

Co-op head says Farm Bill will help U.S. farmers

MIAMI BEACH — Ben F. Morgan, chairman of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, said that the 1985 Farm Bill will permit U.S. agriculture to be competitive again and reverse the situation in which its competitors

were undercutting price and taking our markets.

"Without addressing this fundamental flaw in our farm program," he declared, "we were destined to lose our export markets which account for over half of the

volume of many of our products."

Morgan added this achievement will be accomplished without the corresponding sharp reduction in farm income that ordinarily would have been associated with such price competition. This was

critically important, he said, given the level of financial stress in the farm economy.

The cooperative leader noted that NCFC had a major impact on the Farm Bill, but was able to do so in harmony with other agricultural interests. He said these accomplishments came without sacrificing NCFC's traditional responsibility on tax, energy, and transportation issues.

Turning to internal matters, Morgan said NCFC continued to make progress on efficiencies associated with its three affiliated organizations. He said the combined staffs of NCFC and The Farm Credit Council developed and helped enact a major Farm Credit package important to both farmers and their cooperatives.

Morgan recognized the educational work performed by the American Institute of Cooperation stating that "cooperative education is the cornerstone of the future for our cooperative system."

The NCFC chairman added that "understanding by farmers of the vital role cooperatives play in assuring the availability of markets at acceptable prices and supplies at reasonable costs is essential if we are to maintain their support."

"But it has to go beyond just loyal support," Morgan declared. "As directors and management, we must be able to run our businesses competitively, and this too requires a sound education and training program."

NCFC President Wayne A. Boutwell elaborated on NCFC legislative achievements during 1985, and predicted that budget issues will dominate congressional debate this year. He said the

recently-enacted Gramm-Rudman deficit reduction package will cut deeply into all programs, including agriculture, in an effort to achieve a balanced budget by 1991.

Boutwell emphasized that while NCFC is supportive of budget reduction efforts, particularly in view of the need to bring down interest rates and the value of the dollar, we must ensure that agriculture isn't unfairly singled out when many farmers continue to be under great economic stress.

The NCFC president noted that tax reform is also expected to become intertwined with the budget. He said that program threats stemming from budget reductions will lead to calls for new revenue through a tax increase.

"We will continue to work for those provisions relating to the tax treatment of farmer cooperatives," said Boutwell, "as well as seeking enactment this year of legislation dealing with the cooperative netting issue. Both the Budget Reconciliation bill, still pending in conference, and the House-passed tax reform bill address that issue."

During the business session, NCFC delegates elected the following officers for 1986: Chairman, Ben F. Morgan, chief executive officer, Dairymen, Inc., Louisville, KY; Vice Chairman, Gene A. James, president and chief executive officer, Southern States Cooperative, Inc., Richmond, VA; Vice Chairman, Russell L. Hanlin, president and chief executive officer, Sunkist Growers, Inc., Van Nuys, CA; Vice Chairman, William A. Hiller, president and general manager, Agway Inc., Syracuse, NY; and President, Wayne A. Boutwell, Washington, D.C.

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550	4'0"	6'0"	7	738	289.00
1,000	4'0"	10'8"	10	845	392.00
1,000	4'0"	10'8"	7	1,158	455.00
1,000	5'4"	6'0"	7	1,059	455.00

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1,000	5'4"	6'0"	7	1,164	852.00
1,500	5'4"	9'0"	7	1,577	1,100.00
2,000	5'4"	12'0"	7	1,914	1,248.00
3,000	5'4"	18'0"	7	2,657	1,670.00
4,000	5'4"	24'0"	7	3,403	2,080.00
5,000	6'0"	23'10"	1/4"	5,508	3,090.00
5,000	8'0"	13'4"	1/4"	4,800	2,660.00
6,000	6'0"	28'10"	1/4"	6,239	3,535.00
6,000	8'0"	16'2"	1/4"	5,500	3,000.00
8,000	8'0"	21'6"	1/4"	6,927	3,660.00
10,000	8'0"	26'10"	1/4"	8,357	4,310.00
10,000	10'0"	17'0"	1/4"	7,446	4,020.00
10,000	10'6"	15'9"	1/4"	7,412	4,070.00

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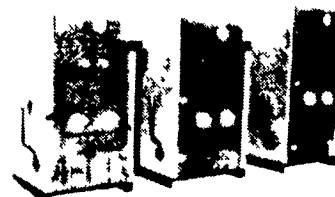
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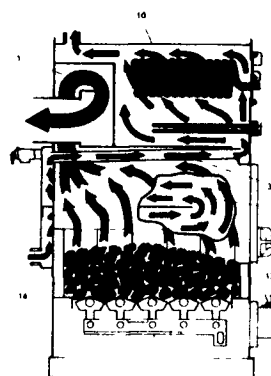
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