

★= LETTERS To The Editor

NFO Member Defends Action of Group In Holding Livestock

Adrian, Missouri
May 15, 1961
Lancaster Farming

Dear Sir
Your paper arrived this morning and I noted with interest your editorial on NFO (May 13, 1961). Thinking you might be able to use some information direct from the Midwest and this might be of value to you as well as us. I decided to drop you a line.
Yes, we are members in NFO (National Farmers Organization) although not active in the organization we feel we should be. Now to cover some of the points you brought up. First I think you will find the actions taken by the NFO completely within the law and within the rights and privi-

leges of the farmers. Surely those who question the legality of their actions are not so foolish as to think that this was not thoroughly investigated before this organization was started and these actions begun. The leaders of NFO are certainly intelligent enough to know that this would be the easiest method by which to kill the move

Ill advised? Well yes, anything is ill advised from the livestock handler's point of view since they would find themselves without jobs. But the farmer would find himself with more money in his pocket. Certainly one of the aims of the NFO is to eliminate the so-called middleman. On milk, for instance, in recent weeks the price

went up some 3 - 4 cents per gallon, but did the dairyman get a comparative price increase? I should say not!! But somewhere along the line some middleman did. Ice cream also suffered a price rise, incidentally, but the dairyman does not find the additional coins jingling in his overalls.

Limited success if any at all? Well, now lets get some first hand information on that too. Trucks were checked by NFO members at the stockyards unloading points. Members worked on a complete 24 hour (schedule). Livestock came in huge trailer trucks — many more than commonly seen. The numbers on the trucks were taken for identification, then the trucks came in with numbers covered. Why? Livestock was counted, sometimes not even unloaded but taken to some other market where the same procedure was followed. In this way they kept up receipts numbers which they had to

report! This is absolutely true as these trucks were followed by NFO members between St. Louis and Kansas City and Joplin, Kansas City and St Joseph, Missouri, Omaha, Nebraska and etc! They knew where these trucks came from and where they went. The truck men were paid by packers and handlers in an effort to defeat the action. Refrigerated trucks traveled the highways in very much increased numbers, meaning meat came out of storage—pound after pound.

The commission men and handlers knew if the real success of the action ever became apparent, they were doomed! Therefore they made every effort to cover up decreased receipts and decreased they were.

We do not know, we cannot be positive that this movement will work, but we do think it is a step in the right direction. We are not

sure farmers will be too fond of it if it does (work) but neither are they fond of the present system of "Here are my products. "What will you give me?"

Whatever publicity you get on the matter will no doubt be mostly against it as processors and handlers are organized, as farmers need to be, and thus they have more power for publicity on their side.

So this is your "Farmers report from the Midwest itself on the National Farmer's Organization" I have nothing against your editorial—I think you meant it to be neither for or against the organization, but I do think some of your sources of information misled you somewhat. That is the reason for this letter.

Sincerely,
Ms Wendell O Greer

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