Greetings to all the AAMer's across the country, my first flowers have bloomed which means the start of another spring, yes it also means pollen, sneezing and runny noses. Hope springs eternal with the starting of planting and we have a new crop of calves on the ground. We all hope Mother Nature is kinder this year after the rollercoaster of weather extremes in 2019 left widespread damage, lost crops and in many cases lost farms.

First, I want to thank everyone that made it to Lubbock for AAM’s 40th Annual Convention. Lots of great food, good friends and a terrific program made for a successful meeting. It seems every time we finished eating, we were getting ready for another meal. It is hard for me to explain the feeling of seeing our AAM Heritage Exhibit and reminding myself that AAM has made a difference in this country and helped save tens of thousands of family farmers and ranchers. AAM is not about the past, we celebrate it, but looking forward to involving young producers and our youth who are the future. Attending our meeting was Della Hettenbach of the Jolly JayHawkers 4-H club in Dickinson County Kansas and Derek Scharmann of the Poteet FFA Chapter of South Texas to share their experiences attending Farm Aid hosted by AAM. My congratulations go to AAM’s Executive Vice President Crystal Carson who heads up AAM’s Youth Ambassador Program for doing a terrific job. Della and Derek won a competition and were chosen to represent FFA and 4-H to attend the annual Farm Aid Event and their report was inspiring for everyone in attendance. We are so proud of Della and Derek and all the youth that are interested in agriculture. Our job is to support our youth and help pave a path for them to succeed in agriculture. AAM voted to hold our next AAM Convention in Lubbock, Texas, January 8th and 9th, 2021 so everyone should mark your calendars now to attend.

The Administration put forward their 10-year budget plan to fund government. In digging into it, some numbers jumped out at me. It calls for $43 billion in cuts to farm programs over 10 years, $21 billion in cuts for crop insurance subsides, cuts of $9 billion for the Conservation Steward Program and eliminating the Livestock Disaster Assistance Program. It also calls for eliminating the McGovern/Dole school feeding program and elimination of the Section 32 which funds purchases for our school lunch and feeding programs. Many of these cuts were contained in last years budget proposal and Congress rejected them. I’m hopeful that will be the case this year. Many of these programs are important parts of the Safety Net for producers.

It’s a difficult time for many producers struggling to secure financing for this year. Low prices persist with large inventories of commodities on hand and lost export markets. It makes you wonder when a partial deal is reached with China to end the Trade War and the price of corn falls. It looks to me like yes China is going to buy, but only what they can't get somewhere else. Now for cattle producers, USDA has agreed to let imported beef in from Brazil and now cattle prices are falling. Who are these people working for, oh yes follow the money, Big Beef Packers? Concentration is happening fast as the 'Big get Bigger', an example in Wisconsin which is losing 2 to 3 dairy farms each day. In 1970 they had 75,000 dairies and today they have 7,400. Now 3% of the dairies produce 53% of...
the milk nationwide. We've seen it in meat, poultry and dairy is following suit. Farmers can't survive by opening a Bed and Breakfast or a farm stand, producers need a fair price in the marketplace for their production and raising the loan rate is the only way to get it. Think of all the local businesses those 75,000 dairies supported, now the businesses are closed, and our rural towns are dying.

Most of the levies on the Missouri River have not been patched since they broke in March 2019, because water still covers many of the farms, so once again these farmers will not get to plant a crop. The Market Facilitation Payments and other farm program benefits have been the difference in many producers staying in business another year, yet when I talk to farmers all over the country that have gone into FSA Offices to sign up for the New Farm Bill, their name have been put on a list where their appointment will be in one, two or three months. Payments are delayed and later in March, the new Disaster signup will begin at FSA for 2018 and 2019 losses. So, farmers who lost everything in the fall of 2018 from Hurricanes haven't even been able to signup yet. I'm told that there are up to 2,000 vacancies in our FSA County Offices. These offices are understaffed even though Congress appropriated adequate funding for additional staffing. This is no time to have understaffing in these offices when the benefits to producers many times is the difference between staying on the farm or losing it. A new Farm Bill is being rolled out and natural disaster programs must be delivered. The current staff is overworked and under stress because they want to serve the farmers of their county. We find situations where a CED now has 2, 3 or more counties because of the shortage of CED's. It looks like to me that hiring is being slow walked by USDA in order to downsize the agency. You reach a point where doing more with less will break the system and currently it is near the breaking point. Employees are retiring early because of the workload and stress. AAM wants to thank all the hard-working FSA County Office Employees for your hard work under very stressful conditions.

