

PENNSYLVANIA MASTER CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

President's Message

Curt Rakestraw
President, PMCGA



1995 FARM BILL

Whether we participated in the government farm programs or not, the new farm bill will affect all of us in agriculture.

The National Corn Growers Association, The Wheat Grower, and The American Cotton Council have joined forces to lobby for a fair and equitable farm bill for American Agriculture.

Some of the changes being lobbied for are more flex acres so that farmers planting decisions can be more market oriented, with slightly higher commodity loan rates and keeping the target prices where they are now. By increasing the flex acres and raising commodity loan rates, deficiency payments should be cut enough to stay within the federal budget

guidelines.

In the recent past, many groups have criticized government agricultural programs as being too expensive. Now I'll give you some facts that contradict that statement. From 1986 to 1995, Agriculture support payments declined by 70 percent, from \$26 billion to \$8 billion. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projects C.C.C. spending will decline by 8 percent from \$8.5 billion in fiscal year 1986 to \$7.8 billion in fiscal year 2000 with no program changes. If all the other federal programs had taken the same level of cuts as agriculture, we would now have a substantial budget surplus. Farm programs represent less than 1 percent of the entire federal budget.

Not only is federal spending on agriculture down, but the percentage of disposable income that families spend on food is down. It takes only 10.3 percent of disposable income for an American family to buy food, while France, the next closes nation to us, takes 16 percent. Where on earth do any people have better quality food, more variety, or a safer food supply than in the United States?

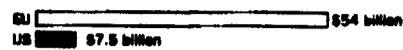
As farmers we need to do a better job in communicating these facts to our urban neighbors. The next time your local newspaper runs an editorial unjustly criticizing farm programs, I would encourage you to respond with a letter to the editor.

In this issue of *Corn Talk*,

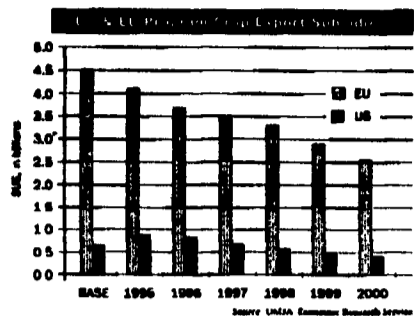
SINCE A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS, REMEMBER THIS:

The European Union (EU) increases overall farm support next year by 13 percent, to \$54 billion. U.S. baseline program spending will decline 1-1/2 percent next year without program changes. The House and Senate budget resolutions recently passed call for an 11 percent to 14 percent reduction in farm supports. So, farmers could receive as little as \$7.5 billion in farm support.

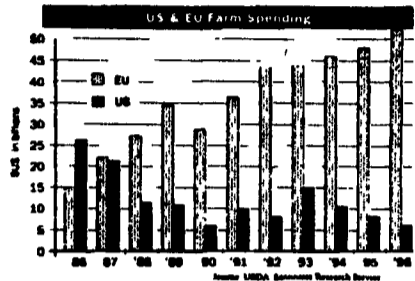
EU farm supports are rising while U.S. support declines.



As domestic export supports fall, the EU out-spends the U.S. by 6-to-1...



... meanwhile, U.S. farm spending is down over 70 percent, compared to EU spending, up by more than 200 percent.



we have included a chart which demonstrates just how lopsided The European Agriculture support spending is to ours, as are many other industrial nations.

I'd like to thank you for taking time to read *Corn Talk* and I'd also like to wish you a safe and productive harvest season.
Curt Rakestraw

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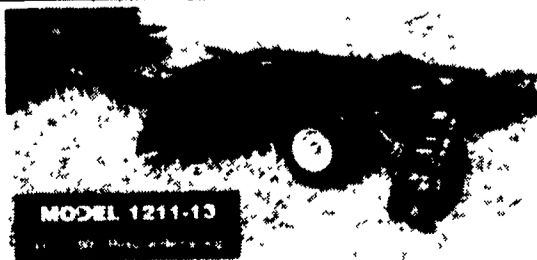
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