

# American Farmland Trust Denounces Farm Policy Proposals

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Denouncing most House and Senate farm policy proposals on the environment as a betrayal of farmers who are good land stewards, American Farmland Trust recently urged the White House to do away with windfall farm subsidies in favor of the conservation

incentive programs now sought by most farmers and the public. At the USDA Farm Forum, AFT President Ralph Grossi said the proposals would fail to bring about needed commodity program reform and a more market- and conservation-oriented approach to

agriculture. Instead, he said they would roll back a decade of agricultural conservation policy, penalizing those who have voluntarily met compliance measures while rewarding those who have not. Grossi, a third-generation northern California rancher and president of the national farmland con-

servation group since 1985, said that unless the proposals are significantly altered, his organization would call on President Clinton to veto them.

"Most of the major farm bill proposals do exactly the opposite of what they should," Grossi stated. "They continue payments to a minority of farmers without any proof of need, insulating them from market forces. Others gut environmental protection funding and policies that increasingly are the only justification for governmental support of agriculture." Specifically, he said the proposals would weaken conservation compliance measures supported and adopted by most farmers, terminate farmland protection pro-

grams, end wetland protection, and slash the Conservation Reserve Program.

"No self-respecting farmer or farm organization who takes pride in land stewardship should support this anti-conservation legislation," said Grossi. "No politician who professes to want positive change should support this return to the bad old days of no-strings government handouts and environmental negligence."

"We call on the Clinton administration to veto this legislation unless Congress takes a fundamentally different approach that does not victimize farmers who take their stewardship responsibilities seriously and taxpayers who will pay the bill."

## Ag Department Names Regional Office Director

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)—On behalf of Gov. Tom Ridge, Agriculture Secretary Charles C. Brosius recently announced the appointment of Carolyn Rutter of Dover, York County, as director of the department's regional office in Summerdale, Cumberland County.

"I'm pleased that Mrs. Rutter has agreed to serve as an advocate for agriculture," Brosius said. "She will join a team that works to safeguard Pennsylvania's abundant food supply and meet the Governor's goal of promoting agriculture's profitability and visibility."

Rutter has been the co-owner of Rutter's Livestock Farm in Dover for over 30 years. She managed a 1,000-sow swine operation, and served as the farm's financial manager. She also acted as purchasing agent for the farm's grain, feed ingredients and livestock supplies.

Rutter attended Gettysburg College and completed the Pennsylvania Laboratory Directors and Cooperative Directors program at Penn State University.

In 1990, Rutter received the Outstanding Service to Agriculture Award from the York County Farmers Association.

Rutter has been a board director of the Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council since 1993. She is a member of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Federation of Independent Businesses and the Dover Township Industrial Development Committee.

The department's regional office serves farmers and consumers in Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry and York counties.

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farmland preservation.

Gerald Erb, a production farmer, expressed concern for the ramifications of enlisting in land preservation. He questions whether there will be independent ownership when his son becomes manager of the family farm.

Barley said that farming will not be the same as in past generations. He expressed the need that those who set policy resolve not set bureaucratic and cumbersome regulations.

Kauffman said that he sees a void in the farming community becoming part of the legislative process. He challenged farmers to

become involved in lobbying and in municipal leadership.

"If we lose ag in this community, we will lose our culture and work ethic. Make a commitment to get involved," Kauffman said.

Rohrer said that citizens are constantly asking the government to do more. "Whenever the government is asked to do something, it is going to cost money, but generally citizens don't realize the price involved."

Rohrer said, "Give a man incentive to produce and he will. Free enterprise is the way to go. The government cannot do anything cheaply."

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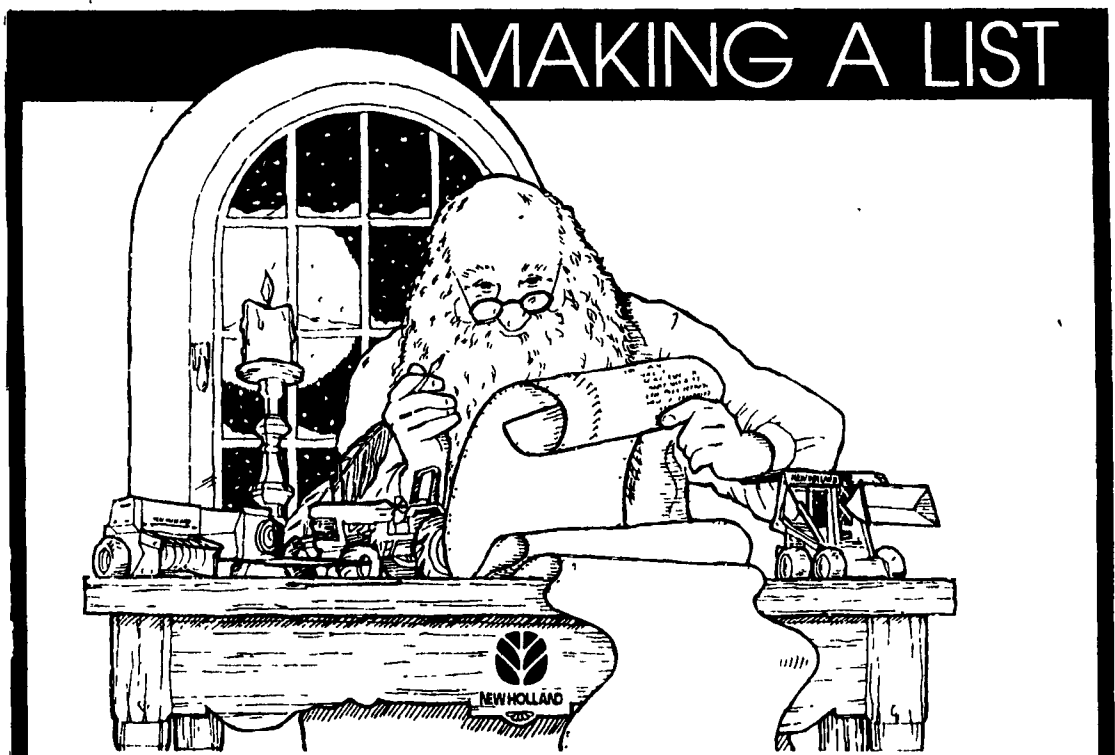
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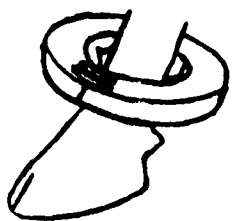


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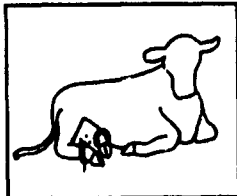
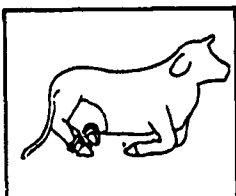
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