

American Farm Bureau Discusses Agricultural Problems

Henry Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture, Believes Crisis Is Near for American Farmer

Interesting Bits Of Agricultural News

New
Curing hay through the use of an electric blower has proved highly successful in tests conducted during the past four years at the Tennessee Experiment Station.

Grains
The quality of the 1939 wheat, barley, and grain sorghum is somewhat higher than in 1938, although the quality of the oat and rye crop is lower, reports the Agricultural Marketing Service.

Sandbags
A billion sandbags, to protect England's civilians and buildings from enemy bombs, have brought boom conditions to United States manufacturers of cotton textiles.

Up
Cumulative rural sales of general merchandise in the first ten months of this year were about 11.5 per cent greater than for the same period last year and two per cent above the 1937 level.

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Defense Program Is Causing Some Farmers Concern

Wallace's Address Is High Spot in National Farm Convention

Addressing possibly 6,000 farmers at the annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation in Chicago last week, Henry A. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture, warned that a crisis is rapidly approaching in the nation's farm program.

The question of how long huge sums can be diverted from the national treasury to finance agricultural needs will be brought to a head shortly by a defense program calling for "the biggest expenditures in our history for the army and navy," the secretary asserted. He added:

"That means our entire federal budget must be given sharp scrutiny and review. And so in the next few months the farmers are bound to come face to face with the question of how really permanent the national farm program is."

Edward A. O'Neal, president, indicated the federation plans to recommend enactment of a general manufacturers' sales tax to pay the cost of future farm benefit programs. These programs must be self-supporting from now on, O'Neal said in asking for consideration of such a revenue-producing measure, which he characterized as "the farmer's tariff." People generally should pay the cost of the farm program, just as they pay the cost of the tariff, he said.

The federation chief expressed opposition to re-enactment of the processing taxes on the ground that they could not successfully be applied to corn and hogs.

Secretary Wallace made several suggestions for solution of the problem, including "a solid and lasting financial base under the present farm program," price fixing and an income certificate plan through which a dealer handling a farm product would be required to buy certificates to cover the amount he desired to sell in this country, increasing the price to the farmer that amount. He said:

"If agriculture cannot get either through direct appropriation or by some other method, the money that is necessary to give it bargaining equality, undoubtedly price fixing will sometime be tried.

"If the government were given enough control over both production and marketing of farm products, price fixing might be made to work."

Declaring severity of the farm surplus situation has been hidden from the American people, even from most farmers, during the fifteen-year period from 1921 to 1936, Wallace said agriculturists are still under a severe handicap in comparison with non-farm groups. Even with government payments figured in, they are still more than a billion dollars short of parity income, he said adding:

"The nation needs always to guard its agriculture, so that agriculture can always guard the nation," the secretary said, in concluding his remarks.

25-CENT TOBACCO

Speaking before a tobacco conference held in connection with the annual convention of the Farm Bureau Federation in Chicago last week, J. B. Hutson, tobacco administrator, said that tobacco would sell for 25 cents next fall if the farmers would get together and agree on a long-time control program.

"It has been almost proven that there can't be control with high prices in effect," the administrator said. "When prices are high, farmers immediately kick over the traces, tear down a planned program and plant in excess, and low prices result," he added.

Methods Advanced At Meeting To Aid Tobacco Producers

Growers From Several States Consider Problems At Farm Convention

Realizing that the income of the tobacco farmer is the lowest of any group in the nation, representatives of tobacco growers in several states at a conference held in connection with the annual convention of the American Farm Bureau Federation in Chicago last week went to work in an effort to solve some of the problems that are certain to present themselves in 1940.

Led by Ben Kilgore, of Kentucky, the conference adopted four resolutions that were designed to advance the common cause of the tobacco farmer, as follows: 1. Expanded federal grading service; 2. Stabilized markets; 3. Commensurate parity income, and 4. A long time tobacco program.

Offered by the conference with the support of the strong American Farm Bureau Federation, the proposals immediately received attention from federal agricultural authorities who were in attendance upon the meeting. No one believes that the tobacco farmer's problems will be solved as a result of the conference, but it is quite certain that these problems will get a sympathetic consideration by Secretary Wallace and Administrator Hutson.

Maryland growers, completing their first season of auction marketing, were strong supporters of the grading system. They apparently thought very little of the auction system without the grading method. The conference urged that at least \$558,000 be appropriated to expand the service.

Stabilized markets came in for considerable discussion, the conference directing an appeal to the department of agriculture urging that some steps be taken to wipe out the low points during the marketing season. It was suggested that there was no valid reason for tobacco to sell higher on one day than on another in the same week.

The North Carolina delegation, led by J. E. Winslow, president, and E. F. Arnold, secretary, and Haywood Dail, of the State Bureau, went down the road for an increased parity for tobacco farmers. Secretary Wallace was in the conference for a short time and he offered very little encouragement for the ear-marking of tobacco tax money for tobacco or for a direct "touch" on the general treasury. Despite the stand advanced by Secretary Wallace, members of the North Carolina delegation vigorously stressed the fairness of ear-marking part of the more than \$500,000,000 tobacco tax for tobacco. The conference finally passed a resolution urging the administration to give tobacco a more equitable share along with other crops in parity payments without creating a special processing tax. "Tobacco is financing the entire farm program now, and it will not be fair to add more taxes to it," E. F. Arnold, secretary of the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation, told the conference, and the point was explained in no uncertain terms to J. B. Hutson, chief administrator of the tobacco program.

