Farmers Union Hopes Cooler Heads Prevail In Trade Disputes

DENVER, Colo. - National Farmers Union leadership has expressed hope that officials from the United States and the European Economic Community can resolve the trade dispute created when the U.S. announced its intention to impose import duties on selected European products beginning December 5.

Leland Swenson, President of the National Farmers Union, said he hopes "cooler minds prevail"

and that a full-scale trade war can be avoided.

The action was taken as a result of an impasse in negotiations between the two economic powers over the ongoing bilateral oilseed dispute.

"The Uruguay Round, of GATT negotiations including agriculture has created tensions between the U.S. and the EEC since its beginning six years ago," Swenson said. "Neither side can

afford to let this issue spiral into a trade war.'

Swenson is concerned that the abrupt resignation of European Agriculture Commissioner Ray MacSharry is a signal of internal tensions within the EEC that could result in duty retaliation by the EEC.

"Agricultural producers world wide are all losers under that sccnario," Swenson said. "Negotiators must meet and resolve the dispute as to not jeopardize the potential settlement of a fair and equitable agreement within the Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations.'

National Farmers Union has been a proponent of eliminating direct export subsidies, strengthening rules prohibiting dumping surplus commodities on the world. and the harmonizing health and phyto-sanitary standards in the Uruguay Round of GATT, but has

been opposed international mandate of elimination or substantial reductions of domestic farm programs.





