CRAWFISH PRODUCERS MEET - Dave Pearce, center, commissioner, Louisiana Department of Agriculture, keynote speaker at the Crawfish Producers Meeting held Tuesday on the University of Southwestern Louisiana campus, chats, prior to the meeting, with Dr. Clyde L. Rougeou, right, USL president, and Aubrey Heumann, Breaux Bridge, also a speaker at the meeting.

Market Viewed For Crawfish

"We think this area lends itself more to the production of crawfish than any other area," Dave Pearce, commissioner, Louisiana Department of Agriculture, told the meeting of the Crawfish producers on the University of Southwestern Louisiana campus Tuesday, as keynote speaker.

The meeting was opened by Dr. Clyde L. Rougeou, USL president, who welcomed the group and pledged the support of the University in crawfish research and development.

"Not Sitting Still"

"I like President Rougeou," Pearce said. "He is progressive and not sitting still."

Pearce told the crawfish growers that "there is a market for your product outside of the immediate area."

He told of the reciprocal agreement with 42 other states to market crawfish products. He advised a scientific approach to harvesting, fecundity, insecticide effects, etc.

Dr. James Avault, LSU associate professor, also discussed crawfish research at his institution.

John E. Thibaut, president of the Louisiana Crawfish Association, presided over the morning sessions. Sam Brouillard, New Iberia, vice president, presided at the afternoon sessions, which dealt with Pond Selection and Construction, by Stanford R. Gauthier, Breaux Bridge; Pond Management, by Cecil LaCaze, Opelousas; Salt Tolerance and Factors Effecting Salinity in Brackish and Fresh Marshes, by Garrie Perry, Grand Chenier; and Pond Harvest, by Dr. James Fowler, Baton Rouge.

No Greater Potential

Wade O. Martin, secretary of state, also addressed the group, saying there is no greater potential than the development of the crawfish industry in the state. Martin offered the following suggestions: A strong association; contact with legislative groups; and stabilization of the crawfish markets.

Aubrey Heumann, Breaux Bridge, discussed the future of crawfish farming, pointing out that the "future of crawfish farming is today" and urging the proper advertisement of the industry, pond development, quality and sizing of crawfish.

Dr. Jerome Shireman, USL, assistant professor of biology, outlined the various research projects in crawfish being carried out at USL, pointing out that the "future of crawfish farming is today" and urging the proper advertisement of the industry, pond development, quality and sizing of crawfish.