

'Moving-market' price policy attacked by NFU

DENVER — Adamant opposition to the use of the so-called "moving average" of commodity prices for either the past three or five years to determine future farm support levels was unanimously expressed by members of the National Farmers Union Executive Committee. At a meeting here this week, attended by nearly all of the Farmers Union state presidents and its legislative staff, the committee and this method currently under review in Congress is self-defeating because it would lead to a lower commodity price each year.

As it writes the 1985 Farm Bill, Congress is considering setting farm commodity support prices at an average of market prices for either the past three or five years. Low commodity prices during the past several years are largely responsible for the current rural economic depression, the NFU leaders pointed out. To set support prices at an average of already unacceptable commodity prices is not tolerable, they said.

In addition, the NFU leaders said they support the concept of a

proposal to create the Agricultural Conservation Corporation as part of the Farm Credit System to purchase farmland and prevent land prices from bottoming out.

"There is a strong feeling among the Farmers Union leadership that we're willing to help the Farm Credit System obtain that goal if they are also willing to help us get some kind of farm bill that will correct the already low commodity prices and defeat this market-averaging concept," said NFU Executive Committee Chairman Harold Dodd, president of the Illinois Farmers Union.

"We believe the Farm Credit System is an essential part of our rural community. However, the Farm Credit System should actively and aggressively support a farm program that enables producers to service their debts from profitable operations. Basic

borrower income and reasonable repayment rescheduling can protect the solvency of the leading institutions themselves," he said.

The new farm program must return profitability to agriculture

in order to enable producers to maintain their operations and service their debts, thereby providing economic recovery for businesses in the nation's depressed rural communities, the executive committee said.

The committee went on record in support of commodity loans related to parity prices, with appropriate limitations for large producers and direct benefits to small and medium sized operators

US restricts bee trade

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Agriculture is imposing restrictions on imports of bees, used beekeeping equipment, honey, beeswax and pollen for bee feed to prevent entry of exotic bee pests and diseases into the United States.

"The restrictions will apply to all countries except Canada," said Bert W. Hawkins, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Hawkins said Canada is exempt because it is free of exotic bee

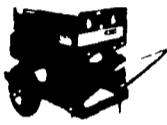
pests and diseases and has effective import regulations of its own.

The articles may be imported only if requirements involving permits, inspections, treatments, marking and shipping, and other restrictions are satisfied.

Anyone desiring more information or wishing to obtain a permit to import these articles should write to: Biological Assessment Support Staff, Plant Protection and Quarantine, APHIS, USDA, Federal Building,

Hyattsville, Md. 20782. Included should be the name, address and telephone number of the importer, the quantity of kinds of articles to be imported; the country or locality of origin; the intended U.S. port of entry; the means of transportation; and the expected date of arrival. Applications for permits must be submitted at least 30 days prior to the arrival date of the articles.

This action is effective upon publication in the June 10 Federal Register.



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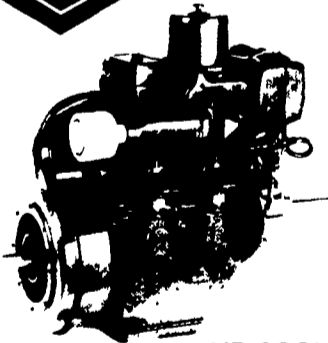
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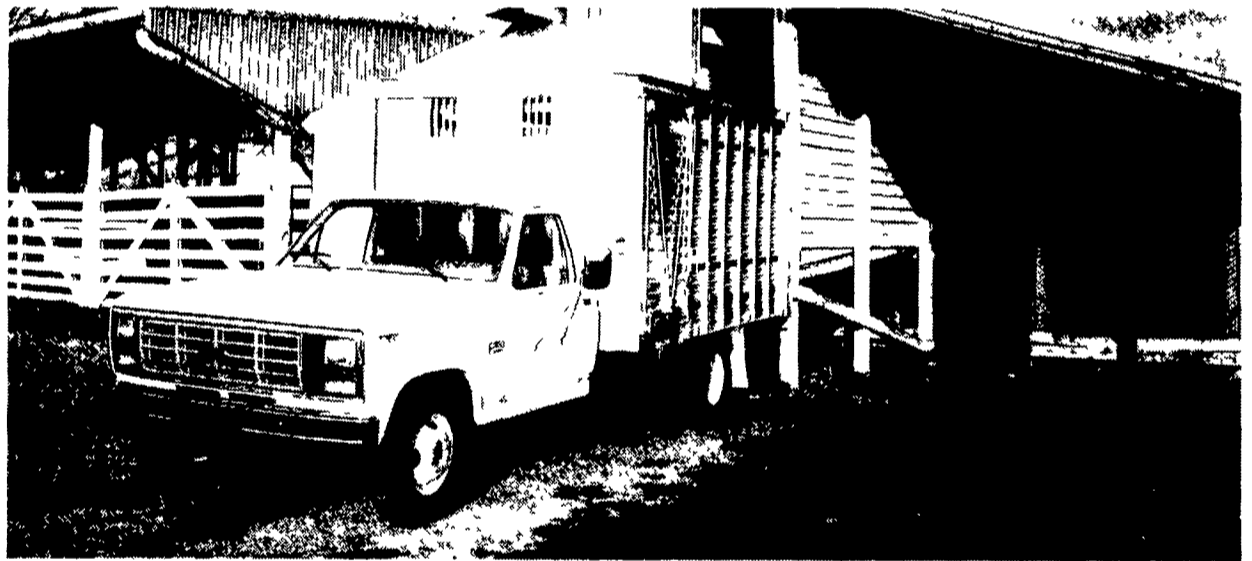
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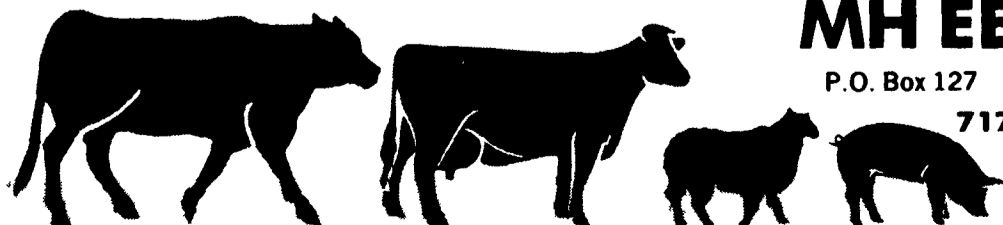
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