

AAM Senter On The Hill 7-14-21

I want to thank everyone that is a member of AAM for all your great work supporting our policies. AAM has always focused on price, producers need a fair price in the marketplace. It does not matter if you are a conservative or liberal, we agree on price.

AAM has always supported a permanent Disaster Program for commodities. Years ago, when there was a disaster, Congress would move quickly and pass legislation to cover disaster losses. Now with Congress deadlocked most of the time, producers end up waiting sometimes years before a disaster program is rolled out. Help is on the way because the House Agriculture Committee is working on a permanent Disaster Program. The huge expanding drought covering almost half the country will help drive support for enactment of the new program so make sure to let your Senators and Members of Congress to support a permanent Disaster Program.

A change made by USDA will allow farmers to hay or graze cover crops planted on 'prevent plant' acres which will be a big help for certain producers.

President Biden issued an Executive Order that contained 72 initiatives to mandate 12 Federal Agencies to act against market concentration. One part was to the Federal Trade Commission to draft rules that would allow farmers to repair their own equipment without having to call the dealer for repairs, Right To Repair. AAM has supported this effort and wants to thank the President for listening.

USDA also was mandated to look at and change rules that allowed imported meat to be labeled Product of USA. AAM is urging that Country-of-Origin Labeling be reinstated for all imported agriculture products. As I mentioned in my last column, USDA is working on new rules to help protect farmers, ranchers, and poultry growers by amending the Packers and Stockyards Act. This action is the strongest against corporate concentration in decades.

I hope you are planning on coming to AAM Summer meeting in Manhattan, Kansas July 29<sup>th</sup>. It will be at the Four Points Sheraton, 530 Richards Dr. Manhattan, Kansas, 66502. We have a great day planned to reconnect with old friends and make new ones.

It is with great sadness I bring you the news that Gerald McCathern passed away yesterday. Gerald was one of the founders of AAM and was the Wagonmaster for AAM's historic Tractorcade to Washington, D.C. in 1979 and drove the lead tractor, leading thousands into D.C. His viewing will be Friday July 16<sup>th</sup> from 3-5 at Parkside Chapel in Hereford, Texas. The service will be Saturday, July 17<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM.

I am so blessed to have worked with Gerald and over the years to become family with Gerald and Bonnie and their family. God Bless you Gerald and your family, see you down the road my friend, where we will be telling stories again.

David Senter AAM President