AAM is proud we were able to get the first Loan Rate increases for over 35 years in the New Farm Bill. We know it's not enough, but it is a step in the right direction. AAM is also working with several other groups to get Country of Origin labeling back on imported meat. Big Beef doesn't want you to know where the meat you buy is coming from because they know American consumers will buy USA when they have a chance. Support is high across the country for labeling and together we can push Congress to do the right thing and reinstate COOL. Please make sure as Members of Congress ask for your vote, tell them what you expect for your support. Join AAM and stand with us as we fight for family farms and ranches. Help us support the future generation by listening to and encouraging our youth who want to be involved in agriculture. We must lean into this fight now as this crisis takes its toll on Rural American. Everyone should be active in your local and state agriculture groups. Many times, all we hear from some commodity groups is we need to export more and nothing about the price. To sell more for a loss is not going to solve the problem but it does put more check-off dollars in their pocket. AAM continues to support changes in all the check-off programs to make them refundable and have regular votes as to whether to continue them. They must be held accountable instead of being funded by producers if they don't agree with what they are doing. One such example is the National Cattlemen's Beef Association which opposes Country of Origin Labeling, you would think they represent foreign producers. These are just a few of the issues AAM continues to work on, follow us on Facebook at American Agriculture Movement Inc. page where we have thousands of followers worldwide. Beginning in December, I began telling my AAM story where each month I go back to what major events that happened in AAM's history. I have received many positive comments for telling my story and have heard from many of the families of farmers that were on the Tractorcade. Every person that participated in AAM, has their own story. We want those stories so they can be added to the AAM Oral History Archive at Texas Tech's Southwest Collections. Go online and check it out, everyday what's available to be searched online is expanding. Also, don't forget we have caps, jackets, polo's and t-shirts for sale, Made in the USA. Spread the word, AAM is Alive & Well.

David Senter AAM President
aamincpresident@gmail.com

AAM Business Meeting
AAM History Exhibit Curator Fund

As most of you know AAM has established the AAM History Exhibit in the Bayer Museum of Agriculture in Lubbock, TX. Every day new visitors stop by your AAM History Exhibit and experience the many stories, videos, pictures the activities that make up your AAM history.

Yes, I say “your exhibit” because many of you and/or your families, neighbors and friends have participated in the thousands of activities across the nation AAM has been a part of, probably the most remembered being the 1979 Tractorcade.

In keeping your AAM History Exhibit current, along with that comes a cost in doing so. This past year AAM spent over $6000 in updates, making changes and improvements to your exhibit.

During this years AAM Convention came the question of how do we pay for these expenses and continue to pay the regular expenses of AAM, both now and in the future? As a result, and after much discussion, it was suggested to initiate a program similar to the “Parity Fund”. You may remember in the early years of AAM, the Parity Fund was established in Pueblo CO. as a way to help sustain operational costs for the Washington Office and other expenses. Still today the fruits of that effort are being received to help with AAM expenses.

It was decided to create “The AAM History Exhibit Curator Fund” which will operate much the same way as the Parity Fund, with your donations being used to help pay for improvements, updates and maintenance of your AAM History Exhibit.

Recognition of donors to The AAM History Exhibit Curator Fund will be placed in the exhibit at three different levels. The “Parity” level, donations of $1000 or more. Farmer Rancher Level, $500-999, Grass Roots level, $250-$499. Yes, we will accept donations in lesser amounts, but recognition will not be given.

This is your opportunity to be recognized as a supporter of your AAM History Exhibit, with your name, or perhaps that of someone you wish to recognize and honor for their work and support of AAM. Imagine visitors scrolling thru a list of names wondering who are the supporters of this exhibit and your name and/or that of someone they remember is included, how great would that be?

