20—Lancaster Farming, Saturday, October 14, 1978

Ag export bill wins agreement at Capitol

WASHINGTON, D.C. -AHouse-Senate Conference Committee last week reached agreement on legislation to stimulate expanded exports of U.S. agricultural commodities and to open the way for increased sales to Red China.

Senator Herman E. Talmadge, chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, termed the legislation a "significant new initiative" in expanding U.S. agricultural exports, which reached \$26 billion in the last fiscal year.

The legislation would

provide government-backed, intermediate-term credit to finance agricultural exports; authorize short-term credits to private exporters who offer deferred payments to eligible importing countries, extend existing short-term credits to Red China. upgrade U.S. Department of Agriculture Embassy officers in major importing countries, establish U.S. agricultural trade offices abroad; and create a new position of Under Secretary in the Department of Agriculture to put increased emphasis on farm export prograíns.

Senator Richard Stone of Florida, chairman of the Foreign Agricultural Policy Subcommittee and chairman of the Senate conferees, said the bill is needed to assure that the United States remains competitive with other agricultural nations in the world market.

"Even though we are now a strong agricultural exporting Nation, we must make every effort to increase further our sales abroad," Stone said "Agricultural exports must continue to grow. This bill will provide added tools to achieve this goal."

Grange, January 19; A

Square Dance at Valley

Grange, March 10; the

Youth Picnic for all

Grangers, July 8, at Pinchot

State Park; and a Ham

Raffle at Valley Grange,

"Visitation Nite" pro-

grams, under the Lecturer's

Department will be held

February 27, March 9, April

21, May 28, June 5, July 6,

and July 16, with more in-

formation on each meeting

to be published at a later

"OPEN DOORS-IN YOUR

Other dates of interest to Grangers are: Legislative

Theme for 1979 is,

April 9.

date.

COUNTY."

The conference bill, which now goes back to the House and Senate for final Congressional action, would authorize the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to finance some commercial sales of agricultural commodities on intermediate credit terms of three to ten years. The existing CCC export credit program is limited to three years:

The new intermediate credit could be used for building grain reserve stocks in foreign countries under any international commodity agreement or other stock-building plans acceptable to the U.S. under conditions desgined to protect American farmers against "dumping". The new credit provisions could also be used to facilitate export sales of breeding livestock; to use local currencies generated by U.S. agricultural exports for establishing transportation, marketing, processing and similar trade facilities; and to meet credit competition of other agricultural exporting countries.

Under another provision of the bill, CCC credits of up to three years would be specifically authorized for private exporters of U.S. agricultural commodities who offer deferred payment terms to countries now elibible for three-year CCC credit. This provision is intended to encourage sales prospects among countries that might prefer to deal directly with a commercial exporter rather than CCC, an agency of the U.S. government.

The bill also would add Red China to the list of countries eligible for direct CCC short-term credit of up to three years. China would also be included under the new deffered payment plan.

In a further effort to stimulate farm exports, the bill would upgrade American agricultural attaches to the status and title of Agricultural Counselors in at least ten countries in which the U.S. has a major agricultural export interest.

It would also authorize the establishment of U.S. agricultural trade offices in from six to twenty-five foregin countries in order to consolidate all farm export activities in a one-stop under professional direction.

To emphasize the importance of commodity and export programs within the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the bill would upgrade the existing position of the Assistant Secretary for International Affairs and Commodity Programs to Under Secretary.

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York-Adams Pomona Grange meets

YORK - The Annual York-Adams Pomona Grange Seventh Degree banquet was held on September 27 in the Biglerville Fire Hall, with Biglerville Grange as host. Members of the Fire Company served the meal to Sixty-two Grangers from Gideon, Red Lion, Eureka, Washington, Valley and Biglerville Grange. Special guest at the banquet was Bob Powell, head of Personnal Relations at Westinghouse, Gettysburg. Powell and Bob Bracker, also with Per-sonnal Relations, were guides for a tour of the plant · following the evening meal.

Arthur Ebbert, Biglerville Grange, president of the Seventh Degree Club, chaired the short business meeting prior to the tour. Bruce Stein, Red Lion Grange, was elected fourth vice president, with William Reichart, Gideon Grange, becoming the new president. Anna May Snyder, Valley Grange was retained as secretary.

A program planning meeting for York-Adams Pomona Officers, and Subordinate Officers, was held October 1, at Red Lion Grange. Programs and events planned under the Women's Activity Department are, November 8, Women's Activity Day at Gideon Grange Hall, 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., with Treva Lease, Gideon Grange, Chairman for the day. The Women's Activity Committee will sponsor a Pumpkin Pie Baking contest when Pomona Grange meets November 11, at Red Lion.

The Youth Department has planned a Hayride, October 28, with Valley Grange host, beginning at 7 p.m.; A Christmas party and Square Dance at Gideon Grange, December 9; A Square Dance at Biglerville

Banquet, April 28; Degree Day, May 26; Four-County Picnic, July 28; Special State Grange (6th) Degree Day, September 29. Other meetings and date

will be announced when Pomona meets at Red Lion Grange November 11.



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