

NFO Supports Family Farm Act

CORNING, Iowa — In a recent news conference in Washington, D.C., the National Farmers Organization joined with other farm organizations, labor groups, consumers and small businessmen in supporting the Family Farm Act — a new piece of farm legislation introduced into Congress by Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) and Rep. Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.).

"The Family Farm Act offers a viable alternative to farmers," NFO's Washington director Charles Frazier commented. "It must be recognized that the 1985 Farm Act is not working well for farmers and time is running out. Other exporting nations are not going to give up markets just because we have lowered our prices to go-broke levels. If we are going to save independent, mid-range producers in our rural communities, there must be a new approach. The Family Farm Act would be an excellent place to start."

Frazier pointed out that the new proposal would reduce the high cost of the current farm program, help producers get supply into balance with market demand, improve prices immediately and offer farmers an opportunity to reschedule farm debt on family-sized farms. But, most important of all, the new legislation permits all producers of major commodities to vote in referenda and control their own futures.

"Producers have shown they are willing to manage America's abundance in return for a fair price," Robert Mullins, National Farmers Union legislative director, added. "They want to earn their living in a market that

pays for commodities based on the cost of production and a return on management. Consumers are willing to pay for quality food and fiber, if they can be assured that payment will reach producers instead of being raked off by middlemen. This bill accomplishes these goals, in sharp contrast to current policies that force prices lower and farmers off their land."

The bill, designed by Harkin and Gephardt in conjunction with farm leaders and other sincerely interested rural advocates, proposes action on the twin problems of farm income and farm debt. It contains provisions for wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, rye, upland cotton, rice, soybeans, livestock and dairy.

For grain, it contains a transition program with voluntary compliance for 1987 crops and then requires a binding referendum on mandatory supply management for 1988 through 2000. In a straw poll, a majority of wheat producers favored mandatory controls.

Cotton and rice producers would continue their present marketing loan program for 1987 and then participate in a binding referendum on production controls. Dairy producers would vote on marketing quotas 30 days after enactment of the bill.

A credit section of the bill calls for debt mediation, write-downs, manageable interest rates and restructuring of existing loans.

"Some will undoubtedly question the costs of this legislation," Gephardt pointed out to the press, "but the costs are comparatively modest. Because federal funds would be provided to the states as block loans, the federal government is assured of full repayment. The costs are limited to the cost of funds — something on the order of \$600 million per year if every eligible farmer participates. It is time to reverse the 500 percent cost growth in farm payments that the administration has incurred while cutting back so many other needed efforts."

"We cannot wait any longer," Harkin added. "Rural America is under siege by the policies of our own government and it's time we end those policies and get on with a farm program which provides farmers with a fair price based on parity, not artificially low world market prices. And it won't cost \$35 billion next year, either."

Specific provisions of the bill include: producer referenda for each commodity; elimination of deficiency and diversion payments; loan rates set at 70 percent of parity for 1987, increasing 1 percent per year thereafter; established marketing quotas for each commodity based on projected demand; use of a progressive targeting mechanism to determine acreage set-asides; use of marketing certificates; and a family farm debt restructuring

and mediation program

"This bill will not become law immediately," Frazier pointed out. "However, if farmers and ranchers help elect a Congress this November, it really must turn this farm economy around. It is now up to producers to make some choices as they approach the upcoming elections. Are they going to choose to continue a farm policy favorable

to agribusiness interests or are they going to insist on more equitable treatment in pricing our major commodities?"

Farmers, he said, should think carefully about these alternatives and realize the farm program will be up for serious review in the upcoming Congressional session, which begins in January.

Toy, Train Auction Company Formed

LANCASTER — TOYS & TRAINS of Lancaster, a firm specializing in the sale of antique toys and trains is pleased to announce the formation of an auction service. The auctions will be a joint venture between Roy C. Probst and Son, Lancaster County auctioneers, and Toys & Trains headed by Anna and Bruce Manson.

