



(Continued from Page A10)

point out that this is what farming, and living in the country, is all about.

These are the kind of elected officials we need in office. In the southern end of our county, however, supervisors have tried passing illegal antifarming ordinances to stop large hog farms from forming. One township has done their best to make applying biosolids illegal.

Some people wonder that with townships running on extremely tight budgets, if supervisors should be wasting dollars on passing illegal ordinances. Anti-agriculture groups are actively pushing elected officials to pass their ordinances that prohibit farmers from changing or expanding their operations.

Last year marked a tough year for Farm Bureau members in their effort to stop local over-regulation and illegal regulation of agriculture, according to a Pennsylvania Farm Bureau spokesperson.

The time has come for us to encourage our farm neighbors to run for township supervisor, planning commission member, or school board director, according to many. Too many people with their eye on big spending and urbanization, at the cost to farming, are elected to key positions.

The time is now for us to step up and take the lead in protecting our vital resources according to several farm residents. As the Honorable Sam Hayes once said, "Farmers have to be the board supervisors and be the township legislators to prevent these things from happening."

— Jayne Jewart
Home

Editor:

Agriculture, nutrition, and conservation groups sent a joint letter to budget conferees on April 3 opposing any cuts that would effect the programs under the oversight of the House and Senate Agriculture committees and the House Education and Workforce Committee.

The full letter and list of organizations follow.

April 3, 2003

The Honorable Don Nickles,
Chairman

Budget Committee
United States Senate
621 Dirksen Senate Office
Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jim Nussle,
Chairman

Budget Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
309 Cannon House Office
Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Nickles and
Chairman Nussle:

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (FSRIA) was enacted less than one year ago following two years of exhaustive debate in the House and Senate. It is not even fully implemented. The new farm law represents a delicate balance by effectively addressing the stability of our agricultural production base, protecting our important natural resources and enhancing nutrition and food assistance programs for our citizens. The careful allocation of resources evidenced by the new law should not be upset so soon after its enactment.

The mandatory programs ad-

ministered by the Department of Agriculture (i.e., commodity, conservation, crop insurance, nutrition, forestry, and other valuable programs) are of enormous importance to farmers, ranchers, rural businesses, low-income Americans, and all our nation's children. Therefore, we respectfully urge the conferees to avoid reconciliation instructions to any committees other than the Finance and Ways and Means committees.

In addition, we urge the conferees to adequately fund discretionary spending, and ask that you adopt a discretionary spending total at the level of the Senate resolution, which is similar to the President's budget.

The undersigned organizations respectfully urge the conference committee not to include any reconciliation instructions in the final budget resolution to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, the House Committee on Agriculture, or the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Thank you for consideration of our views.

- Sincerely,
- National Farmers Union
 - National Cotton Council
 - Advocates for Better Children's Diets
 - Afterschool Alliance
 - American Association of Crop Insurers
 - American Association of School Administrators
 - American Commodity Distribution Association
 - American Corn Growers Association
 - American Dietetic Association
 - American Farm Bureau Federation
 - American Farmland Trust
 - American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees
 - American Federation of Teachers
 - American Friends Service Committee

- American School Food Service Association
- American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers
- American Soybean Association
- American Sugar Alliance
- Americans for Democratic Action
- America's Second Harvest
- Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs
- Bread for the World
- Center on Hunger & Poverty,
- Brandeis University
- Child Nutrition Forum
- Children's Defense Fund
- Children's Foundation
- Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism
- Community Alliance with Family Farmers
- Congressional Hunger Center
- Crop Insurance Research Bureau
- Defenders of Wildlife
- Evangelical Church in America
- Farm Credit Council
- Food Research and Action Center
- Migrant Legal Action Program
- National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
- National Association for the Education of Young Children
- National Association of Child Advocates
- National Association of Conservation Districts
- National Association of Farmer-Elected Committees
- National Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils
- National Association of State Conservation Agencies
- National Association of State Departments of Agriculture

- National Association Wheat Growers
 - National Audubon Society
 - National Barley Growers Association
 - National Center on Poverty Law
 - National Coalition for the Homeless
 - National Corn Growers Association
 - National Education Association
 - National Grain Sorghum Producers
 - National Grange
 - National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty
 - National Milk Producers Federation
 - National Recreation and Park Association
 - National School-Age Care Alliance
 - National Sunflower Association
 - National WIC Association
 - National Wild Turkey Federation
 - RESULTS
 - Share Our Strength
 - South East Dairy Farmers Association
 - Southern Peanut Farmers Federation
 - Soybean Producers of America
 - U.S. Canola Association
 - United Egg Producers
 - United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association
 - U.S. Rice Producers Association
 - USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council
 - USA Rice Federation
 - Western United Dairymen
 - World Hunger Year
- From the National Farmers Union

One of our favorite times of year is just around the corner:
June Dairy Month!
And what a treat we have for Lancaster Farming readers in our June Dairy Issue scheduled June 7. Included will be family farm features, breed and association news and highlights, and other great reading for our dairy families.

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