectively.

He has conducted more than 1,000 workshops, seminars, and speeches on farm and financial management throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico. He has published four books

and over 125 journal articles, research and extension bulletins, and popular publications.

He has received several major teaching awards at Virginia Tech including the William E. Wine Award for outstanding teaching in 1983. He was named Outstanding Young Extension Specialist in 1981 by the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service. He received the Distinguished Service Award given by the Virginia Bankers Association.

In 1984 Kohl received the National Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award given by the American Agricultural Economics Association. In 1987 Kohl was presented the Governor's Award for Outstanding Friend of Virginia Agriculture, presented by the Friends of the Industry of Agriculture. Kohl is the youngest person ever to receive this award.

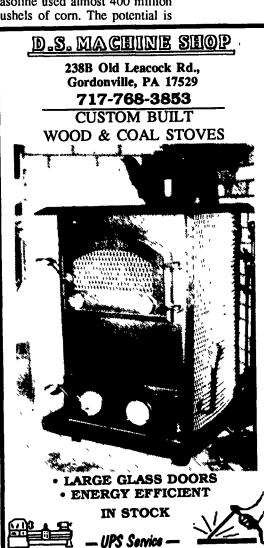
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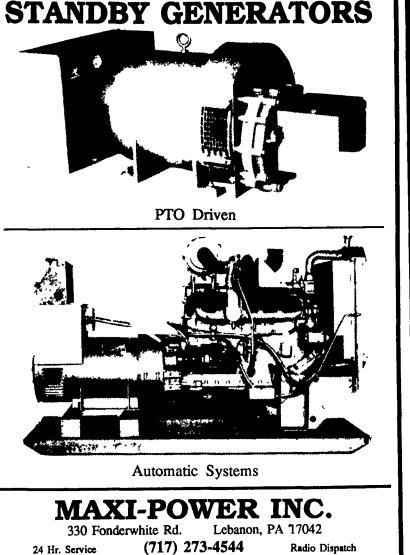
Kohl was a visiting professor at Cornell University, focusing on business management and small business and entrepreneurship. In May 1989, Kohl received the Merrill Presidential Scholars Award, the most influential faculty recognition, from Cornell University.

In 1989, Kohl was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Virginia Rural Development Foundation by Virginia Gov. Gerald Baliles.

Most recently, Kohl is being recognized for his work as a member of the United States Agricultural Financial Standards Task Force, as well as having been appointed to the Farmer Mac Ag Government Advistory Board, 1990.

In addition, Kohl is the United States' Representative serving on the Task Force of Accounting Standards for Canadian Agriculture.







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