

AAM Senter On The Hill 4-22-21

Here we are almost to May and planters are rolling, and farmers are working long hours to make sure we have food on our tables and clothes on our back. Say a prayer for farmers and ranchers to be safe and have a successful year.

For over a year now AAM has cancelled all our meetings because of the pandemic. Now with millions of shots going into arms each day, we think it is time to plan a meeting. The first being a Summer Meeting in Kansas which will be Thursday, July 29th. Travel day will be Wednesday the 28th and as soon as we have the Hotel information, I will let you know. AAM is incredibly happy to be going back to Kansas where there has always been a tremendous amount of support for AAM. Since it has been so long since we got together, this meeting will be more of a reunion than a business meeting. Make plans you will not be disappointed.

The next meeting will be AAM's Annual Convention which will be held in Lubbock Texas January 7th and 8th 2022. As details become available, we will keep you updated. We are excited to be able to plan meetings so we can hear from farmers and work on their behalf.

AAM's good friends Senator Tester, D-Mont and Senator Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa have introduced legislation to require each U.S. meat packing facility that slaughters more than 125,000 head yearly to purchase 50% of their weekly volume on the open or spot market. This bipartisan legislation has more than 10 Senate cosponsors. AAM supports this legislation because it will bring more competition into the marketplace.

USDA is reopening signup for CFAP2 which will run for at least 60 days. New rules have been drafted that will support a wider group of producers. Check with FSA to see if you qualify.

Secretary Vilsack says he wants to increase payments in CRP to provide incentives to producers to sign-up acres. Congress has set a 25-million-acre cap with 3 million acres contracts expiring this year and 4 million next year. Legislation has been introduced in the House and Senate besides increasing funding for conservation it also would raise the cap on CRP to 40 million acres. Of course, the anti-CRP crowd will be working overtime to try to get as close to full production as possible so prices will be lower to producers. Recently, John Newton, American Farm Bureau Economist said if we increase CRP, we will increase deforestation in Brazil. Like they are going to stop if we don't, this race to the bottom for prices is crazy. Producers need a fair price in the marketplace.

Family Farm Action recently reported that as of 2019, foreign ownership of farmland was estimated to be 35.2 million acres. That is a lot of farm ground and I'm guessing they participate in our farm programs. I wonder how much money they have been paid?

Right to Repair movement is gaining support across the country. It is ridiculous that you can buy a new tractor and if you work on it yourself, they can cancel the warranty. Farmers are

required to call the dealer for repairs, which during busy times can be a few days downtime. I have a friend in Arkansas that was buying a new combine, so he got a price from his local dealer then he thought he would shop around other dealers to see if he could get a better deal. They told him to go back to his local dealer, they would not give him a price. This is crazy, you can buy a new car and take it to anyone you want for repairs, AAM is pushing for legislation for Right to Repair.

There is an effort to allow whole milk to be served in schools. AAM supports this, which brings to mind a story. When Joan and I moved from Texas to Virginia in 1980, of course our kids started to school there. They would come home from elementary school and say the milk was spoiled and they could not drink it. So, I told them to bring a carton home, it was low-fat. Problem solved. A little more on school, we were asked to come to a meeting with the Principal and teacher. They wanted to put our kids in speech therapy, after some conversation the Principal said, Mr. Senter, I think I know the problem, they learned it at home.

Enough for today, stay tuned for details of AAM's upcoming meetings,

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