I am pretty excited about the possibility of what this program can and will become and the benefits it will provide for your History Exhibit for years to come. The sky is the limit when it comes to the continued research and development of more AAM History as it becomes available. What a great opportunity for education of visitors stopping by the Exhibit. All that is needed is your help to continue the effort.

Join me today in making a contribution, small or large, to help continue the improvements to YOUR AAM History Exhibit in the Bayer Museum of Agriculture, Lubbock, TX. Make your donations to, AAM History Exhibit, and send them to:

John Willis
437 Preston Drive • Brownsville, TN. 38012

Thanks for caring and sharing.

Jim Rice
Non Recourse commodity Loan Rates

This is about my 4th or 5th attempt in writing something that is not a couple pages long, yet explain how important an increase in Non Recourse Commodity Loan Rates really is, not only for our commodity producers, but for our nation.

As new trade deals are completed, we hear how great it is going to be for our farmers and ranchers, I often ask myself “how”? HOW will our producers really receive their fair portion?

As I see it, about the only alternative and protection our producers have is, IF they can “store” their commodities while maintaining ownership and receive income as a result of an interest bearing loan on their commodity. Not any different than a normal person putting up collateral for a bank loan.

Until loan rates are increased by congress, traders and processors have and will maintain the benefit of low market prices and all they have to do is wait out the producer until he is forced to sell on an open market. Why? Because the producer has no other choice other than perhaps some kind of forwarding contract. IF the producer had the benefit of an alternative market place to “store their commodity” until a price became available that would increase their bottom line from red to black, I see many benefits from such an increase in the Non-Recourse Loan Rates. I will not go into that now but would be happy to discuss those benefits later if you like.

AAM has ALWAYS demanded Loan Rates “at above the cost of production” and continues to do so today. WHY, because that is our renewable “real wealth”, so why should we be selling it at less than it’s real worth while continuing to eliminate those that produce it?

We must not forget our livestock producers. They want, need and deserve Country of Origin Labeling”, COOL. Why are CONSUMERS being denied the right to know where their meat counter purchases come from with a Country of Origin Label identifying the source? A simple label identifying American produced and grown meat product does not seem like an impossible task and no doubt would be of great benefit for the American Consumer, the American Producer and America in general.

Thanks for listening,
Jim Rice
Kansas

PS: Perhaps a few letters to your Congressional Representatives and to 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. would go a long way in helping to achieve this goal.

To my AAM family:

Bruce passed away at home on February 15. He fought Leukemia and heart failure for several years. Services were held in Homer.

He and his brother, Philip, farmed together for 43 years.

We celebrated our 60th Anniversary on January 9, in the hospital. Daughter, Linda, had dinner brought in from Schulers, one of the best restaurants in the area, so we had a wonderful meal.

He wanted his 62 Corvette that he restored to be inside for visitation. One day as we drove by, he said “I think it will fit.” His grandson, Bo, measured and said it would. And it did. Funeral Director was a little dubious, but Grandsons Bo and Bruce made it happen! Think they take after Grandpa.

He has his AAM cap with him. A CD “1979 Tractorcade through the eyes of Bruce Miller” played for visitation. It was all the pictures he took during the Tractorcade.

Bruce loved his AAM family as I do. I am OK. I have great family support. I will try to make next Convention. Thank you to my AAM family for the beautiful flowers sent to Bruce’s funeral. I love you all. Christine, kids, grandkids, and great grandkids.

Love you all!
Christine

Joyce Jobgen and Vera Morris hanging out on a beautiful day at Dan Taylors farm.

David Senter, AAM president being interviewed by Jim Stewart
Youth transformed Ambassadors
“Alive Well and Moving our Youth Forward”

