

Senator Dole introduces new farm bill

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, January 27, 1979—41

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) recently introduced the first bill in the 96th Session of the U.S. Senate, "The Food and Agriculture Act of 1979." The bill which will be known as S-1, was introduced by Senator Dole for himself and Senator George McGovern (D-S.D.). "I reserved Senate Bill 1 for this particular bill to

express my concern for the plight of America's farmers," Dole said. "As this bill indicates, I intend to continue to place the farmers' needs at the forefront of my legislative activity."

In remarks prepared for the introduction of the bill, Dole said, "1978 was a tough year financially for our farmers. The farm problem has not gone away and will not go away quickly. Many farmers are still suffering severe financial losses and are bearing the major brunt of double-digit inflation."

"Without new farm legislation, American farmers could spend all of 1979 with their backs against the wall. We cannot refuse to

raise farm prices under the banner of fighting inflation when farmers are losing money. This bill strikes a proper balance between the need for federal spending reductions and the obvious requirement for improvements in existing farm programs and farm income."

Principal features of the Dole-McGovern bill (S-1) are:

Variable Target Price Program: In years where there is a set-aside program, the secretary of agriculture is directed to set up a variable schedule of set-asides and target prices. The farmer can elect to obtain a higher target price for his crop by increasing the

amount of cropland he sets aside, with the maximum target price being 100 per cent of parity for the maximum set-aside.

Milk Price Support: The milk program would be continued at 80 per cent of parity. The program is presently scheduled to expire March 31, 1979.

Sugar Price Support: This provision requires the secretary of agriculture to set the price support loan for sugar at a percentage of parity equal to 16.5 cents per pound raw sugar equivalent.

Food Stamp Program: This provision increases the appropriation authority for food stamp programs to keep pace with inflation and unemployment levels, and

provides for fiscal and administrative reforms in the program to improve quality control and tighten up the possibility of error and fraud.

Public Law 480 Amendment: This provision establishes a P.L. 480 minimum quantity of seven million tons for each of the next three fiscal years to be shipped to underdeveloped countries under the Food for Peace Program. There is

currently no minimum requirement and the program is not being used effectively.

National Agricultural Production Cost Board: The board would be made up of 16 farm producers who would advise the secretary of agriculture on producer views in arriving at national cost-of-production figures for agricultural commodities. This would be a one-time, three-year board.

AFBF to promote ag commodities

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. - Voting delegates of the

American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) approved recently a half million dollars annual budget to promote domestic and foreign marketing of agricultural commodities.

The unanimous approval of the \$500,000 budget came in closing sessions of the 60th annual convention.

The AFBF will act immediately to develop marketing programs aimed at getting the highest possible net return to farmers and ranchers for their agricultural products.

With the cooperation of affiliated State Farm Bureaus, the AFBF marketing effort will work toward solving problems in transportation, finance and credit, and restrictions on trade.

Considerable emphasis will be placed on following up on former AFBF trade expansion missions to India, Indonesia, China, Europe, Israel and Russia.



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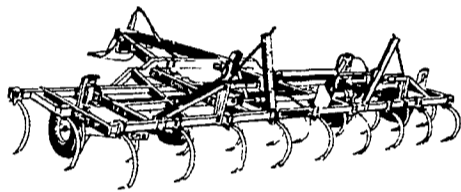
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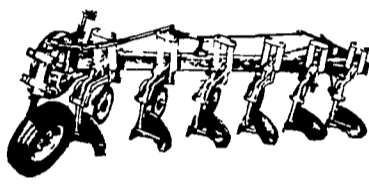
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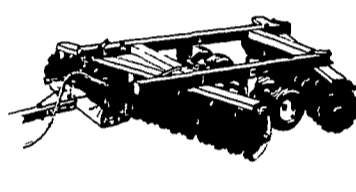
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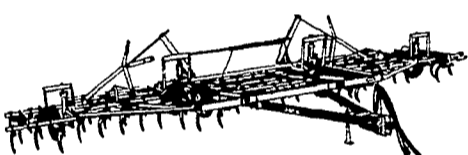
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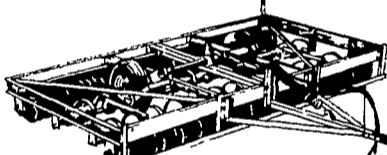
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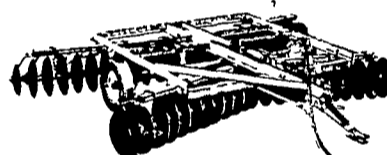
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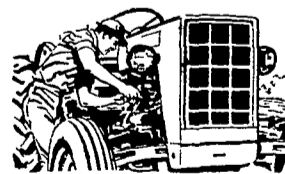
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