

# OUR READERS WRITE, AND OTHER OPINIONS

## Americans sold short

Congress has just completed another exercise in futility. For some reason, every four years this nation thinks it must pass another farm bill which is progressively worse than the last.

This year is no different. The 1977 Farm Act had proven to be a dismal failure, with farm purchasing power dropping to the lowest of this century, even lower than during the Great Depression. Changes in the 1981 legislation will reverse this situation very little.

Pressure by the administration to beat down amendments which would have required foreign buyers to pay a minimum price which would return production costs to American farmers is unforgivable. The end result will be that Russia will once again steal the production of our nations' precious farmland and the American public will pick up the tab!

We export over 60 percent of our wheat production and 40 percent of our corn production. It's assinine that we continue to virtually give it away to the detriment of the American farmer and the American taxpayer.

This administration, which was supported overwhelmingly by rural votes in the 1980 election, fought the grassroots farmers and supported the international traders and international buyers on every issue.

The American public should be aware that legislation which would

protect the consumer from foreign imports of kangaroo meat and horse meat which is labeled as beef was also fought by this administration. The legislation would have required sufficient inspection for sanitation and dangerous chemical residues.

This is just another case of having two sets of principals, one which requires the American producers to meet stringent and costly inspection and sanitation requirements, the other which allows his foreign competition to circumvent these regulations and dump unsafe and falsely labeled products into the American consumers dinner plate. After an all out effort, the administration was able to defeat this in conference.

It is interesting to note, the legislation would have provided equal inspection for imported equal inspection for imported meat. We feel that being equal is not being unfair! The consumers of the Nation and producers should not sit still and let our rights and the safety of the general public be violated by our own government, that have sold out America for foreign interests.

We, in American Agriculture, have always advocated farm legislation which would require the expenditure of no tax dollars and no subsidy payments, buy, would insure a fair price for our production at the market place, both domestic and foreign. I am convinced that this legislation will

do the opposite, keeping prices below production costs to the farmer which at the same time causing a drain on the federal treasury.

I only hope, that it doesn't also result in the inability of our farmers to continue to feed and clothe our nation as well as we have done in the past.

We realize now, the best grain lobbyists Russia has, are in our government. They are bent on sending food stamps to Russia, disguised as 'cheap grain'.

Marvin Meek, chairman  
American Agricultural  
Movement, Inc.

## Solanco fund-raiser

On behalf of the Solanco Fair Association and the T.H.A.F. (To Help A Friend) Committee, we would like to express to you our sincere appreciation and genuine gratitude for the help and promotion you gave our fund-raising event on December 12 and 13, 1981.

According to our records a total of 565 patrons participated in the tour of homes. Nearly 265 people were served a delicious ham dinner at the Hoffman Community Building, and hundreds more enjoyed the craft show and benefit auction held Saturday afternoon and evening.

The total receipts from the entire fund raising week-end amounted to \$5,451.10. After expenses for food

The Right to Farm Legislation, H.B. 1823, sponsored by Rep. Noah Wenger (R., Lancaster County), is an important part of the Thornburgh administration's family farm preservation initiative.

"The House of Representatives last week, in passing the right to farm bill by a 179-2 vote, has not only taken a step toward enacting a major piece of legislation. It has also shown that urban and suburban people understand the pressures faced by farmers in our changing countryside.

Although agriculture is the second largest industry in the Commonwealth, our family farms are under severe pressure due to the conversion of prime farmland to other uses. In many cases, the conversion is accelerated by conflicts arising between farmers and their suburban neighbors.

In recent years, many people have moved into the suburbs and countryside to enjoy the rural lifestyle and the beautiful open

spaces provided by our family farms. But often, these new neighbors have united to complain about certain unnecessary by-products of farm operations, including odor, noise and the hours of operation necessary for a farmer to stay in business.

In many areas, local ordinances have been passed which can restrict normal farming practices, causing further economic hardships for farmers. Some farms have actually been forced out of business by restrictions in these ordinances.

The legislation, when passed by the Senate and signed into law, would decrease the polarization which can develop between farmers and new suburban neighbors. If right to farm legislation became law, all property owners would clearly understand the rights and obligations of their neighbors.

"Family farms have not created the problems that they face today. But through a better understanding and protection from nuisance ordinances, Pennsylvania agriculture can continue its excellent job of providing top quality food for our consumers at reasonable prices.

Penrose Hollowell  
Pa. Sec. of Agriculture  
Harrisburg

## Farm Calendar

Monday, December 28  
Hunterdon County horse and pony Assn. meeting, Extension Center, 8 p.m., Flemington, N.J.

Tuesday, December 29  
Lancaster County Conservation District banquet, Leola Family Restaurant, 10 a.m., 2491 New Holland Pike.

Friday, January 1  
Happy New Year!

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