

Farm Bureau Reviews Trade Picture

The best farm program for the U.S. is one that encourages expanded outlets for trade, William J. Kuhfuss, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, said at the annual meeting of the Trempealeau County Farm Bureau.

"The 62 million acres of production that we are now exporting is practically equal to the 61 million acres that are being held out of production by the government programs in the U.S. this past year," the national farm leader said.

"To increase the exports of those crops we can produce efficiently, would enable us to reduce the number of acres held out of production. The over-supplied domestic markets could be relieved if a sufficient volume could be sold satisfactorily in the export market.

"The choice and the consequences are quite clear:

"—Produce efficiently so we can be competitive

"—Grade, handle and deliver quality products.

"—Be in a position to deliver our products anywhere in the world and we can have assurance of a lively export market for our production.

"The alternative is to restrict output, produce for our own needs, strangle our productive capacity, and ability and live within a depressed economy with a limited number of jobs."

Among the encouraging developments in U.S. exports,

Kuhfuss said, is the grain deal with Russia which is expected to approach \$1 billion worth of American farm products. About two-thirds of the sales will be in wheat and in volume equals about one-fourth of this year's wheat crop. By next year, the domestic wheat stockpile will be down to between 500 and 600 million bushels. And the long term outlook for continued sales of U.S. farm products to Russia appears to be good since the Soviet Union is seeking to upgrade the diet of its people.

The sale of 500,000 tons of U.S. wheat to China, while small compared to the Russian sale, Kuhfuss said, is significant because it marks the first time in 20 years that we have moved wheat to this country.

Recently, Kuhfuss reported, a Taiwan study team completed a tour of the U.S. feed and livestock industry. Taiwan imports most of its feed grain from the U.S. and hopes to increase its relatively small beef industry.

"While some of these countries do not constitute a large market for our products, it is indicative of the changes that are taking place in the world market which will mean ultimate benefits to our farmers if we can remain competitive in this market.

"In addition to our new customers, we have some old customers such as Japan which has been the largest single nation purchaser of our farm products, particularly soybeans," Kuhfuss said.

On the negative side of the trade picture, Kuhfuss said, is the growing protectionism trend stemming largely from labor unions such as the AFL-CIO.

"Such protectionist legislation which has been introduced in Congress could have a disastrous effect on our total national economy and our export market. Trade is a two-way street, and if we are to expand exports, we must permit some imports. Foreign trade based on the market value, reflecting comparative advantage, contributes to the efficiency of production and stimulates our total economic system."

Also on the negative side of the trade picture, the farm leader said, are the various forms of trade barriers imposed on imports to the European Economic Community (the Common Market). Such political intervention to protect the prices of producers within the Common Market against imports is a deterrent to freer world trade. These farm policies distort trade relations and stimulate production without regard to world demand. We need also to consider our own domestic farm policies and their effect on trade, Kuhfuss said.

"Another factor which has a major influence on our trade picture," Kuhfuss said, "is control of inflation. As William D. Eberle, special representative for trade negotiations for the Administration, recently stated, 'If we do not control inflation, the easing of trade barriers and monetary reform have little if any meaning'"

"We must also have an equitable balance of power between the various groups in this country. There has been too much selfish advantage built into legislation encouraging labor union monopoly which ignores the public interest. For example, last fall dock strikes blockaded our export shipments of grains to foreign markets at the peak of the largest harvest on record. It is unfortunate that Congress did not see fit to adopt legislation in this session to reduce the impact of transportation strikes on our national economy. Recently, we experienced a disruption of shipping at ports in Chicago, Houston and Baltimore when maritime unions picketed in protest of using foreign flag ships to move grain to Russia.

"I know we can compete in the world markets because of our tremendous advantage in efficiency and productivity. In the past 20 years, agriculture has improved its productivity 3 1-3 times compared to industry's improvement of 1.7 times.

"Much of this is due to the practical use of agricultural research by American farmers as contrasted with research for research sake in some other countries.

"The unique mechanism of the Extension Service which has carried the fruits of research to the farm, plus the stimulation of incentives under the competitive enterprise system, has thrust this nation into an undisputed position of world leadership in food production."

Tree Seedlings Available

Farmers of Lancaster County are being reminded that right now is the time to plan for tree planting to be done in the spring of 1973. As in past years, The Glatfelter Pulp Wood Co. of Spring Grove, will again furnish free tree seedlings to any interested and qualified landowner. Since the inception of the company program in 1951, more than 13½ million seedlings have been furnished to landowners in 13 southcentral Pennsylvania counties.

Tree species available this year under the program are white pine, Austrian pine, pitch pine, Norway spruce, white spruce, Japanese larch and Virginia pine. Orders are filled on a first-come basis so it is important to get your order in early to assure receiving the species you want. All trees are purchased

by The Glatfelter Company from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources. The company imposes no restrictions of any kind, but the landowner planting the seedlings must comply with normal state regulations regarding these trees. That is, they may not be used for Christmas trees, decorative purposes, or for windbreaks. Minimum order acceptable is for 1,000 seedlings. All trees are the property of the landowner and he may cut them at a future date for any wood products he desires.

To obtain information about placing an order, contact the county agent, the Department of Environmental Resources District Office or write directly to The Glatfelter Pulp Wood Company, Spring Grove, Pa 17362.

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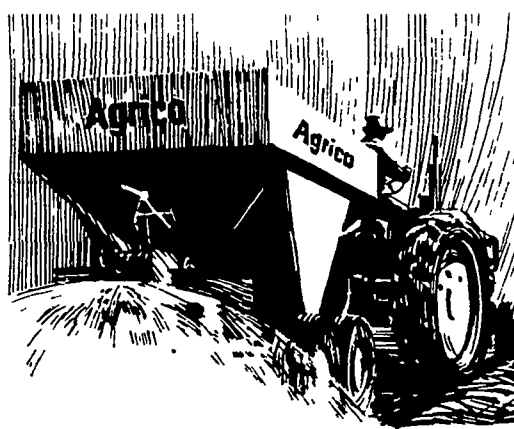
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