It is quite apparent that if tobacco growers adhere to a strict production program that the administration will stick to the tobacco growers. In this connection, the conference

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Executive Officer Announces Triple-Program For 1940

Announcement by E. Y. Floyd, Triple-A executive officer of State College, of the 1940 Agricultural Conservation program shows important changes in the rates of performance and soil-building payments to farmers for cooperation in the government's efforts to conserve soil resources and stabilize farm commodity prices.

Revision of the rates of soil-building payments have been made for the following practices, which in 1940 will be: Seeding alfalfa, \$1.50 per acre; seeding timothy or red-top, 37 1-2 cents per acre; seeding other specified types of legumes and grasses, 75 cents per acre; and turning under interplanted summer legumes such as soybeans, cowpeas, crotalaria, and velvet beans, 37 1-2 cents per acre.

Floyd also announced that the rate of credit for application of ground agricultural limestone has been made uniform throughout the State, at \$1.50 to reach 1,500 pounds applied.

The new rates of payments for conservation, or performance, payments are: Flue-cured and Burley tobacco, 1 cent per pound; cotton, 1.6 cents per pound; peanuts, \$2.50 per ton; and wheat on commercial farms, 9 cents per bushel.

There was no change from the 1939 program in payments for seeding lespedeza, seeding winter legumes, turning under green manure and cover crops, application of phosphate, terracing, thinning and wedging timber stands, and planting forest trees.

The rates of performance payments for potatoes and vegetables in designated commercial counties likewise were unchanged.

Floyd urged farmers to consult with their county farm agent, or their AAA committeemen and determine exactly how the 1940 program can be applied to their farms.

Helpful Hints In Selecting Timber For Pulpwood

In cutting timber for pulpwood, remember that you can get from two to four times more money for saw timber than for pulpwood. So select for pulp the crooked or poorly formed trees, the weaker-crowned trees in dense stands, heavy-crowned "wolf" trees overtopping young growth, and overmatured, diseased, and fire-scarred trees. It is unwise to clear-cut young stands when they are growing at their fastest rate.

advanced a long-term program and around this feature the Farm Bureau is pledging its efforts for the creation of a three- to five-year plan, at least.

Hull Says Agreements Helpful to the Farmer

Secretary Of State Addresses Farmers At Chicago Meet

Slaps Back At Proposals By Old Guard To End Trade Pacts

"If the United States abandons the trade agreements program now in effect it will destroy the chances of economic restoration among the nations when the war in Europe is ended," Cordell Hull, Secretary of State, told a great meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation in Chicago last week. To reverse the present policy, he declared, would mean a breakdown of foreign trade with disastrous results.

"Prosperity of agriculture and of the whole nation," said Secretary Hull, "is closely tied up with the presence or absence of a healthy flow of trade between nations. The existence of actual military warfare abroad, with its disrupting effect upon production, trade, and finance, does not change the fundamentals; it only aggravates the problem."

"The agreements which we have negotiated are standing us in good stead now, at a time when, as a result of the war, our exports are faced with severe new trade restrictions in many countries. The scope of operation of the trade agreements program in the immediate future will, of course, be restricted by war conditions."

"But that is no reason as some conception of the trade agreements program in the immediate future will, of these consels of despair and defeat overlook the all important fact that the chances of sound economic restoration after the war, in which we shall have a vital interest, will be almost non-existent if we now abandon our work in behalf of sound trade policies."

"After present hostilities come to an end, there will be an even more desperate need than there was in recent years for vigorous action designed to restore and promote healthy and mutually beneficial trade among nations."

Secretary Hull said 22 trade agreements have been made with countries which account for three-fifths of the United States' foreign trade. He said they had been helpful in disposing of agricultural surpluses, the exports of which increased 50

per cent between 1935 and 1938. The corn-hog industry, he said, is again heavily dependent upon export outlets.

"During the first nine months of 1939," he said, "we imported \$795,000,000 of agricultural products. Those who use our agricultural import figures as a basis for attack on the trade agreements program would have the country believe these imports mean American farmers have lost that much of their own market. Never was a more insidious falsehood perpetrated."

"Two-thirds of what we brought in during the first nine months of 1939, or about \$530,000,000, were products which even the Hawley-Smoot tariff considered so incapable of displacing our own farm production and so indispensable for our people that they were left on the free list in the 1930 tariff act."

"Products in the remaining third of agricultural imports are predominantly of two types: commodities of which we do not produce enough for our domestic requirements, and products which we import because of special quality or use or differences in season. These imports do not displace, they supplement our deficient domestic supplies."

"By adhering to the trade policy which we now follow, we can throw our influence on the side of economic progress and of peace and order to our own immense benefit. Were we to abandon it, it would render infinitely more difficult the process of building an orderly and prosperous world and would inflict on our people an incalculable injury."

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