

NFU Throws Weight Behind Ford's Plan To Help Tobacco Producers

WASHINGTON, D.C. — National Farmers Union (NFU) has thrown its weight behind a transition plan proposed by Sen. Wendell Ford, D-Ky., to assist tobacco farmers harmed by the anticipated national tobacco settlement.

"Sen. Ford's plan allows Congress to achieve a fair settlement without destroying family farmers and other tobacco workers," said NFU President Leland Swenson. "Tobacco is an important cash crop for many family farmers. We cannot destroy their market and walk away."

In a letter delivered to each member of the U.S. Senate, recently, Swenson urged the senators to support Ford's proposal, the Long-Term Economic Assis-

tance for Farmers Act. Highlights of the act include:

- Allocation of a portion of the industry settlement to help tobacco farmers and their dependents pay for higher education.
- Assistance to displaced workers within the tobacco processing and manufacturing operations.
- Compensation for farmers who lose tobacco quota as a result of reduced allotments under the settlement.
- Funding of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's administrative costs from tobacco settlement dollars, rather than from taxpayer dollars.
- Economic assistance, such as rural business enterprise funding and farm ownership loans, to communities hit by the settlement.

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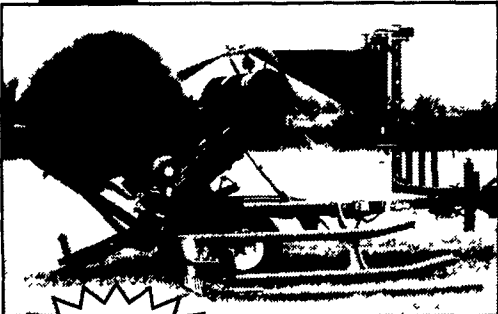
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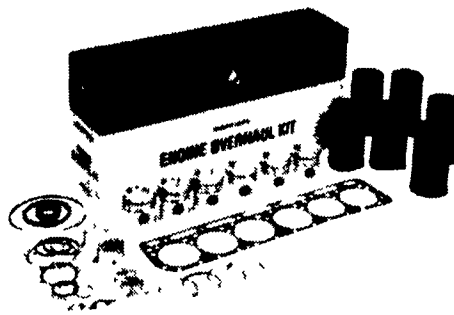
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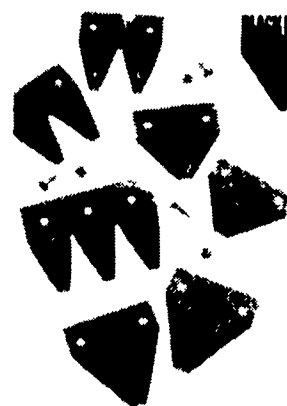
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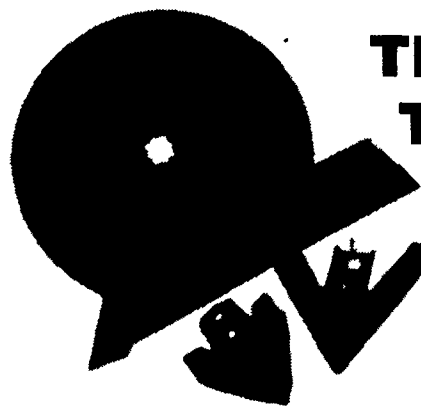
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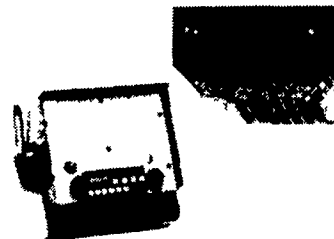


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