

AFBF calls for Constitutional amendment forcing government fiscal responsibility

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — Voting delegates of the member State Farm Bureaus to the

57th annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation, last week called

for Constitutional amendments to require that the federal budget be balanced

and that federal taxes be limited to a "realistic percentage" of the gross national product

The delegates also urged "that no salary increase be granted to any elected federal official (members of Congress, President and Vice-President) until the federal budget is balanced."

The delegates stated, "We believe the best methods of controlling inflation is the elimination of federal deficits. We believe that an amendment to the Constitution should be adopted to require that the Congress operate on a balanced budget each year, and that only in extreme emergencies could this requirement be waived with concurrence of the House of Representatives, Senate, and Executive Branch of government."

Still smarting from the Administration's moratorium on U.S. grain sales to the Soviet Union last fall, the delegates voiced strong opposition to "restrictions imposed by government on the sale of agricultural products in world markets."

"Decisions affecting agricultural exports," the resolution stated, "should be made with full participation by the Secretary of Agriculture. We deplore such decisions being made by labor leaders and government agencies such as the Department of State."

"Agricultural exports must not be held hostage in the name of political expediency of foreign policy. Foreign buyers of U.S. farm products should be encouraged to make long-term commitments for these commodities through arrangements with producers or the private trade."

The resolution further stated that embargoes and moratoriums on agricultural exports only serve to inhibit food production and antagonize foreign customers. "The American farmers,"

the resolution stated, "if not restricted by government controls, will continue to meet the food needs of the nation and a large portion of the world."

The delegates urged Congress to enact legislation to prohibit transportation strikes, including dock strikes. "The judicial route should be followed to force labor to fulfill its contracts with shipping suppliers in loading ships with export items," the resolution stated.

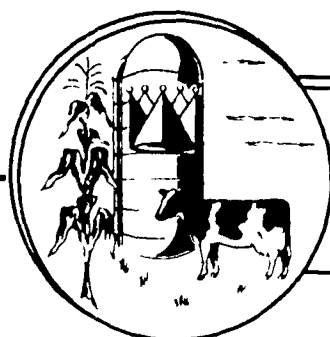
The delegates called for major amendments in the estate and gift tax provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, including: (1) an increase in the standard estate tax exemption to reflect the effects of inflation since the present \$60,000 exemption was set in 1942; (2) a substantial increase in the marital deductions to minimize the problems of the so-called "widows' tax"; and (3) provisions for basing the value of farmland and open spaces at levels reflecting their current use rather than their highest possible use.

Immediate passage of such legislation is necessary to allow farms and small businesses to be passed from one generation to another.

In another resolution, the delegates recommended that new government farm program legislation not be enacted until 1977.

The current government farm program, the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973, extends through the 1977 crops for wheat, feed grains, cotton, and manufacturing milk. Basic legislation which covers rice, peanuts, tobacco and long staple cotton has no expiration date.

The delegates reaffirmed the Federation's commitment to creating "a climate which will enable agriculture to operate under the market price system."



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There are three types of results that you obtain when the Agri-King program is fed correctly. Feeding our program right involves mixing the right amount of each ingredient the ration calls for. Make sure the dical and calcium analysis match the ones in the ration prescribed, and make sure the batch size is correct. If we balance a ration for a 3500 lb. batch and you can only get 3300 lbs. in the mixer, the ration is off. Also, make sure you're feeding the right roughage in the amount the ration calls for. Feeding 10 lbs. of any hay does not get the job done. Feeding 10 lbs. of the hay we have tested, and we call for in the ration gets the job done. Also, don't let your corn silage and haylage go over a month without testing. The analysis of corn silage tested two months ago has likely changed and will not give you a balanced ration.

Feeding a balanced ration according to production is the key to better production, less health problems and greater economic return.

You receive substantial benefits the first day you go on the Agri-King program which may or may not be evident. The grain ration or supplement you mix will contain just enough (not too much, not too little) protein, calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, trace minerals, salt and vitamins to provide what is lacking in the grain and roughages you have tested. You buy only what you need and you probably save money because you are buying individual raw ingredients which aren't locked together in a package that doesn't fit your needs.

The Agri-King program is formulated just for you and not based on average analysis of feedstuffs, average feeding combinations of feedstuffs or average management ability for which you can buy an average bag of feed.

Even greater savings is accomplished by matching your grain and roughage in the right combination of pounds per head per day to accomplish the following:

- +Provide the right level of energy.
- +Maintain minimum levels of roughage.
- +Best combination to get the most out of the protein, minerals and energy contained in your grain and roughage.

The second type of result you can look for is better production. How long would it take before you can improve milk production? That would depend on the actual condition of your cows and how close you follow the Agri-King program. Now that you have mixed the right supplement or grain ration comes the second step: Feed the roughage, grain and top dress protein according to the feeding schedule provided in your feeding program. The closer you stick to it the faster you will get the production you expect. However, remember your cows carry some nutritional deficiency accumulated throughout the years she has been producing milk and we can not expect to correct them in one month. If the deficiency is mainly related to protein and energy you would probably see an increase in production faster than if the deficiency is related to minerals and vitamins. Old cows would respond very slow to a balanced ration and sometimes too much damage has already been done and they may not respond at all.

Also the entire herd should have access to the free choice mineral recommended and plain white salt. Free choice mineral or salt should be taken out until the cows are used to the new ration (usually three weeks). As soon as there is an unexpected change in the mineral content of your roughages the consumption pattern is going to change. Higher producers that need more minerals and vitamins would have a source available and still be able to keep the proper calcium - phosphorus ratio. Also, cows vary one from another and individual requirements can be met with the free choice minerals. But first you must have a balanced ration. Free choice minerals DO NOT replace a balanced ration; they serve the purpose of complementing the balanced ration.

The third type of results are reduced health problems. The dry cow program is the key. It does not make too much sense to feed a balanced ration during lactation if when she needs it the most we don't take care of her.

Remember, the calf grows 2-3 of its body during the last two to three months of pregnancy; that growth has to come from somewhere and the cow will rob her own body to support unborn life. The instinct of survival is the most powerful in nature, and the pregnant cow will make the impossible to keep the calf alive.

If she has to rob nutrients from her body, she becomes deficient, is more vulnerable to infections, the muscle tissue is weak and you end up with retained placentas, metritis, milk fever, ketosis and hard to breed cows. She will not produce more milk than in her past lactation, but will go down in production.

The dry cow program will result in reduced veterinarian bills, higher conception rates, better calves and increased production during the next lactation.

There is only one way you can obtain high production, minimize cost, and maximize profit: Feed the Agri-King program as close as you possibly can.

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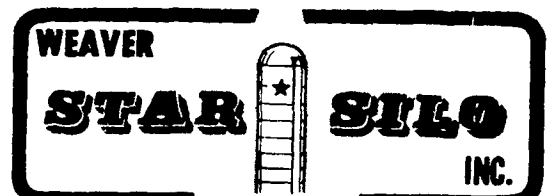
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