Bruce Manson, former director of a museum devoted to toy trains in Strasburg, and current editor of a magazine with the largest circulation specializing in toy trains stated, "With the large number of

toy and train collectors in Lancaster and adjoining counties it seemed like a natural thing to do." Manson further said, "The largest and finest toy and train shows are held within an hours drive of Lancaster and collectors know the area well"

The first auction is scheduled for Saturday, November 22, at 11 a.m. at the Bart Fire Hall in Georgetown, eight miles south of Strasburg off Route 896.

For further information, contact the Mansons at 464-4843 or the Probsts at 464-3190 or 464-3700.

Cross-Compliance In Effect For '87

CHAMBERSBURG — Farmers who plan to participate in the 1987 wheat and feed grain programs offered by USDA are reminded that "cross-compliance" will be in effect for all program crops in 1987, according to R. Gene Stoner, chairman of the Franklin County ASC Committee.

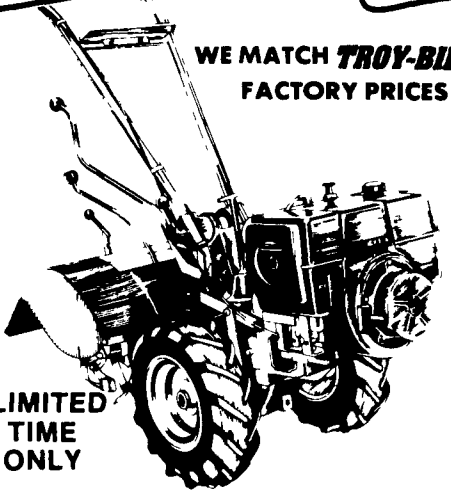
According to Stoner, "cross-compliance" means that

producers who wish to participate in the programs must limit their production to the crop acreage base established by the ASCS office for the 1987 crop year. "All program crops are affected on the farm which the producer enrolls, even if he participates in only one of the crops he cannot exceed his base acreage on the others on that farm," Stoner said.

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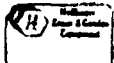




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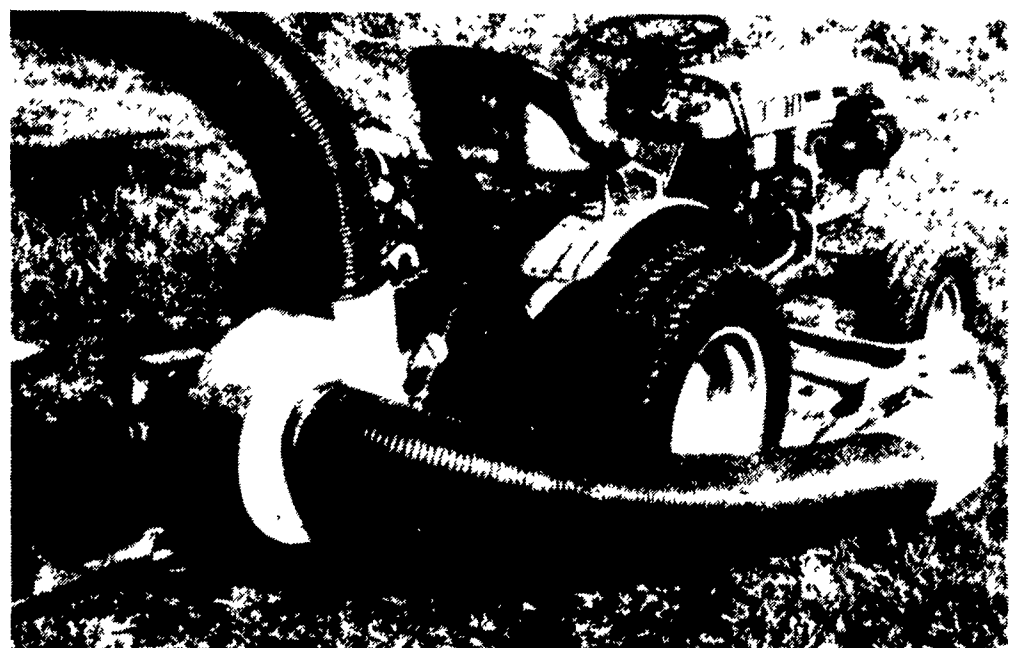
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