

Farmer Cooperatives Advocate Volunteer Water Quality Program

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Farmers and their cooperatives advocate a voluntary, incentive-based approach to water quality issues, an NCFC spokesman last week told Chairman Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY) and other members of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

Steve Hofer, vice president of public affairs for Agway in Syracuse, New York, said agricultural organizations recommend a strategy to "maintain and enhance the quality of water resources through effective management of nonpoint source pollution from agricultural activities, where problems are identified, in a manner compatible with food and agricultural policy objectives."

The ag co-op leader commended full Committee Chairman Bud Shuster (R-PA) and other sponsors for introducing HR 961, which shifts the focus of Clean Water Act reauthorization debate from a top-down, command and control strategy to an approach that places emphasis on empowering states to develop programs that will allow farmers to become partners in addressing water quality concerns through more flexible, cost-effective means.

He advocated a strategy that employs an educational outreach program, developing a single farm plan concept, use of certified advisors, and incentives that encourage voluntary adoption.

Hofer told the subcommittee that Agway and other coopera-

tives are considerably hampered in their efforts to help farmers comply with water quality regulations and programs explaining, "We have to deal with multiple agencies and different requirements. For example, in our 12-state region, six federal statutes and programs come into play: the Clean Water Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, the Chesapeake Bay program, the Great Lakes Initiative, the Safe Drinking Water Act, and the Farm

Bill."

He specifically recommended four key improvements to HR 961:

- Consolidate federal quality programs where possible, and send one clear policy signal to states and stakeholders;

- Resolve serious problems raised by *C.A.R.E. v. Southview Farm* where the court decision could unfairly subject many of America's farmers to onerous regulations and clean water citizen

suits;

- Revise provisions that could unintentionally encourage implementation of enforcement mechanisms and detract from the partnership approach; and

- Maximize limited federal resources by engaging private sector capabilities, such as those in cooperatives.

"We in agriculture are already doing a great deal to move toward the water quality finish line," Hofer said. "H.R. 961 is a step in

the right direction toward providing a voluntary, incentive-based approach."

The National Council of Farmer Cooperatives represents nearly 100 major farmer marketing and supply cooperatives, the banks of the Farm Credit System, and 31 state councils of cooperatives. Its members, in turn, represent nearly 4,300 local cooperatives with a combined membership of nearly two million individual farmers.

Hershey Foods 'Sweet' On Envirothon

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)—Hershey Foods Corporation, for the fourth consecutive year, has granted \$25,000 to the Pennsylvania State Envirothon.

The Envirothon is a program designed to teach students about what is happening in the environment and how their actions can affect the environment. Students learn about issues and problems facing today's environment through a variety of competitive events and educational activities.

"We're proud to sponsor the Pennsylvania State Envirothon which does an excellent job educating kids about the environment," said Andrea Bowerman, corporate contribution manager, Hershey Foods Corporation. "We hope this program will help raise environmentally conscious people."

The Envirothon program begins at the local level. Five member teams rotate through five

testing stations that include questions related to aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and a current issue (this year's issue is groundwater). The team with the highest overall score in the five subject areas wins the local competition and represents its county at the state competition. State finalists advance to the National Envirothon.

Since the Envirothon's inception in 1979, participation has

increased dramatically. More than 15,000 students from 59 counties are involved in the 1995 program. The continued success of the Envirothon reflects the participation and support of county conservation districts, cooperating state and federal agencies, and environmentally active groups, organizations, and businesses.

This year's State Envirothon competition, which is sponsored by Hershey Foods Corporation, the Pennsylvania Association of

Conservation Districts, and the State Conservation Commission, is scheduled for June 23-24 at Bald Eagle State Park near Bellefonte in Centre County. The winning team will represent Pennsylvania at the National Envirothon, held July 31-August 4, at Ricks College in Rexburg, Idaho. The National Envirothon competition expects to have teams from 30 states participate, up from 22 in 1994.

Atlantic Breeders Annual Meeting

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — The 31st annual meeting for Atlantic Breeders Cooperative has been scheduled to start 10:30 a.m., March 22, at the Eden Resort Inn and Conference Center, in Lancaster.

This meeting is open to members, although advance reservations must be made through the ABC headquarters in Lancaster.

An orientation and development conference for all resource/promotion committee people is to be held the previous evening, as the first of three scheduled events this year for membership representatives.

The business of the regular meeting is to include reports on cooperative business activities,

and an official seating of member-representatives elected during earlier district meetings.

After dinner, Dr. Gordon Doak, president of the National Association of Animal Breeders (NAAB) is to speak on the interaction of the artificial insemination industry in the United States with the world dairy industry.

IS YOUR CORN STATE-OF-THE-ART?

It is when you start with advanced IMI-Corn™ hybrids. New IMI-Corn is specifically designed to be used with today's modern herbicides. Advanced herbicides like RESOLVE™ CP herbicide. The contact and residual control of



RESOLVE can put down your toughest broadleaf weeds and key grasses — with 60 to 90% less active ingredient per acre than standard corn herbicide programs. And it does it all with no atrazine. So insist on state-of-the-art performance.



8692IT

Excellent Stability Across a Range of Yield Levels

Relative Maturity: 100 Day

- Very tolerant to direct applications of imazethapyr (Pursuit®) herbicide, as well as carryover levels of imazaquin.
- An IMI-corn™ hybrid
- Performs well in low as well as high yield environments
- Has very good stress tolerance
- Widely adapted, will move south of zone without agronomic problems
- Early black layer with excellent test weight



5491 I-Pro

Year-To-Year Consistent Top-End As Well As Low-End Yield Performance

Relative Maturity: 111 Days

- Excellent plant health and stalk strength
- Competitive yield across a wide range of environments.
- Variable girthy ear, 18 - 20 rows, so medium populations are sufficient.
- Well adapted to no-till and all soil types.
- Excellent test weight with good dry down.

Call your AG-CHEM, INC. representative today and get the facts on RESOLVE herbicide and IMI-Corn hybrids with proven performance. The products are distributed by: AG-CHEM, INC., Salisbury, MD 1-800-638-9315