

# Senator Boschwitz says his farm bill would "put cash in farmers' pockets"

WASHINGTON — Senator Rudy Boschwitz said that his 1985 Farm Bill would "put cash in farmers' pockets and make the U.S. the dominant force in agricultural markets worldwide."

Boschwitz and Senator David Boren (D-Okla.) explained details of the bill, called the Family Farm Protection and Full Production Act of 1985, at a recent press conference in Washington.

The eight-year bill establishes a direct payment system to protect the income of farmers while the U.S. regains its position in world markets. The bill would represent a significant shift in U.S. farm policy.

"My bill has three main goals," Boschwitz said. "It protects farm income during what may be several tough years ahead for agriculture. It promotes full production and lets farmers make their business decisions based on economic signals, not government programs. Lastly, and equally important, it makes U.S. projects competitive abroad."

According to USDA estimates, the program would result in increased exports and higher prices over five years.

At the center of Boschwitz plan is a "transition payment" system. The use of this payment, which is made directly to farmers based on previous levels of production of commodities covered by government programs, allows the U.S. to

lower its loan rates and become more competitive on world markets, Boschwitz said.

The payment is made on a per bushel basis and gives farmers optimum leverage, protects farm income and allows for competitive international prices, Boschwitz said. It is formulated to guarantee farmers at least as much income above variable costs as they received in 1985. The payment is \$1.42 on wheat, \$0.94 on corn, \$0.26 on cotton and \$4.26 on rice.

There would be no annual diversions or set asides. The payment would be made on the farmer's entire crop base.

Boschwitz gave the example of a farmer with a corn base of 200 acres who has a yield of 100 bushels per acre. The payment (\$.94) would be multiplied by the total number of bushels (20,000) for a transition payment of \$18,800.

The farmer would be allowed to produce whatever he wanted on the 200 acres or to produce nothing. The transition payments operate on a sliding scale to target assistance to family-sized farm operations.

Between 1987 and 1990, the payments would be gradually reduced as the farm economy shifts toward production which is more closely in balance with market demand.

"Current farm programs have become very expensive and have served to distort the agricultural

economy of our country," Boschwitz said. "It is time for a new approach."

"This plan provides farmers the income they need while allowing them to respond to market signals. What we have here is a message of hope for the agricultural sector," he said. "Not only does the bill help farmers, but it gets the entire rural economy rolling again because it provides for full production. This is crucial to the success of this approach."

In addition to the income protection provisions, the bill establishes strong export promotion programs and a conservation acreage reserve to remove fragile lands from production.

Specific provisions include:

- Establishing a "Green Dollar" program to increase exports by using Commodity Credit Corporation stocks as a bonus to exporters. The Secretary of Agriculture would accept bids from exporters for the amount of Green Dollar Certificates they would need to complete an export sale. After the shipment is made, the exporter would redeem his Green Dollars by exchanging them for CCC-owned commodities, which also must be traded on world markets.
- Mandating a 20 percent reduction in CCC stocks each year. To reduce the stocks, the Secretary of Agriculture would be free to use

donations or programs that provide commodities to Third World countries so they can build their import infrastructure.

- Removing government program benefits for the production of crops from 30 million acres of fragile land. The Secretary of Agriculture would accept bids on at least 20 million of these acres to be put into a 10-year Conservation Acreage Reserve (CAR). Payments would be made on this land in a lump sum or for up

to five years.

- Creating a transition payment for dairy producers based on the present support price of \$12.10. The payment would be set at \$1.50 per hundredweight with a maximum payment of \$20,000 (about 80-90 cows). The CCC purchase price for dairy products would be reduced to \$10.60.
- Designing an interim program for the 1985 crop to prevent overburdening of CCC stocks.

## Rutherford elected

### to NMPF executive committee

SYRACUSE, NY — Clyde E. Rutherford, a dairyman from Otego, N.Y., has been elected, a member of the Executive Committee of the National Milk Producers' Federation, according to an announcement by Federation President Norman Barker.

The Federation represents most of the nation's dairy cooperatives in legislative activities in Washington, D.C.

Rutherford is president of the Syracuse-based Dairy Lea Cooperative Inc., a post he has held for the past seven years. He is also chairman of the New York

New England Dairy Cooperative Coordinating Committee; chairman of the New York State Dairy Industry Communications Committee; chairman of the 1985 Northeast Farm Bill Committee; and a director of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives.

With his wife, Jeanette, Rutherford operated a dairy farm producing 1.4 million pounds of milk annually. Their farm was cited last year as a New York State "Dairy of Distinction."

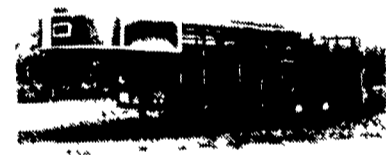
The Rutherfords have two children, Diane and Nancy, both students of Syracuse University.

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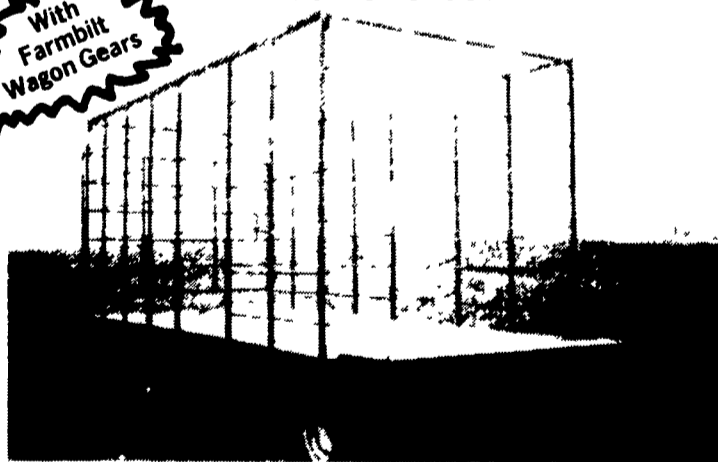
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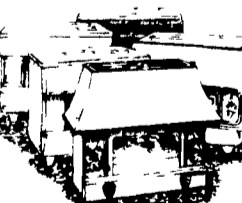
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