EDGEWATER, Md. — What is Maryland's new Rural Legacy program and what promise does it hold for the state's agricultural industry?

The program — that part of Gov. Parris Glendening's Smart Growth legislation which is designed to add vigor and funding

to Maryland's farmland preservation efforts — will be among the topics of Maryland Agriculture Secretary Lewis Riley in remarks at the annual meeting of the Maryland Grain Producers Association (MGPA).

The meeting is slated for Thursday, July 24, at the Queen Anne's

County 4-H Park near Centreville.
The association was founded 20

The association was founded 20 years ago and boasts a membership of more than 300 representing all phases of the grain industry in the state. The yearly membership meeting traditionally showeases research, educational and market development projects

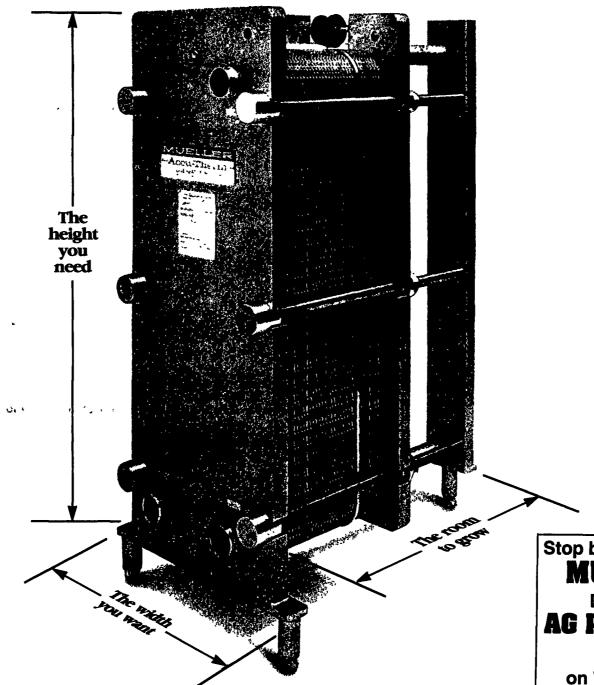
funded with checkoff dollars by the Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board and includes both a business session and a concluding crab feast and pork and chicken barbecue.

Other speakers at the 1997 meeting will discuss marketing

strategies for the coming year and explore ways that farmers can help consumers overcome their apprehensions about the use of crop protection chemicals.

For more information about the meeting or about membership in MGPA, call the association office at (410) 956-5771.

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