

NCFC Urges Strong Action

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Council of Farmer Cooperatives joined a coalition of 19 food and agricultural groups last week in calling for strong U.S. action to maintain the ability of U.S. agriculture to remain viable and competitive; meet domestic and overseas food needs; and realize the full potential of the recently completed Uruguay Round GATT agreement.

In a meeting with Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy, NCFC President Wayne Boutwell and the other coalition leaders called for the Administration to maintain funding and support for a variety

of export and food assistance programs.

"Under the current budget proposal, many of these programs would be substantially reduced, and in some cases eliminated," Boutwell said. "If Congress approves these reductions, they would go into effect before the GATT implementing date without similar requirements from other countries, putting U.S. agriculture at a tremendous disadvantage."

In order to keep agriculture competitive, the coalition urged the establishment of an "Agricultural Investment and Market Expansion" (AIME) program.

Utilizing existing funds, AIME

would: (1) consolidate existing export programs which maintaining their current level of funding and authority; (2) require the full use of such funds and authorities as allowed under GATT; and (3) make available any funds not used for such purposes to be reinvested, as allowed under GATT, to meet these objectives.

The coalition also pointed out that, while the GATT agreement requires a reduction in such trade-distorting measures, it does not eliminate them. In fact, the agreement allows countries, including the European Union (EU), to increase their use of export subsi-

dies for selected commodities in the near term. It also allows countries to maintain and increase their support for various "green box" programs, which are non-trade distorting. Such programs include market development, market promotion, and food assistance.

"Agriculture is aware that its growth potential lies in the global marketplace," Boutwell said. "As trade barriers are reduced, the U.S. food and agricultural system will reach its full potential. However, U.S. trade policies have to keep up with the changes taking place."

"As a result, U.S. agriculture must have government support within the limits of GATT if it is to compete effectively," Boutwell concluded. "AIME will provide the programs and funds to do

that."

Members of the coalition include: American Farm Bureau Federation, American Meat Institute, American Sheep Industry Association, American Soybean Association, Coalition for Food Aid, National Association of Wheat Growers, National Barley Growers Association, National Broiler Council, National Cattle-men's Association, National Corn Growers Association, National Cotton Council, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, National Grange, National Milk Producers Federation, National Pork Producers Council, National Potato Council, National Sunflower Association, National Turkey Federation, and Rice Millers Association.

How Can It Apply?

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff

HALIFAX (Dauphin Co.) — A study by the Susquehanna River Basin Commission suggests a possibility for creating innovative systems for agricultural nutrient and chemical control.

The fact that this suggests a variety of means to protect deep groundwater seems significant, given that the State Conservation Commission is currently creating regulations for the administration of the state's Nutrient Management Act.

Those regulations are to be finalized by July 1995.

The 15-member Nutrient Management Advisory Board that serves to review and comment on proposed regulations has been struggling with a dispute over the degree to which regulation should detail techniques for managing nutrients on farms.

Basically, the dispute rests on whether to create regulations that would contain specific detail on what is allowed, or to create regulations that would permit a wide scope of practices, including those yet-unrecognized.

From the regulatory perspective, without a degree of specificity there can be no assurances of

groundwater and surface water protection.

The rationale is that, if the regulations are too loose, so will be the management of nutrients.

From the perspective of those who seek to keep regulations open-ended, there can be no successful progress made in developing practical, effective controls of nutrients, unless sound ideas of nutrient control are allowed to be put into practice.

This is especially since the field of nutrient control is young, the range of approved practices narrow, and funds for research to develop approved practices are not dependable.

Further, those who seek open language contend that allowing only nutrient management practices as spelled out in law would delay the use of new or improved systems, and at the same time force producers to bear the cost of undesired and potentially inferior systems.

While the debate is more com-

plicated, the application of the SRBC study to the ongoing work of the Nutrient Management Advisory Board is tied into ongoing board discussions.

As far as the work done at the Paul Clugston farm in Halifax, the conclusions of the SRBC are significant in its implications of how little is really known about agricultural nutrient control techniques and how fast the technology can change.

The SRBC conclusions conflict with some of theories held by those attempting to make regulations.

The SRBC conclusions were:

- Shallow ground water in agricultural areas contains high nitrates.

- Nitrate concentration is only partly related to current farming practices.

- Field drains can be designed to collect shallow ground water; thereby minimizing down-gradient contamination.

- Nitrate can be removed from the field drain discharge using a constructed wetland.

**MILK
AMERICA'S HEALTH KICK**

NEW Commodity Buildings Dry Stackable Storage With Precast Concrete Walls

Commodity buildings with one bay or multi bays 8'2" high precast concrete walls. Ask about Engineering for roof system or pole buildings.



Dry Stack Storage Buildings for turkey and chicken manure, saw dust, cotton seed, fertilizer, Brewers grain etc.

SOLLENBERGER SILOS CORP.

Ask About Ad 101
Special Discount

★ STAR SILOS

Myerstown, PA

Office # (717) 866-5708
J. Robert Brubaker 464-3136
John Swope 933-4758

A Nitterhouse Company
Box N, Chambersburg, PA 17201

Office # (717) 264-9588
Tabb Justus (717) 762-8663

PUBLIC AUCTION

May 7, 1994
Saturday 9:00AM

Located along RT 64, 5 mi NE
of Bellefonte, Centre Co.

FARM EQUIPT:

PIK Rite Tomato Harvester with brush shakers, NI708 Unisystem with 717 combine, 731 four row corn head, 713 G platform 767 Super chopper, corn & pickup heads, A.C. wcl tractor with 7' belly mower, A.C. wdl tractor, N.H. 315 baler with thrower, I.H. 430 baler with thrower, upright batch corn dryer, pending Goosen 3 P.t.h pto bale chopper, New Holland N.O. 25 forage blower, flat bed wagon, 18ft. 5th wheel trailer, N.H. no 238 hay rake, two Gehl No 940 forage wagons, 3 beaters 18ft. Winco 55K generator p.t.o., calftel calfhutch, Surge Modle B vacuum pump, 12 Agway loop free stalls, GVM foam marker, single row potato planter, tractor tires, two wooden hog feeders, IH No56 blower, & more.

CONSTRUCTION:

J. D. 350 B Crawler Loader with bucket & winch.

OTHER:

Grizzly 1 1/2 hp 10" table saw, Grizzly 6"x7" jointer, Craftsman 8" x29" wood lathe 1/3hp., 72 Artic Cat Kitty Cat, New blades for 5' rotary mowers, 4 engineered 26ft trusses, wooden 9x7 garage door, stack of used metal roofing (Gold & Galv), Stihl power back pack sprayer (hardly used), Two 38x52 Anderson doublehung windows (new), Makita cordless drill, 9.6 volt Makita 7 1/4 circular saw, hand corn sheller, milwaukee hydraulic bumper jack, cookstove, handtools, 8 hole spoked truck tires & rims, New tools, etc.

Terms: Cash or Good Check.

Kerstetter

Barry

AU002701-L

Phone 383-4459

Auction