

Growers Help Form Coalition To Push For NAFTA Ratification

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) and 100 other farm groups officially formed Ag for NAFTA, a coalition that will press Congress to ratify the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The trade agreement will link the U.S., Canada, and Mexico into the world's largest free trade zone.

Randy Cruise, NCGA president, noted that without NAFTA's ratification, U.S. corn growers will continue to face the uncertainty of Mexico's import licensing program that can cut off corn imports at any time.

"NAFTA replaces that restrictive program with a tariff-rate quota that would eventually result in unhindered free trade of corn. And it would most likely, permanently restore Mexico's ranking as one of our top five U.S. corn customers," said Cruise.

NAFTA will clearly help our nation's economy, the farm economy, and our national security, attests the Nebraska corn grower. "By the end of the NAFTA transition period, farm exports to Mexico will expand by \$2-2.5 billion. This increased trade will create about 50,000 new jobs, in addition to the 81,000 now dependent on farm trade with Mexico."

Ag for NAFTA will actively lobby for the trade pact's ratification. It will also help clear up public misconceptions about NAFTA. "Critics of NAFTA should closely study the \$18-billion trade surplus agricultural exports already provide to our economy," said Cruise. "Other sectors should seek to emulate agriculture's success by looking beyond our

borders for new markets."

Some groups within agriculture have expressed reservations about NAFTA. But the Ag for NAFTA coalition is confident that the entire farm sector will benefit. Ag for NAFTA noted that the trade pact provides a lengthy transition period to enable the most sensitive commodities to adapt. It points out the U.S. holds competitive advantages

in farm production. And the U.S. also has highly efficient processing industries and a more advanced infrastructure. Mexico's inherent limitations will prevent it from threatening U.S. farm producers, asserts the coalition.

Cruise says NAFTA's critics haven't sufficiently weighed the potential cost of rejecting the trade agreement. "There's no advantage of rejecting our



CORN TALK NEWS

PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOC., INC.

third largest export market," he said. The U.S. already grants far more trading privileges to Mexico than it receives. NAFTA will tear down Mexican barriers and give the U.S. preferential treatment over other countries seeking to trade with

Mexico.

"World trade continues to change," he said. "We can't afford to sit back as other countries form their own regional trading blocks. We must act assertively to ensure our future prosperity."

Corn Growers Cite Additional Assistance Needs

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — The National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) is suggesting the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) consider additional program extensions to aid producers beset by severe flooding and other weather problems.

During a board meeting, NCGA directors from 24 states outlined steps USDA could take to further ease the blow of the calamitous weather.

In a letter to USDA Secretary Mike Espy, NCGA President Randy Cruise outlined these requests:

- Offer farmers another six-month extension of their 1992 crop loans. Transportation snarls caused by severe flooding are seriously limiting the opportunity for farmers in the upper Midwest to sell their crops and repay the loans.

- Allow producers to file disaster assistance claims on the basis of farm tracts, as opposed to entire farm numbers. This has been a problem for producers who were required by their local ASCS office to arrange their operations under a single number.

Cruise commended Secret-

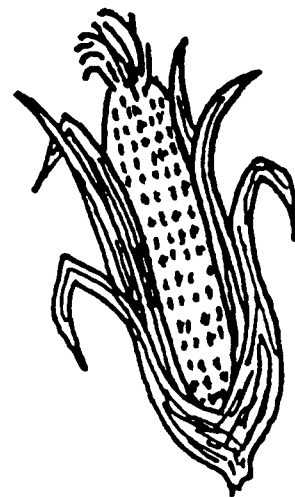
ary Espy and the Administration on behalf of the board of directors for their speed in reacting to the plight of the farmers and diligence to make

USDA a "farmer-friendly" agency.

The board also urged the Administration, state and local governments to expeditiously

repair water retention and protection structures damaged by flooding to protect all cropland that producers wish to keep in cultivation.

Pa. Master Corn Growers Association



Automatic Equipment Mfg. Co. Pender Nebraska 68047

Automatic

IN STOCK

MORE CAPACITY WITH LESS HORSEPOWER!

11" Tilting Discharge Auger with 10' reach.

10' Hydraulic-driven Intake Auger

BIG CAPACITY GRAIN ROLLER MILL
— 900, 1200 and 1800 Bu. per Hr.

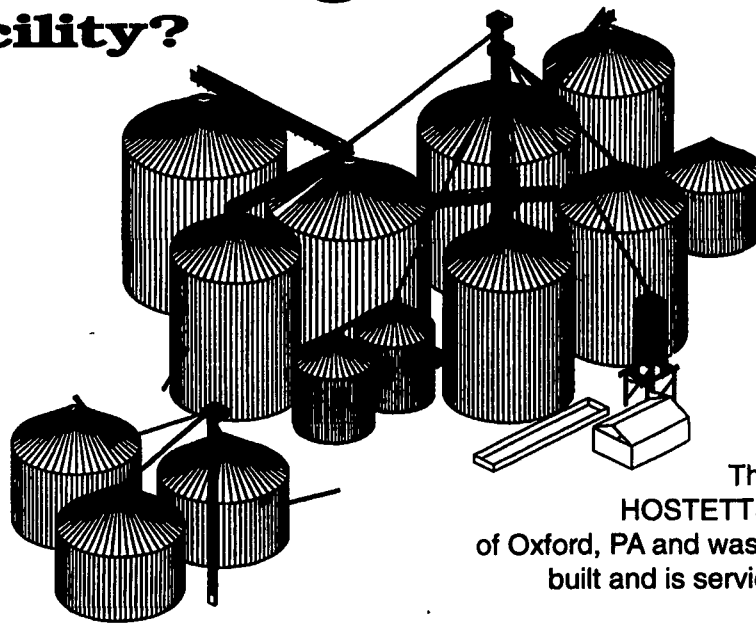
MODEL ATG-A

Built for big capacity delivery and heavy duty operation. One-fast-roll operation gives more capacity with less horsepower, provides self-cleaning action with wettest material. Also available with blower discharge on direct drive from roll shaft.

RYDER SUPPLY CO.

539 Falling Spring Road
P.O. Box 219
Chambersburg, PA 17201-0219
Phone 717-263-9111

Do You Recognize This Grain Facility?



The above is HOSTETTER GRAIN of Oxford, PA and was designed, built and is serviced by us.

We offer complete services for large farm and commercial grain handling & drying including: 3D Drawings To Scale, Sales & Construction, Service & Large Parts Inventory, Quick & Inexpensive Crane Service (12 thru 35 Ton with 165' reach)

Call us for a quick response to your needs and to go over your system **BEFORE HARVEST.**

LOUCKS GRAIN EQUIPMENT, INC.

RD #12, Box 307 York, PA 17406
717-755-2868 (FAX 717-755-2869)