

Organic farming has survived in Kansas during an era of increasing dependency on chemical boosters. For years, the few organic farmers who persisted were regarded as amusing incompetents. But the numbers have greatly increased in recent years as chemical products skyrocket in cost and farmers recognize the soil-depleting effect of the fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides they've been sold.

Recognizing the need for a cooperative effort among organic producers, a coordinating organization was initiated during the fall of 1975. Since the original meeting, the Kansas Organic Producers' Assn. has worked to set certifying standards for organic products, developed marketing aids for producers, and established a network for information-sharing among members. The Association is composed of grower-members and supporting members paying

\$10-\$25 annual dues to finance group projects. Regularly scheduled board of directors meetings are announced to members to invite participation. An annual membership meeting, tentatively listed for February, was announced in their latest newsletter.

The group's newsletter, a bi-monthly mimeographed pamphlet, lists products for sale, suggests possible buyers, and provides personal notes from farmers across the state. Also in the newsletter are articles on bio-dynamic agriculture, yogurt making, reports from meetings and conferences, and reviews of magazines and books pertaining to the organic lifestyles. For information about this new group, or to subscribe to the newsletter (\$2 per year), write Kansas Organic Producers' News, c/o Jim & Sue Lukens, Rt. 3, Beloit, Kns. 67420.

View from the Country

ORGANIC FARMING
Chuck Magerl



THE PUBLIC MISINFORMED!



A REGULAR FEATURE OF THE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS ASSOCIATION
By Judy Kroeger

Wow! A check for \$200 made out to you arrives in the mail! It looks just like a cashier's check, and at first glance it seems that you have won a contest or something. At second glance, it is revealed that in order to cash the check, you must buy some cookware or a sewing machine valued at \$269.99 or \$299.99 respectively. Along with the check is advertising showing colorful pictures of the cookware or sewing machine. It looks as if you are being offered the opportunity to buy highly valued items at a \$200 savings.

Guess again. The International Co. (or the International Sewing Machine Co.) from Norman Oklahoma has not been able to substantiate their claims that the cookware is really worth \$269.99 or that the sewing machine is worth \$299.99. Their come-on is one of the oldest in the books: make something appear to be of higher value than it is, then offer a large "discount."

A variation of the same game is: offer something at a sale price and state a regular price so the customer thinks he is getting a bargain. When you notice that the same item is "on sale" every week, you know this game is being played.

If you notice these games being played by local or national businesses, call the Consumer Affairs Association, and we will investigate. We can then let the businesses know that we don't appreciate their "playfulness."



MORE CHICKEN cont.

people interested in getting the chickens be on hand for the slaughter. It became apparent that the issue was too important to be decided at a steering committee meeting, and a final proposal was made. All persons who had ordered chickens prior to the meeting would still obtain them according to the schedule. The decision as to whether or not the chickens will be carried in the future will be made at the quarterly general membership meeting at 6:30pm December 2 at the Community Building (11th and Vermont). A time-limited debate and discussion will take place with Thom Leonard and Patti Spencer responsible for presenting the pro side and Bob Burford and Annabelle Nelson responsible for presenting the con side of the issue.

Many members felt that this controversy pointed out the need for more concrete guidelines, or a better defined purpose for the co-op. Perhaps the rights and responsibilities of the work collective and the steering committee, as well as the general membership, need to be more clearly set down. In any case, the Work Collective Agreement is up for annual review and the structure of the co-op will no doubt be a subject of discussion at steering committee meetings for months to come. All members are encouraged to attend steering committee meetings. Keep an eye out for the times and places posted on the Meetings Board at the Co-op. DON'T FORGET THE DECEMBER 2 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING. COOPERATE, PROLITERATE, EDUCATE!!

They don't make them



like they used to.

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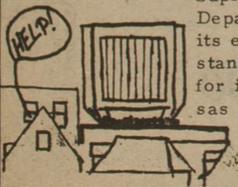
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When most people think of the ACLU, they think only of their Supreme Court litigation. While its true that only the U.S. Department of Justice appears more often than the ACLU, its efforts do not stop there. The Kansas Chapter, for instance, has actively been lobbying in the Kansas Legislature for items as diverse as Public Television for Western Kansas and Sexual Privacy Legislation.



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