

Bedell, Daschle draft new credit bill

WASHINGTON — U.S. Reps. Berkley Bedell of Iowa and Tom Daschle of South Dakota have introduced legislation to strengthen farm income through the market and to help farmers restructure their debts.

The legislation is a combination, with some modifications, of Bedell's marketing certificate amendment that was approved last year by the House Agriculture Committee and Daschle's debt-restructuring bill that was approved by Congress but vetoed by the President.

"We've just begun to fight," Bedell said. "The economic condition in our districts is continuing to deteriorate. Legislation is needed to stop the slide."

The Bedell-Daschle legislation would enable farmers to obtain higher income from the market instead of government programs. The bill helps to set the domestic price for corn and wheat by limiting domestic sales of grain to producers who choose to participate in set-asides. Farmers who did not participate would sell their grain for export at the world

price which would be lower. The bill keeps the United States competitive in the world market by offering bonuses to encourage more export sales.

"Our farmers don't want to be dependent on the government for their income. They want a fair price from the market," Bedell said. "If we've learned anything under Gramm-Rudman it is that government spending on agriculture is going to be reduced. The government is no longer a reliable place to turn for income support."

"We can design farm programs to strengthen farm income through the market. That's what the Bedell-Daschle legislation does. It's far less expensive to the taxpayers to subsidize exports and give farmers a decent price up front."

The debt package, using guarantees and more flexible accounting rules, would encourage lenders to write off a portion of a farmer's debt so that he could pay back the rest and get on his feet. By helping to prevent bankruptcies, the package benefits all

farmers by stabilizing land values.

"This bill is important not just for some farmers who are in trouble," Bedell said. "It's important to all farmers because it would strengthen income and stop the decline in land values. It's important to our towns and cities because it would improve the economic climate and set the Midwest back on the road to prosperity."

"It's a bill of hope for everyone who depends on agriculture, in one way or another, for their living," Bedell said.

Joining Bedell and Daschle as cosponsors are Reps. Lane Evans of Illinois, Dan Glickman of Kansas, Harold Volkmer of Missouri, Byron Dorgan of North Dakota, Tim Penny and Gerry Sikorski of Minnesota, Pat Williams of Montana, Bill Alexander of Arkansas, and Glen English, Mike Synar, Dave McCurdy, Wes Watkins and Ed Jones of Oklahoma.

The Congressmen say conditions have changed to make a new approach to farm policy more attractive. Farmers need a program

that will free them from dependence on government subsidies, and the congressmen say they have a program that will spend a lot less money and do a better job

of saving family farmers because it will use the market instead of the federal treasury to strengthen farm income.

Budget cuts would hurt Delaware extension

NEWARK, DE — Four major programs and over 20 Cooperative Extension Service positions in Delaware will face elimination if President Reagan's budget cuts become effective October 1, 1986. The president's executive budget would mean a 59 percent cut nationwide for the extension system, according to Richard E. Fowler, director of Delaware Cooperative Extension. He said Delaware's funding cut would actually be 64 percent because of cuts in specifically funded programs.

"All segments of extension in Delaware would be affected," he said, "but hardest hit would be pest management programs, expanded food and nutrition education (EFNEP), farm safety,

4-H, and home economics programs."

The actual funding from the federal government for the 1986 fiscal year is \$1.3 million, about 50 percent of Delaware's total extension budget. The state, through the University of Delaware appropriation, provides \$1.1 million, 42 percent, and county governments support local offices with \$30,000.

"A reduction of this magnitude would require drastic personnel reductions," Fowler said. "We would have to adjust allocations to all programs."

Nationally, \$200 million in budget cuts would mean the loss of more than 10,000 positions in U.S. counties and land-grant institutions, according to Fowler. "The president's cut would drastically alter the structure of extension as the nation knows it," he said.

Under the federal mandate that established the Cooperative Extension Service in the land-grant colleges of agriculture, funding is shared by the federal, state, and county governments. "Eliminating 64 percent of the federal commitment would erode the partnership that has made it possible for extension to thrive in the state and nation, to grow from an organization serving predominantly farmers to a system that reaches more than 200,000 Delawareans annually. Extension provides research-based knowledge to farmers, consumers, youth, and just about every segment of the population," Fowler said.

Facilities at the University of Delaware and Delaware State College enable extension staff in the three counties to deliver educational programs to all Delawareans. Approximately half of the University of Delaware's extension funds and all those of Delaware State College are provided by the federal government.

Milker school set

NEWARK, DE — The 1986 Delaware/Maryland milker school will be held Monday, March 17, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Pencader Grange Hall in Glasgow, Del. The event is being sponsored by the Maryland and Delaware Cooperative Extension Services, agribusiness firms and cooperatives. Pencader Grange is located on Route 896 south of the intersection with U.S. highway 40.

Two mastitis and milking machine experts will present the program — Dr. J. Woody Pankey, a dairy researcher at the University of Vermont and Dr. Robert B. Corbet, a veterinarian from El Paso, Texas, who specializes in mastitis problems.

Topics to be covered during the one-day school include: a mastitis prevention and control program; hygiene in a control program; how infections occur; and mastitis therapy. There will also be time for a question and answer session.

The \$5 registration fee includes lunch, which will be served by grange members. Registration starts at 9 a.m.; the program will begin at 9:30. For further information contact Dr. George F.W. Haenlein, extension dairy specialist, University of Delaware (302-451-2523).

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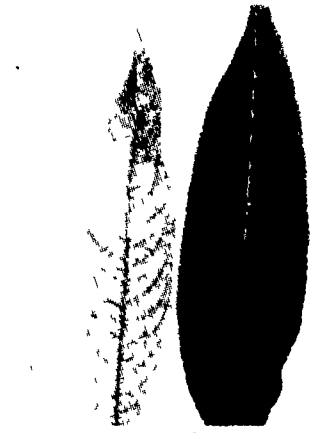
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