

AAM Senter On The Hill 5-31-19

Times are tough, flooding across the Heartland and farmers struggling to get this year's crops planted. It's a creeping disaster that moves slowly down rivers as the flood waters make their way to the ocean. Slowly swallowing farms, homes and towns as well as barns and equipment. Everyday there are decisions being made to switch crops or to file for prevented planting. For many whose farms are underwater the decision is made because they will not be able to plant and many thousands not knowing what they will find when the water drains away. With flooding continuing, levee repairs cannot be made so any rise in rivers will flow back onto the farms. At the same time as this, farmers in the Southeast are in a deepening drought. We all need to support and pray for our farm families to give them strength to shoulder the burden they have.

I call B-S on 3 Members of Congress that devised a plan to block the bipartisan Disaster Legislation that had passed the House more than once, finally was agreed to by the Senate and White House and Passed the Senate by a large majority and was thought to be on it's way to passage and then to the President, but step in Congressman Chip Roy of Texas, Congressman Massie of Kentucky and finally Congressman John Rose of Tennessee. Three times the House asked for unanimous consent to vote on the Senate passed Disaster Bill and each time one of these Congressman objected. A single Member of Congress blocking much needed disaster aid. In Rep. Roy's case, \$4 Billion was included for Texas in the bill he blocked. This is a perfect example of a broken Congress. This bill will pass next week by a large majority bipartisan vote, but just to block a vote that will help so many Americans defies logic. I want to thank all of you that called their offices over the last few days, we can't sit quietly by and let bad actions go unanswered.

The Tariff Wars are heating up with no end in sight, USDA is working to figure out how to send more dollars out to producers to help offset the damage done to markets and prices. Farmers continue to be caught in the crossfire over non agriculture issues. Farmers don't need a check; they need a price and a market for their production. A small step in the right direction is EPA approving E-15 for year-round sales, but the solution is 'Raise Loan Rates to the Cost of Production'. USDA just doesn't get it, part of the Trade Adjustment program dollars that are supposed to help farmers will be going to JBS, a Brazil owned company will receive \$62.4 Million to buy meat which raises the question, I wonder where all the vegetables, fruits and nuts they buy come from?

I just returned from holding AAM meetings in Greenwood, Florida and Headland, Alabama. We had a great turnout for both meetings with a few attending that were involved with the tractorcades during the early days of AAM. There's interest in AAM from the farmers who wanted to know AAM policy positions. These farmers need AAM's support as they struggle with many issues including not receiving any disaster help since losing all their crops to Hurricane Michael last Fall. I want to thank Zeke Williams, Fred Williams' grandson and Tom

Curl for setting up the Florida meeting and Ronnie Davis for the meeting in Alabama. I look forward to continuing to work with them to build AAM in the Southeast.

On a sad note, Senator Cochran of Mississippi passed away this week. He was a leader on agriculture issues both in the House and Senate where he chaired both the Senate Agriculture Committee and Appropriations. He was a southern gentleman that worked across the isle to find common ground to make progress for Rural America.

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