

Ag Secretary Here

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"Farm products and the big chunk of what they represent will show the highest exports ever this year," Glickman said. "We will have nearly \$50 billion of exports from the ag sector, which is an amazing fact. Only two parts of the American economy consistently show surpluses since the Second World War. They are airplanes and agriculture.

"Our purpose here today is to get input for rural policy for the 1995 farm bill. We are here to examine Northeast agriculture: dairy, mushrooms, food processing, the great diversity of farms, and rural America in a setting that is not isolated from urban America."

Glickman said the majority of dollars spent in the Department of Agriculture are not spent on farm programs but in nutrition and feeding programs. Ten billion dollars goes to farm programs, but \$25 billion goes into food stamps and other food programs.

"This series of forums will give input on what the dairy policy should look like, how our conservation programs can work better with producers, how we can stop government from micromanaging and nit-picking on farmers, and how we can best accommodate the consolidation of the Department of Agriculture in the streamlining that is going on now," Glickman said.

Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brosius welcomed Sec. Glickman and thanked him for choosing Pennsylvania as one of the forum sites and for his promise to be an advocate for agriculture.

"It will be a pleasure for us in Pennsylvania to help you accomplish your goals," Brosius said. "It is equally important to increase the profitability of farmers so they can operate businesses to supply products to please and satisfy our citizens while continuing to strengthen the economy of rural Pennsylvania."

Brosius also welcomed Representative Holden and said that in his position on the house ag committee, he is able to directly influence legislation that affects all of us.

"We know that 1995 is important to agriculture," Brosius said. "The new farm bill is being drafted and recommendations are being made for the 1996 budget. We urge both of you to be watchful that agriculture does not need to yield to substantial and unreasonable cuts. We are happy to work with those of you in Washington to strengthen the economy of agriculture throughout the nation."

Rep. Holden said it was a proud day for Pennsylvania agriculture, the 6th Congressional District agriculture, and Berks County agriculture. "We have an unprecedented opportunity today (to participate in this forum) as the U.S Congress, Sec. Glickman, and President Clinton prepare to write the 1995 farm bill," Holden said. "This piece of legislation will set the farm policy for the next five years for the United States of America."

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Pennsylvania's Ag Secretary, Charles Brosius, greets the attendees at the national rural forum and welcomes Secretary Glickman and Representative Holden to Pennsylvania.

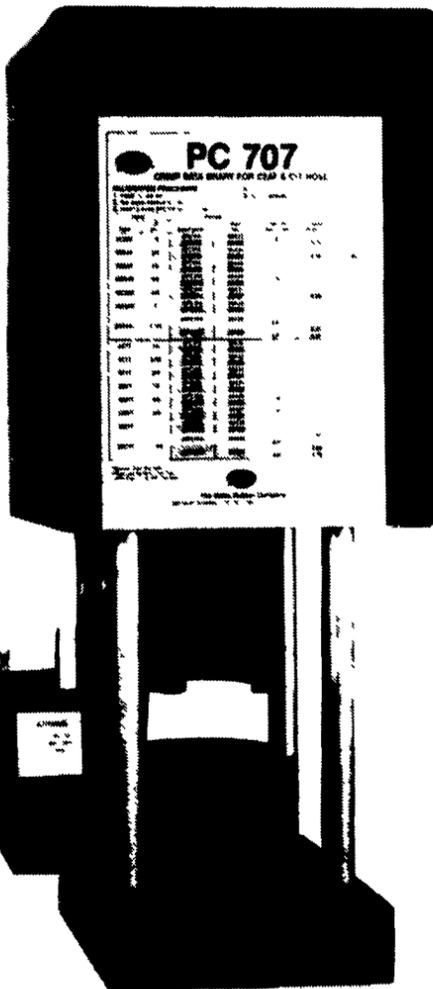


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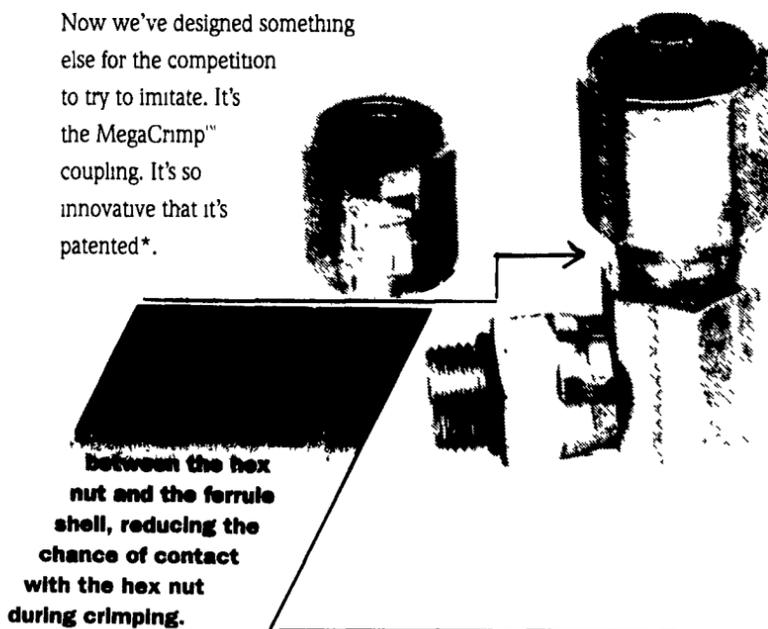
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