

AAM Senter On The Hill 2-5-19

It's amazing that one week ago it was zero here and today I sat on the porch and had my morning coffee. I know it's been a hard winter for producers across the country too, but everyday they go out and do their job to feed the rest of us, plus much of the world. Farms can't close because of bad weather or political gridlock.

As USDA works to implement the New Farm Bill, producers are struggling to arrange financing for this year. Many are having to carryover debt from 2018 and now are having difficulty having a positive cash-flow to get production loans. A crisis is expanding across rural American and family farmers are falling victim to low prices. There're already rumblings in Washington about Emergency Farm Legislation to try to stabilize the farm sector. One such idea is to expand the CRP and use it as a Supply Management tool to reduce production. Supply Management used to be the program that you balanced good years and bad years so that prices remained stable for farmers. Producers need higher prices to stay on their farms. The current policy is bought and paid for by the processors, grain traders and corporations that want to buy farmers production below the cost-of-production.

AAM is hearing from farmers that are desperate to hang on to their farms. Many say, 'I wish we could have another Tractorcade', but everyone knows that security concerns would not allow us back into Washington, D.C. I encourage everyone to stand up and not be silent, stop by and have a cup of coffee with the neighbor, because it might save a life. Having lived thru the mid 1980's, I know there is a storm brewing in the Heartland and we have to support each other. You are already seeing politicians across America getting ready for 2020, stand up and ask them what they are going to do to get producers a fair price.

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