

## NFU sponsors meetings with key legislators

ST. PAUL — Urgent and specific action on the 1985 Farm Bill will be discussed at a series of Country Homecoming meetings for rural Congressmen and all Senators. National Farmers Union and the state Farmers Union organizations will sponsor the meetings during the last two weeks of August. The vital, closed meetings are expected to produce frank discussions between members of Congress and key rural business people. Current farm law expires Oct. 1.

The 1985 Farm Bill is of such national importance that it cannot be put aside while Congress is on recess, the NFU said in scheduling the meetings. All rural people are entitled to know what the farm bill will contain and what action their Congressman will take, since it has a direct effect on income and

employment.

The rural community cannot retreat from the need for improved farm income as its first priority, NFU President Cy Carpenter said. If lower export prices for farm commodities are to become national policy, Congress must decide who will pay the price—it cannot be the farmer, Carpenter said.

NFU staunchly supports higher loan rates and market prices, and adamantly opposes the moving average method of setting loan rates that will force commodity market prices and farm income lower each year.

According to Chase Econometrics, lower loan rates will not significantly improve U.S. farm export markets. And, a Nebraska Wheat Board market analysis shows that during the

recently completed marketing year when wheat prices were considerably lower, wheat exports were also low.

Low commodity prices also have a direct effect on consumers. Average house payments will rise by \$80 a month if loan losses from farm bankruptcies are allowed to reach \$20 to \$25 billion, the National Corn Growers Association recently revealed. The Corn Growers' study, using Iowa State University farm income projections and the Wharton Econometrics model of the U.S. economy, goes on to say those loan losses could also result in the loss of 175,000 to 275,000 agribusiness jobs, cut total gross national product by \$30 to \$50 billion over eight years, and increase the federal debt by \$14 to \$21 billion by 1993.

Farm bill decisions are even more urgent following the failure of the House or Senate agriculture committees to pass bills for floor consideration before the August recess. Winter wheat farmers are planting in many sections of the country, including Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas. Other farmers who received six month financing last spring or who face

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land payments this fall are making critical production and financial decisions as well.

Country Homecoming meetings

are being scheduled across the nation, in an attempt to bring the dialogue home to rural districts and include rural business people.

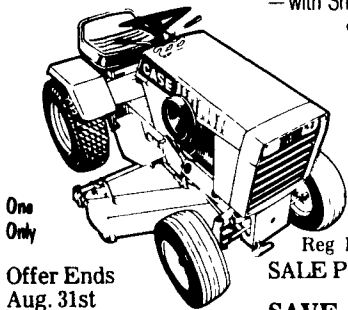
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