

AAM Senter On The Hill 3-29-19

The cherry blossoms have opened, and baseball season has started which means Spring is making its appearance. Most folks are ready because it's been a punishing winter for most of us. The water is receding so now the extent of the damage from the 'Bomb Cyclone' can be assessed. I never heard of a 'Bomb Cyclone' before and I hope I never hear of another one. Livestock losses from both the flooding as well as the blizzard are staggering but thankfully the Farm Bill has a permanent disaster program to cover part of the value of the livestock loses. If only there was a permanent disaster program for producers of crops, but instead they must wait for Congress to *get it's act together* and pass legislation to cover losses from natural disasters. Farmers in the Southeast have been waiting since last Fall for legislation to cover their loses from Hurricane damage. Many lost their entire crop and with the situation of low prices already putting economic pressure on those producers, they need disaster payments now so they can have the dollars to put in their 2019 crop.

Now add that to the magnitude of the loses in the Heartland from the flooding, the survival of many producers hangs in the balance. Disaster legislation used to be bipartisan with White House support, now politics gets in the way of progress. *Congress do your job and pass this emergency disaster legislation to help struggling farmers stay on their land.* The House has already passed a smaller disaster package that can be added to in the Senate. The Senate voted 90-10 to move forward with the disaster package but now the White House is pushing back over dollars for Puerto Rico which has slowed Senate passage.

US Customs & Border Protection seized around 1 million pounds of pork from China which they found hid in containers at JFK airport in New York, there is concern that the smuggled pork might contain the African Swine Fever which is rampant in China.

Lab grown meat, I don't know what to say, why would anyone want to grow meat in a test-tube and more important why would anyone want to eat it. What I do know is the product which is not meat should not be labeled meat. It should list all the ingredients and be called lab produced food.

HR 1770, a bipartisan bill introduced by Rep Michael McCaul R-Texas called the Student Agriculture Protection Act would exempt the first \$5,000 of income from projects for students 21 years old and younger. AAM supports this bill which will be a great help to our FFA and 4-H students and show support for them as they become our next generation of producers.

Coming up on the History Channel, April 4th at 10 PM EST will be a program The American Farm. I look forward to seeing it and thought you might be interested in tuning in too.

David Senter AAM President

AAMincpresident@gmail.com

