

# Senate Version Of Farm Budget Less Harmful

DENVER, Colo. — The U.S. Senate's version of the budget, which passed today by a one-vote margin, is better for family farmers and ranchers than the House's budget bill, according to the National Farmers Union (NFU).

The Senate bill proposes to trim \$3.2 billion from the budget through a series of smaller reductions spread out over almost every commodity. The Senate budget proposal also contains provisions that will save federal expenditures, without as severely affect-

ing producer incomes.

The House bill achieved its required farm program cuts over the next five years, largely by increasing flex acreage from 15 percent to 20 percent. NFU had adamantly opposed the House decision, due to the direct, negative effect it would have on overall net farm income.

"Neither proposal is cause for celebration," said Leland Swenson, NFU president. "Either bill will reduce support of U.S. agricultural producers, but the Senate version is more evenly spread out and in some cases, includes new

policies that will help producers in the long run.

"The Senate's elimination of the BTU tax, which would devastate farm incomes, also makes the Senate budget bill preferable for producers," said Swenson. The Senate opted for a 4.3 cent-per-gallon tax on gasoline and diesel, with an off-road exemption for agriculture.

The new policies referred to by Swenson include a moratorium on bovine growth hormone, which will save \$15 million from the budget, because of the projected

additional federal support that would be required from increased milk production. NFU is also pleased with the Senate's proposal to require that all imported wheat and barley be accompanied by an end-use certificate, so that imported grains cannot be used in U.S. export and international food aid programs.

The Senate bill would also limit the Market Promotion Program (MPP), a program that provides U.S. agriculture product exporters

with financial assistance in developing foreign markets, to \$110 million annually. Thirty-three million dollars of this amount would be targeted to smaller businesses and cooperatives that are new to the export market and to foreign market development activities designed to help smaller U.S. agriculture producers. The House bill had funded the program at \$148 million with no provisions for targeting newcomers or small companies.

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## Crop Certification Deadline Nears

LEBANON (Lebanon Co.) — All Lebanon County farmers are

asked to certify their 1993 crop plantings, land uses, acreage conservation reserve and other program acreage with the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS).

In Lebanon County, the final certification date for crops such as corn, grain sorghum, soybeans and hay is July 15.

"Certification is the procedure by which farmers report their program acreage to establish their eligibility to receive the benefits of price support, deficiency payments and other farm program benefits," Jenifer Minnich, ASCS official said. Acreage reports are required for all participating farms.

She said that growers not participating in the 1993 programs should report their acreage to establish planting history, ensure future benefits and protect crop acreage bases.

After certification, ASCS will select farms at random to verify that acreage reports are accurate. Aerial photographs are available for farmers to help identify their fields.

Spring seeded crops may be certified at any time between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. "We encourage farmers to certify as soon as possible after planting and not wait until the deadline date to report their acres," Minnich said.

Eligibility for participation in all programs administered by ASCS is on a nondiscriminatory basis as established under law without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, marital status or disability.



Richard Smith



Georgia Hemperly

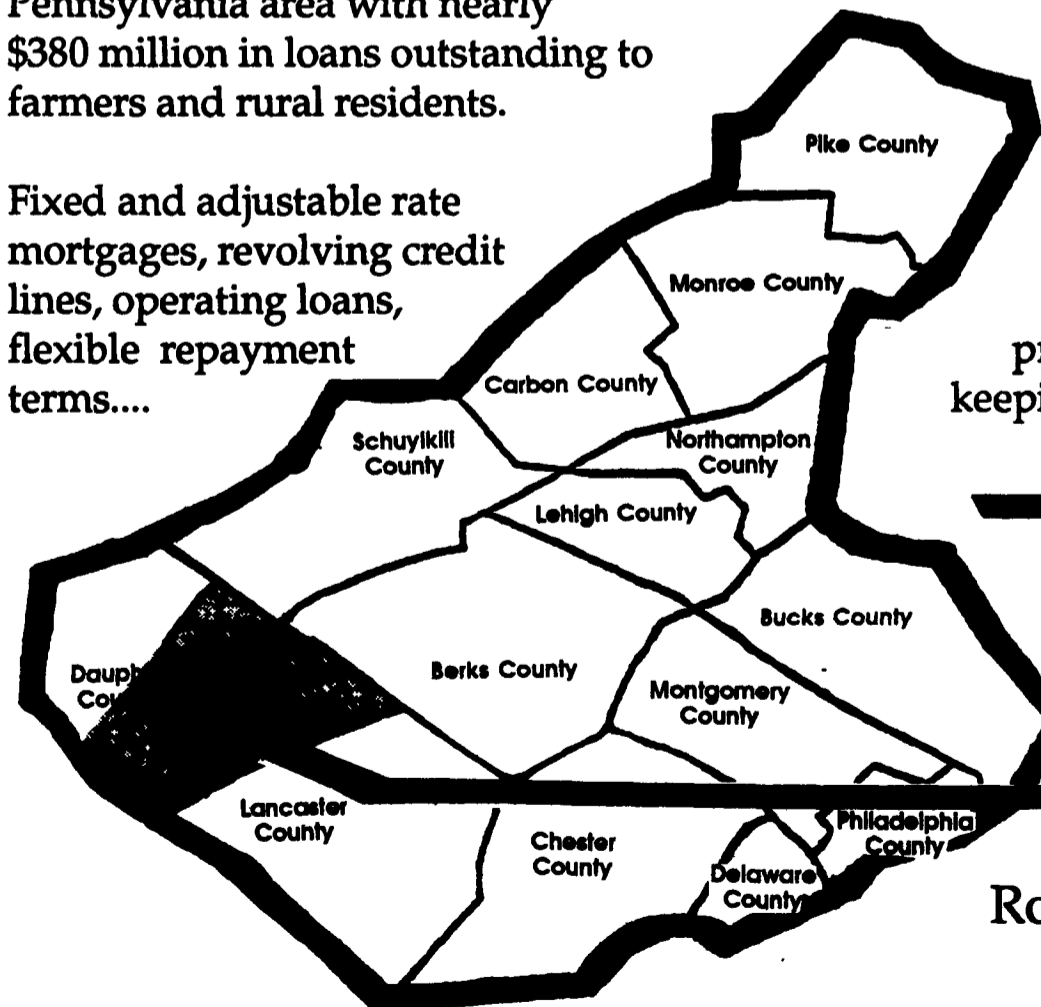


Greg Snyder

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