

Farm Bureau Makes Recommendations From Study

CAMP HILL — A study committee of the nation's largest farm family organization has recommended innovative action in 14 areas affecting agriculture in order to improve farm income.

The American Farm Bureau Federation's 22-member Farm Income Study Committee announced its recommendations today following a ten-month investigation. The committee which included Richard Newpher, Administrative Secretary of the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association (PFA), was directed to leave "no stone unturned" in finding ways to improve income opportunities for farmers. It received counsel and ideas from 75 experts in developing its recommendations.

American Farm Bureau's Board of Directors has approved the recommendations which involve the areas of transportation, taxes, trade, export markets, allies, monetary policy, federal budget, less developed countries, biotechnology, farm policy, foreign policy, risk management, research consortiums, and integrated pest management.

A total of 58 recommendations were approved. While many are longer term in potential economic impact, examples of those that would have an immediate impact on farm income are:

- Restore the Farm Credit System to financial viability;
- Administer the Conservation Reserve so that farmers will participate in it as a management tool;
- Preserve the confidentiality of railroad rate contracts;
- Further deregulate the trucking industry;
- Seek tax law changes, including income averaging and annual expensing of preproduction expenses;
- Prevent trade restrictions on imported farm machinery;
- Plan an active role in national and international economic and trade policy deliberations;
- Change monetary policy to favor steady money growth without inflation;
- Change current policies for dealing with the bad debts of developing countries to provide more benefit to farmers and less to money center banks;

— Provide national leadership to farmers in the field of biotechnology;

— Allow the current farm bill, which offers the best short-term policy, to run its course;

— Prevent oil import taxes;

— Keep fertilizer imports and exports free of duties and trade restrictions;

— Encourage farmers to increase their influence on foreign policy issues that affect their market income opportunities;

— Seek federal spending cuts to balance the budget. A sound alternative would be a freeze in real federal spending with further cuts in business and personal tax rates;

— Establish priorities in utilization, production, marketing and financial research;

— Encourage the use and promotion of integrated pest management;

— Step up program to educate and inform farmers about risk management.

Newpher commented, "There is no area of farm bureau involvement that is more important than improving the net farm income of those who produce food and fiber.

For those interested in the immediate and long-term health of U.S. agriculture, this study represents a long unfinished agenda that will require the best of leadership from all quarters — farmers, support industries, universities and government — in the future."

According to American Farm Bureau, while net cash farm income has moved slowly upward in recent years, a substantial number of farmers remain in debt diffi-

culty. A recent USDA estimate puts the number at 108,000 nationwide, or 17% of commercial farmers — those with annual farm sales of \$40,000 or more.

American Farm Bureau is a general farm organization representing over 3.5 million members nationwide. PFA is the state affiliate of American Farm Bureau and represents over 23,400 farm families in 54 county associations.

Poland Eligible For More Wheat

WASHINGTON — Under Secretary of Agriculture Daniel S. Amstutz today announced an additional opportunity for sales of U.S. wheat to Poland under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's export enhancement program. Sales of wheat will be made to buyers in Poland at competitive world prices.

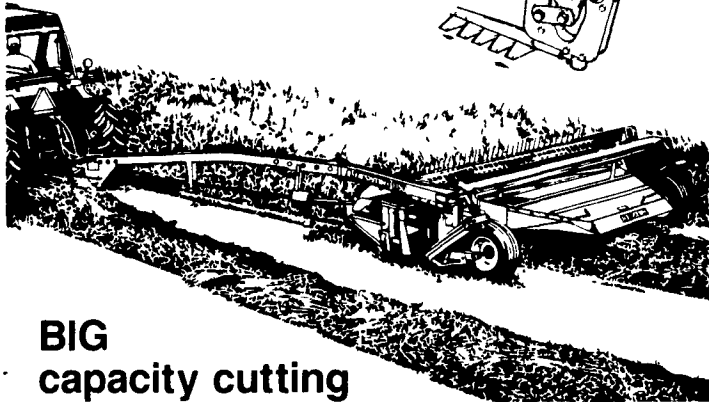
Amstutz said this initiative will give U.S. exporters the opportunity to sell 500,000 metric tons of wheat. The export sales will be subsidized with commodities from

the inventory of the Commodity Credit Corporation. The subsidy will enable U.S. exporters to compete at commercial prices in the Polish market.

Poland already has purchased 500,000 tons of U.S. wheat under the export enhancement program.

Details of the program including an invitation for offers from exporters will be issued in the near future. For more information call William Hawkins (202) 382-9240 or Larry McElvain, (202) 447-3224.

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