

Letters To The Editor

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good employers. And respect, appreciation and even friendship. How? By treating us as equals — not on the financial scale and not as your closest buddies — but as PEOPLE, skilled; intelligent, human people

Finances are, of course, important. We too have heat, electric and insurance bills. Our groceries and clothing costs rise with everyone else's? (And yes, I do garden, freeze & can, sew, etc.) But we're not in this for the money

We don't expect to make millions or to live in palaces... a fair honest wage (%s don't usually work for either), a decent home (be it mobile home, house, or apartment) and personal respect. That we do expect and work for — just like you

"Privileges" is a word we

hesitate over. Generally speaking benefits are something we earn, not gifts given. If you do something extra we thank you for your thoughtfulness and will probably do it with more than words. And we hope for the same in return — a simple comment "nice job" or "you can weld, too? terrific" is worth a lot.

Presumably "innocent until proven guilty" does not apply to farm workers. If we happen to follow an unhappy employer - employee relationship, that's unfortunate. But give us a chance. After all we're taking a chance, too.

If you have a complaint, speak up. If you'd prefer a job done a specific way, say so. At the same time hear us, too. And please, don't promise something you have no intention or way of giving.

Chances are we're farming by choice. (obviously our first choice would be our own dairy. It sounds simple)

So, we're 'into' farming. We know about long hours, broken equipment, sick animals, high

prices, rainy and dry seasons, etc. We do sympathize and we work hard to pull our weight and more. We're anxious to learn, to work, to earn our way but maybe, just maybe, we know something you could learn, too.

And we do have families and other interests. Our kids have birthdays, our wives give birth just like yours. We are more than willing to trade our times for honest needs we care.

We're lucky now — we've found honest, decent employers. We believe they feel that of us. So to them and the many others: Thanks. I guess simply the most important thing is "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you".

And isn't that what it's all about?
A Hired Man's Wife
Royersford

Dear Editor:

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to Sheila Miller for the time and effort she spent preparing the Sheila's Shorts in our behalf in the Feb. 28th issue. It certainly has provided us with some very useful knowledge.

You may be interested to know,

ours is not a negotiable distribution line. It is a cross country transmission line we're dealing with. But I think our residence just may be within 300 feet of it. So we're very anxious to get out with our

tape measure to see.

Again many, many, thanks to you for your kindness.

Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Bachman
R1 Columbia

Farm bill

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CCC storage loans will be cut, reflecting confidence the grain surplus will be cut.

But a number of farm spokesmen privately echoed the bewilderment of a Washington observer who admitted he was "a little befuddled" about the outcome of any Farm Bill.

It's difficult to talk now about a four-year bill when farmers don't yet know if there will be a new grain agreement with the Soviets, if the current grain embargo will end, or what kind of the dairy program modifications finally will come out of Congress, he said.

Most observers seemed to agree with John Hoseman, chief economist for American Farm Bureau Federation who said farmers had to be willing to take cuts to reduce the general inflation.

"The dairy cuts are more politically symbolic than economically significant in the overall economy," Hoseman said.

But to date, one program seems destined to survive: the Southern tobacco program, at present, is not earmarked for any cutbacks.

The peanut program — in the wake of the defeat of the nation's number one peanut farmer — may be phased out over the next few years.

Hoseman said he worries that continued general inflation could blow up any farm program.

Some loan rate increase is almost certain in the feed grain and wheat programs.

But Farm Bureau said it wants to make sure any increase is in line with market realities. Otherwise, Farm Bureau fears the government could end up in the grain business if U.S. growers have good crops back-to-back

"We want it to be an orderly marketing tool, not a price manipulating tool," Hoseman said.

With the elimination of the April milk price support increase some groups looked for a tit-for-tat to lighten the dairymen's burdens.

The National Grange had supported a casein amendment but the measure found tough sledding in committee.

Although no definite date was set for Secretary Block to make the formal presentation to the House and Senate, it appears likely the resolution of S-509 and the dairy support question will allow him to go to the Hill with his farm program sometime this coming week.



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