

Farm Bureau Members To Gather In Orlando

PARK RIDGE, Ill. — An expected 5,000 Farm Bureau members from across the nation soon will be converging on Orlando, Fla., for the American Farm Bureau Federation's (AFBF) 82nd convention and annual meeting, Jan. 7-10.

During the meeting, farmers and ranchers from the 50 states and Puerto Rico will discuss agricultural issues, review the latest equipment exhibits, choose leaders, and set policies to guide AFBF throughout 2001.

Highlights include AFBF President Bob Stallman's address to assembled Farm Bureau members during Monday's (Jan. 8) general session. The speech will mark the Texas rice and cattle producer's first AFBF annual meeting address to members since his election as AFBF president last year.

In line with this year's convention theme, "Farm Bureau's Focus is Agriculture's Future," Daniel Burrus, one of the world's leading technology forecasters, will follow Stallman with a speech regarding the scope of technology affecting agriculture in tomorrow's world. Burrus, the founder and CEO of a research and consulting firm that specializes in global innovations in science and technology, has been called one of America's "top three business gurus" by The New York Times.

The convention kicks into high gear on Sunday, Jan. 7, starting with the Morning Devotion Service. The event features Dr. Jay Strack, a noted communicator, author and minister from Orlando, and "The Floridians" gospel group.

AFBF's annual awards pro-

gram will highlight the opening-day schedule on Sunday. In addition to organizational awards, former Chicago Bear's linebacker and Pro Football Hall-of-Famer Mike Singletary will address Farm Bureau members. Singletary was one of football's fiercest and most feared inside linebackers during his 12-year career. He has channeled his energy from the football field into becoming one of the nation's most sought-after speakers.

On Monday evening, Farm Bureau members will be entertained by the '60s musical trio The Lettermen, who have sold 20 million records and performed 7,000 concerts.

The Lettermen will fill in for the musical revue "Up With People," who announced this month they would be disbanding.


In addition, the convention also will include the Farm Bureau Showcase trade show, Young Farmer and Rancher contests, and a full slate of commodity outlook and agricultural issue conferences.

An issue conference that will draw considerable attention Monday afternoon is titled "Preparing for the Next Farm Bill." That conference, chaired by AFBF President Stallman, will include as speakers Missouri Farm Bureau President Charlie Kruse; Indiana Farm Bureau Vice President Don Villwock; Paul Drazek, a farm policy spe-

cialist from DBT Associates and former AFBF staff member; and Bruce Babcock of Iowa State University.

Tuesday marks the beginning of the annual meeting of voting delegates. There will be 391 farmer and rancher delegates from the 50 states and Puerto Rico who will adopt farmer-written resolutions to set AFBF's official policy positions for 2001. The 82nd annual meeting wraps up on Wednesday after the conclusion of the annual meeting of the voting delegates.

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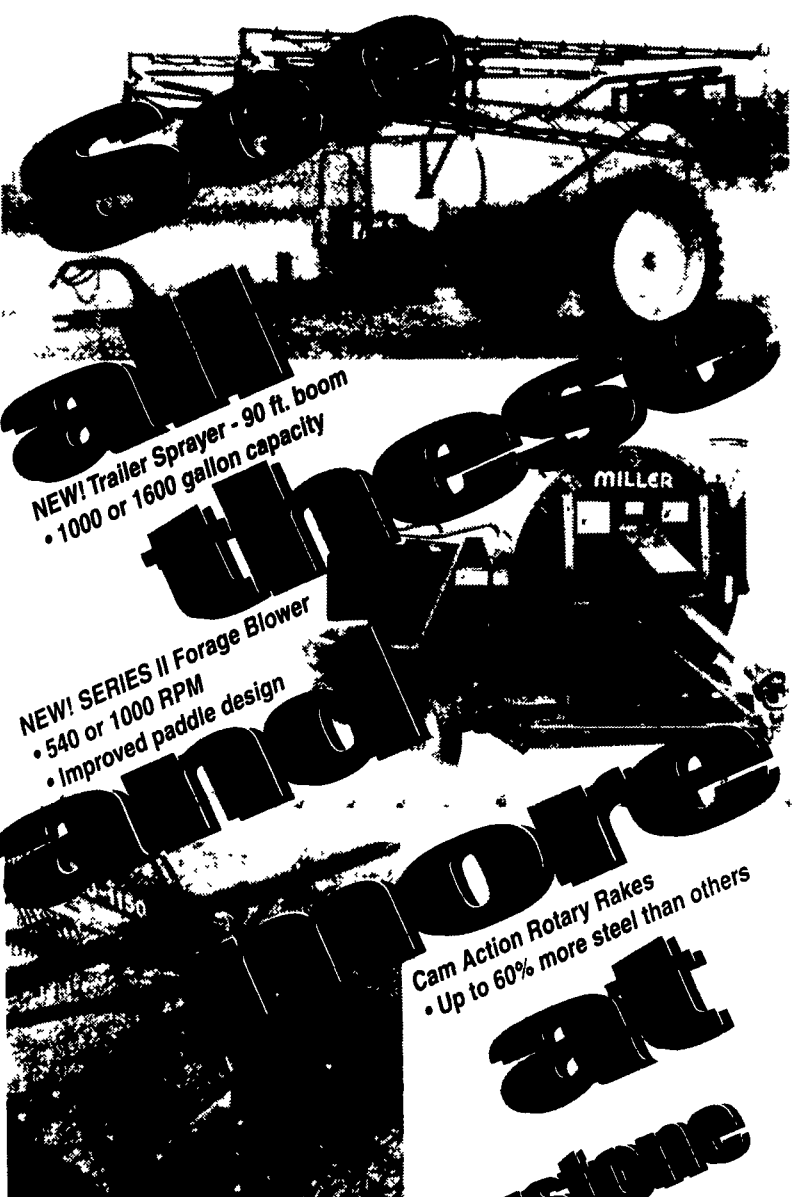


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