

Farm Leaders Meet At National Grange Headquarters

Leaders of 17 general farm, commodity and cooperative organizations met recently at the headquarters of the National Grange in Washington, D. C. The purpose of the meeting was to seek areas of agreement on farm policy and to discuss proposals to increase farm prices and income.

The group was unanimous in its rejection of a massive cropland retirement program as a substitute for commodity programs in operation for dairy, feed grains, wheat, cotton, and wool. The consensus of the group was that effective results can best be obtained through programs tailored to fit individual commodity problems, including supply management where appropriate, to control excessive over-production. However, the group supported the continuation of a cropland adjustment program to work in combination with the commodity programs.

Citing rising costs of production and the urgent need for increased farm income, the farm

leaders urged income improving amendments to existing law and extension of the dairy Class I base plan; extension of the wool program; extension of the wheat and feed grains and cotton programs; improved income for peanut and soybean producers; a consumer-protection food and fiber reserve for storable farm crops; expanded market order authority; a cropland adjustment program, and other miscellaneous amendments to improve upon existing farm programs.

Improving amendments relating to the food stamp program were discussed and generally endorsed by the respective leaders.

Although some items discussed were not unanimously supported because of basic policy positions of some organizations, the general attitude was one of support for extension of existing commodity programs with income-improving amendments.

The farm groups endorsing this statement are National Farmers Union, The National

Grange; Midcontinent Farmers Pure Milk Products Cooperative Association; National Farmers Union; Pure Milk Association; Organization; National Rural Peanut Growers Cooperative Electric Cooperative Association; Marketing Assn.; North Carolina; Grain Sorghum Producers' Assn.; Virginia Peanut Growers Assn.; Soybean Growers of Virginia; National Association of America; National Association of Western Cotton Growers Assn.; of Wheat Growers; National National Corn Growers Assn.; Milk Producers Federation; and National Potato Council.

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