

Farm development act introduced

WASHINGTON, D.C. — House Agriculture Committee, Reprs. George Brown

(D-Cal.) and Richard Nolan (D-Minn.) on Thursday introduced a multi-faceted bill intended to redirect major portions of U.S. farm policy toward new help for the nation's 2.7 million family farmers.

Speaking at a Capitol Hill news conference, the two lawmakers said the bill is the result of a year's effort by more than 20 organizations, including Rural America, Exploratory Project for Economic Alternatives, Consumer Federation of America, Public Resource Center, The Friends Committee, Congress Watch, Rodale, Natural Resources Defense Council, and the National Center for Appropriate Technology working with Brown and Nolan.

The legislation seeks to strengthen the economic position of family farmers and encourage young farmers to get into the business

through provisions affecting farm prices, conservation, taxes, and values, loans, marketing, research and education.

Brown cited figures which he says show that "family farmers are literally up against the wall. Cost of production is skyrocketing while the bottom is dropping out of farm prices. Competition for land, rising land values and lack of credit is making it all but impossible for young farmers to get started.

The Family Farm Development Act has nine titles — each one dealing with separate but connected, portion of the problem. They are:

1. a) 90 per cent of parity for all major commodities in exchange for establishing conservation programs on the farm and obtaining a marketing certificate for a sale.

b) A grain export board within the Commodity Credit Corporation to be the agent for all export sales, selling at as close to 100 per cent of parity as possible on the world market.

c) Marketing certificates shall be allocated to regulate production. Only those producers engaged in agriculture production shall receive a certificate valued not in excess of \$500,000. No agriculture commodities shall be bought, sold, or traded unless accompanied by marketing certificates.

d) Grain reserves to help build up our reserves the Secretary of Agriculture shall authorize storage payments of 25 cents a bushel for wheat and corn.

2. Tax-loss farming will be discouraged by amending the tax structure so the cash accounting will be beneficial only for farmers with less than 15,000-30,000 dollars of farm income.

3. Grants for preserving family farms will be given to local and county governments or community organizations to buy farm land and combine or divide it for re-sale to new farmers to sizes no greater than 640 acres. This encourages increase of family farmers in rural areas which will help the economy of the rural area.

4. Farm ownership and operating loans include: a) 5 per cent interest FmHA loans on a graduating pay scale to ease up on the first years of production. b) operative loans at 3 per cent interest, and c) authority for FmHA to give loans for installing appropriate technology on farms.

5. Farm Marketing programs. This title encourages increased direct marketing from farmer to consumer through 75-25 per cent matching grants to states or non-profit organizations; redirects USDA attention to helping small farmers with technical and managerial assistance in getting or setting up cooperatives, and other forms of direct marketing assistance.

6. The USDA is reorganized to establish a Family Farm Development Service which will coordinate and oversee programs to help our small and moderate-sized family farms, including dispersing

research and demonstration grants.

7. Competitive grants for research in developing ways to reduce costs of farming, increase soil fertility, study factors inhibiting family farm survival, and ways to improve rural live-style and economy will be distributed

This research shall include the development of energy-efficient, appropriate farm techniques and technologies that are low-in-cost, and environmentally protective; and ways to improve nutrient levels of soil;

3. Education, Training and Demonstration Programs — a variety of new programs to broaden the thrust of education and demonstration to assist small farmers improve their farm operations, teach new farmers improved methods of small and moderate sized farming which are energy-efficient, low-in-cost, and environmentally protective. Instruction to these farmers will include the practicalities of bookkeeping, machinery-repair, carpentry, soil, water maintenance and crops, suitable to various types of farms.

a) Training Centers will be established in each state to handle this instruction and to simultaneously demonstrate new farm technology practices.

b) biological and integrated pest management is to be taught nationwide.

9. All retail stores must display signs under all good products sold which indicate the amount received by farmers for the food used to produce that product.

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BOOT-NICK +1,107M and FINE TYPE



29H2719 Rippchen BOOT-NICK, EX-91

USDA, 9-77	Rpt. 73%	aAa	621345
64D., 48H	17,772M	3.5%	614BF
PD +\$91	+1,107M	-.09%	+26BF

Sire: Paclamar Bootmaker EX-94 GM
ABS Sire 29H1881 +1,243M +0.40 type

Dam: St. Croixco Lad Nina EX-93 2E
6y 4m 2x 348d 24,770M 4.2% 1033BF

Recently ABS received a letter written by Jeff Kircher, herdsman at Broadlands Farm, North Prairie, Wisconsin. Jeff is very much impressed with BOOT-NICK daughters at Broadlands.

Here are some excerpts:

Rippchen BOOT-NICK continues to impress us everytime one of his freshens. We recently completed a classification of our herd: our two-year-olds never classified so high. The classifier was very impressed with the BOOT-NICK daughters.

We have over 20 BOOT-NICK daughters; 6 are milking. We also purchased three more racks of BOOT-NICK. Below are a few examples:

Abigail, VG-85	1y 11m 2x 305d 14,297M 3.6%	486BF
Shylock, GP-81	1y 11m 2x 305d 14,590M 4.2%	609BF
May Nick, GP-81	(Predicted) 15,119M	506BF

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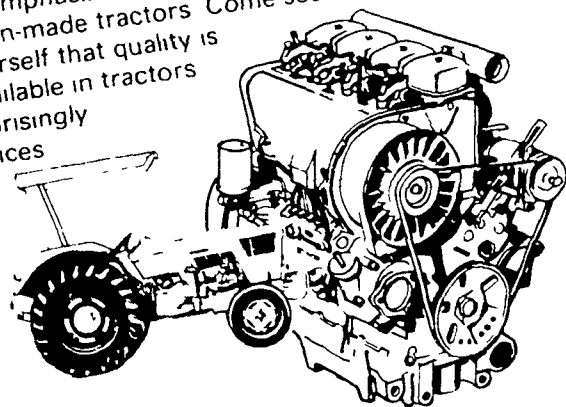
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