

## AAM Senter On The Hill 1-19-2021

A new year is here, and farmers and ranchers are making plans to continue to produce food for here as well as the world. The Corona Virus is hitting Rural America hard as more and more of our families and friends are affected. But producers get up everyday and do the work that is needed.

A new administration to set to take office and as AAM has since 1979, will support a fair price for our production as well as continue our fight against corporate concentration. Consumers want food produced by family farmers and to know where their food comes from thru Country Of Origin Labeling. 2020 proved the concentration of our processing by Big Meat is a bad thing with the need to break up their monopoly and have smaller plants spread out across the country which will help add competition in the marketplace. Producers selling direct to buyers and consumers will help boost prices to producers and provide consumers with quality food. AAM supports legislation to provide support for small meat and poultry processors across the US. Legislation should also allow State Inspected meat and poultry be allowed to cross State lines IF State inspection standards meet Federal standards.

For farmers that have expiring CRP contracts in September, a new sign-up is underway at FSA and you can re-enroll during this time. Sign-up runs thru Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> so call your FSA office and make an appointment.

Economists are already banging the drums that farmers will have a profitable year in 2021. This is nothing new, yes prices are up, particularly soybeans. Finally, a break in the Trade War with China now buying heavily in the market. They are buying what they must have and finally they are paying a fairer price for soybeans. It makes no sense to sell commodities below the cost of production, which is why AAM has always supported a higher Loan Rate at least set at the Cost of Production for all commodities.

A few months ago, AAM warned against USDA's approval of imported chicken from China, and once again AAM was right. USDA has discovered imported chicken from China with fake US inspection marks on the packages. The last I heard we do not have a chicken shortage here in the US. Speaking of chicken, Pilgrims Pride has agreed to pay \$110.5 million penalty for Price Fixing the price of poultry, Big Meat thinks they can get away with anything so it's good to hit them in the pocketbook when they get caught so more investigations need to happen.

I have been following the protests under way in India by their family farmers. They are up in arms over new farm policies that remove price supports and open agriculture to large corporate farms. Farmers there have surrounded New Delhi and blocked roads into the Capital. 60% of the population there is in agriculture and their survival is at stake. 50,000 are there and are rotating with farmers at home with estimates of one million participating. This brings back memories of AAM's fight for family farmers leading to the 1979 Tractorcade to Washington, DC. AAM in those days were fighting corporate processors and grain traders. Today Corporate America is multinational, and they are leading the fight to open up India so they can lower

prices and force family farmers out of business. AAM supports the family farmers in India who are fighting for their farms and families. I will be reaching out to them and voicing support for their efforts.

I want to thank everyone for your support, and may God bless everyone during these difficult times.

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