

# Ag Secretary Yeutter to address institute

Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter will be the keynote speaker at The Fertilizer Institute's 1990 annual meeting scheduled for Feb. 11-13 at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tenn.

Yeutter will hold a "town meeting" with TFI members on Monday, Feb. 12 at 4 p.m. He will discuss legislative issues for the coming year, including the 1990 farm bill.

The theme of the meeting is "Agriculture: Right On."

"I think it is appropriate to begin the 1990s by focusing on the tremendous benefits of U.S. agriculture," said TFI President

Gary D. Myers. "Our meeting will be a celebration of the success of U.S. agriculture and a preview of the challenges of the next decade."

Two panel discussions will explore issues for the year ahead. One will focus on the supply and demand outlook for nitrogen, phosphate and potash, the major fertilizer nutrients. Another will be a review of studies being conducted to determine the effects on food production of the elimination of commercial fertilizer.

"Before we make public policy decisions based on risk paranoia, we need to under-

stand the consequences of banning or significantly reducing fertilizer use," said Myers.

The meeting will also feature TFI committee meetings and a board of directors meeting.

## Washington

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The golf complex would be adjacent to the resort village, on private land. The two 18-hole courses and a three-hole golf "academy" would occupy what is now unused farmland gone to weeds.

Surrounded by mountains that are snow-capped most of the year, its alpine magnificence drew repeated comments of wonder from Graves when he first visited the site last September.

The valley was formed by Ice Age glaciation. When the ice retreated, what little topsoil remained was removed by "outwash," the flushing of soil by rivers born of the melting ice sheath.

All domestic water in the area comes from wells, and with the aquifer lying beneath a cobble and gravel surface barely covered by soil, golf course opponents cite the possibility of pollution by herbicides, fungicides, pesticides and fertilizers.

The area gets about 12 inches of precipitation a year, most of it as snow. Recent years have been near drought. During the winter of 1987-88, Wells in the valley as far as 10 miles downstream of the resort site went dry. With irrigation of 18 holes in similar terrain using from half to a million gallons a day, the question is, where will the water come from? Not only for the resort and its two villages, but for the remaining 65 miles of river valley.

In the mid-1970s, a coalition of concerned people was formed under the banner "Methow Valley Citizens' Council." To the proponents of resort development, this group represented obstruction, tree-hugging and Bambi-loving. MVCC hired an attorney and in court disputed the Forest Service's initial Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the original Aspen resort. Aspen lost the court battle and took its investment money to British Columbia.

Over the years since then, the Forest Service has worked toward perfecting the EIS.

As the state and county governments became supporters of the resort, the Sierra Club and other environmental groups joined with MVCC in opposition. After a lower court upheld the revised EIS in 1987, the Citizens Council took the case to the 9th Federal Circuit Court of Appeals.

In a decision that surprised many, that court overturned the lower court decision and ruled that the EIS was inadequate. This decision was subsequently appealed in part by the Forest Service to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Last May 1, the high court ruled that two of the four inadequacies cited by the Circuit Court did not have to be addressed before a permit could be granted by the Forest Service. These were a "Worst Case Analysis" and a "Mitigation Plan" involving impact on the deer herd.

Prior to construction, however, they would have to be dealt with, along with evaluations

of alternative sites for the ski hill, air pollution.  
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