

AAM Senter On The Hill 4-11-19

First, I have exciting news to report for AAM, Crystal Carson from White City, Kansas has been appointed as AAM's Executive Vice President. Crystal is a third generation AAM Member and a former Vocational Agriculture Teacher before she left to return to the family farm and business. Crystal is going to develop a program to involve FFA and 4-H students in AAM activities. I'm very happy to have a new generation of Leadership stepping forward in AAM to help lead us into the future.

Recently during Agriculture week in Oklahoma, Governor Stitt, Senate Leader Treat and House Speaker McCall drove their tractors to work at the State Capitol where they were met by FFA and 4-H students. I applaud them for their action showing support for our hardworking farm and ranch families and there should be more States where elected officials show their support. This made me think back to December 1977 when AAM drove tractors to all the State Capitols.

Congress is getting ready to go on a two-week Easter break and they still have not agreed in the Senate to pass emergency disaster legislation to aid hard hit farmers and ranchers. The House is moving to expand the disaster bill they passed to include the Midwest flooding as well as adding on farm stored grain and word is the Senate is also going to add on farm stored grain as well. Currently we have a permanent livestock disaster program, why don't we have a permanent crop disaster program? We did have one in the 2008 Farm Bill, but it wasn't included in the last bill. My guess is Members of Congress would rather pass a bill and put out a press release about it to help them in reelection. Problem is Congress cannot get it's act together and both sides agree on anything these days. Come on, make sure that on farm stored grain is covered, do your job and pass the bill. The 2020 campaign is underway already, let them know what you think.

Did you know 4 companies control 85% of seed corn and 75% of soybeans, 20 years ago there were between 500 to 600 seed companies which leaves farmers with no competition when they buy or sell.

There is news that some progress is being made on ending the Trade War with China, but as we say back home, 'proof will be in the pudding'. Talk is cheap, prices are below the cost of production while commodities set in piles outside or in grain storage instead of moving to customers. Say a prayer for all those currently in harms way as a new storm slams the middle of the country. This is going to catch ranchers at a very bad time with calving season underway and forecasts of 1 to 2 feet of snow.

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