As we wrap up our first years work with our future agriculturists, we take a step back to try and grasp what kind of impact we had. We see a simple Youth Ag Project become an AAM Youth Ambassador Program. This years two Youth Ambassadors Derek Scharmann of Poteet Tx and Della Hettenbach of Woodbine Ks excelled in every opportunity presented to them. The idea behind starting these works was to 1. Give back to our youth and future of our political organization 2. Remind folks that AAM is “Alive and Well” 3. Grow our organization and 4. Educate about AAM history. As we reflect, I believe that AAM attained all the above and so much more. Derek and Della were able to attend Farm Aid and our National AAM Convention. Their exposure of Ag policies, current issues and crisis, and connections and networks spanned across more than just the United States to form one big picture about what is going on today in agriculture. They were able to generate an opinion of that as well as understand where our organization stands with ag policy. We have gained attention with the opportunity we provided Derek and Della that was read in local newspapers, presented to local clubs and organizations, heard on national radio shows, seen on social media across the U.S. and of course seen here in our newsletters. I think those of us who were fortunate enough to attend National Convention, getting to meet Derek and Della and hear their presentation over their experience, would testify to just how much participating meant to them. As director of the program I can 100% say that both Derek and Della had their eyes opened and were inspired and motivated to use this new information to advocate for Ag and AAM. As a former FFA Advisor and current 4H leader I can also say without a doubt that the opportunity that they were provided was at a level and quality provided by no other organization! Its scope is national! That is surely a once in a lifetime experience and AAM and its members should be proud that they could provide such an impact. These two young adults now have connections and references across the nation, they have an experience that will look beneficial on scholarship and job applications, attained knowledge that will help them to continue to advance in agriculture, tools for advocacy and most of all an appreciation for what the American Ag Movement did 40 years ago and for what they are continuing to do today! AAM is currently exploring fundraising options for continuing the AAM Youth Ambassador Program. If you have any questions about supporting the program or questions about this past year’s program activities please don’t hesitate to contact us.
AMERICAN AGRICULTURE MOVEMENT, INC

AAM Jacket
$75.00

- Duraweav™ fabric, medium weight for durable weather barrier
- Quilted nylon lining
- 15mm matte painted enamel snap front
- Rib trim collar, cuffs & bottom
- Front pockets
- Inside valuable pocket
- Limited Supply Available
- Jackets can be ordered and shipped to you.

Contact Jacqueline Reed at aam.sect19@gmail.com or leave a message at 806-216-0372 or Jim Rice (aam.inc@yahoo.com) to place an order for the merchandise.

AAM Summer or Winter Caps
$20.00 each
Contact Jacqueline Reed at aamsect19@gmail.com or leave a message at 806-216-0372 or Jim Rice (aam.inc@yahoo.com) to place an order for the merchandise.

AMERICAN AGRICULTURE MOVEMENT, INC

US Made Pocket T-Shirt

- 6.1 oz., 100% pre-shrunk cotton
- Shoulder-to-shoulder taping
- Double-needle stitched sleeves and bottom hem
- Tubular
- Short Sleeve
- S—XL $21.00
- XXL $23.50

US Made Polo Shirt

- 6.2 oz., 100% combed cotton pique knit
- Three wood-tone buttons
- 1x1 rib knit cuffs with side seam design
- Short Sleeve
- USA-made
- S—XL $30.00
- XXL $32.50
The American Agriculture Movement of South Dakota has chosen to close its state organization and become Sustaining members. We in no way have given up ....... just think it would be wise to continue in this manner.

The NE corner of our state has really suffered with snow and cold weather. Central SD has a lot more snow that the west does. Guess we sorta live in the banana belt. What snow we have has melted to ice. It is very hard for the cattle to get around.

I personally, spend my extra hours going to sports events. I have great grandkids(8) that play basketball and soccer. So much fun to watch them play.

Joyce Jobgen

AAM’s officers for 2020
John Willis, Treasurer,
Arthur Chaney, Vice President,
David Senter, President,
Crystal Carson,
Executive Vice President, and
Jacqueline Reed, Secretary

At the close of the convention, everyone got together for a group picture.

Membership Application

Name: _____________________________________________________________
Street Address: ________________________________________________________________________________
City: ___________________________ State: _______ Zip: _______ + _______
Email: __________________________________________________________

Number of Memberships @ $100 ____________ Total $ _______

(AAM stands for food producer and commodity PARITY. Parity is a term that denotes a fair commodity price adjusted for inflation to the commodity prices brought in 1910-1914 when producer-middlemen-consumer had a balanced income. Today, 15 commodities average less than 50 percent of PARITY. Meanwhile costs of trucks, implements, tractors, fuel, fertilizer and help rose many times. AAM still demands a parity price increase for commodities.)