



"This time of testing has revealed the true character of the American people." George W. Bush

Farm Bureau

AFB American Farm Bureau Federation®

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Farm bill action moves to Senate

With House passage of the Farm Security Act (H.R. 2646) Oct. 5, expectations for Senate action on a farm bill this year intensified.

Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), the Senate Agriculture Committee's ranking member, announced Oct. 17 his version of a farm bill, the Lugar Farm and Ranch Equity Act of 2001. The bill would provide additional spending of only \$21.7 billion over five years, compared to the additional \$73.5 billion over 10 years in the House-passed Farm Security Act (H.R. 2646).

Lugar's bill would eliminate fixed, direct commodity payments by 2006 and replace them with an enhanced revenue insurance program and increases in conservation incentives.

Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman issued Oct. 17 a written statement on Lugar's bill, saying it is consistent with the administration's principles out-

lined in its report, "Food and Agricultural Policy: Taking Stock for the New Century." Veneman called the bill "a thoughtful piece of legislation" and seemed to endorse it. "The bill has many positive attributes consistent with our principles," Veneman said. The administration has not proposed farm bill legislation of its own.

In addition, Veneman said the administration still does not see the need to pass a farm bill until next year. "The administration believes it is unnecessary and unwise to undertake action on a farm bill in this wartime, national emergency environment," Veneman said.

The American Farm Bureau Federation noted President Bush's statements that the nation's business needs to continue, and a farm bill to provide long-term certainty and security for

U.S. farmers is an important piece of the nation's business.

"At a time when Congress is considering an economic stimulus package to shore up other sectors of our economy, we believe there should be just as much interest in an economic stimulus for the agricultural economy," said Tim Cansler, an AFBF director of congressional relations. "While the national economy has been on a downward trend since 2000, the agricultural economy has weathered more than three years of low prices and natural disasters." Agriculture represents about 16 percent of gross domestic product.

To measure the impact the House-passed farm bill would have on one state's economy, Farm Bureau analyzed the impact on nine counties in Iowa—one in each of the state's crop
See Farm bill action, page 8

FB urges attendance at TMDL meetings

The American Farm Bureau Federation is urging members to attend five public meetings the Environmental Protection Agency has scheduled to receive comments on the total maximum daily load program. EPA will use the stakeholder ideas and comments received at the meetings as well as written comments to design a new rulemaking proposal for TMDLs.

"It is important that we have large producer attendance and participation at these sessions so that we can have a positive impact on the development of the rule-making proposal," said AFBF President Bob Stallman. The original rule would have had a considerable regulatory impact on farmers and ranchers, and would have supplanted several successful, voluntary and incentive-based state water quality programs.

EPA has set themes for each of the meetings, but all TMDL issues will be open to discussion. The meeting times and locations will be as follows.

- Chicago, Ill., Congress Plaza Hotel, 520 South Michigan Ave.—Oct. 22, 1-6

p.m., and Oct. 23, 8 a.m.-noon. Theme: Implementation of TMDLs, Addressing Non-point Sources.

- Sacramento, Calif., Doubletree Hotel Sacramento, 2001 West Point Way—Nov. 1, 1-6 p.m., and Nov. 2, 8 a.m.-noon. Theme: Scope and Content of TMDLs.

- Atlanta, Ga., Atlanta Capitol Plaza Hotel, 450 Capitol Ave. S.W.—Nov. 7, 1-6 p.m., and Nov. 8, 8 a.m.-noon. Theme: EPA's Role, the Pace/Schedule for Development of TMDLs and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permitting Pre- and Post-TMDL.

- Oklahoma City, Okla., Hilton Oklahoma City Northwest, 2945 Northwest Expressway—Nov. 15, 1-6 p.m., and Nov. 16, 8 a.m.-noon. Theme: Listing Impaired Waters.

- Washington, D.C., Wyndham Washington, D.C., 1400 M St. N.W.—Dec. 11, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Theme: All issues.

Those who cannot attend the public meetings can submit written com-

ments before or after the meetings.

Farm Bureau and 14 other agricultural groups wrote EPA Sept. 10 to support EPA's delay in implementing the TMDL program rule to allow for additional public comment and seek less costly ways to achieve water quality goals. EPA has set April 30, 2003, as the new effective date for the rule. If EPA had not delayed the rule, it would have gone into effect Oct. 1 and farmers and ranchers would have been required to implement costly TMDL monitoring programs. The TMDL program, created by the Clean Water Act, is intended to measure the maximum amount of pollution that a body of water can receive and still meet water quality standards.

Farm Bureau and other groups had questioned the scientific basis for listing impaired waters, and Farm Bureau had legally challenged EPA's authority under the Clean Water Act to include non-point sources in the rule.

Additional information about the public meetings can be found on the Internet at www.epa.gov/owow/tmdl.

Corner Post



Source: USDA, NASS

VIEWPOINT

Terrorism will not destroy trade, food aid will be key

By John Schlageck

For the last several days, a common sight beaming from our television screens shows trucks backing into Afghanistan communities while men unload 50-kilo bags of wheat shipped from the United States.

Although Afghanistan is the home of Osama bin Laden and his al Qaida network of terrorists, the United States continues to help the hungry people of this war-torn nation. Most of the humanitarian wheat flowing into Afghanistan is soft white wheat that originated in the Pacific Northwest, according to the Kansas Wheat Commission. It arrives courtesy of the World Food Program.

"Milling technology is not very sophisticated in Afghanistan," says Dusti Fritz, Kansas Wheat Commission. "They like soft white wheat and use it in a flat bread called chapati."

So far, the initial impact of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States has had a minimal impact on the movement of U.S. grains, especially wheat. Buyers of U.S. wheat have continued to buy, while U.S. sellers continue to sell. There has not been a shake up in the distribution of food aid, even to the turbulent Middle East.

Now that the United States has unleashed its military might against bin Laden and the Taliban, it's time to



©WFP/MIKE HUGGINS

Wheat donated by the U.S. government is loaded onto World Food Program trucks in northwest Pakistan for transport into Afghanistan.

bring the might of capitalism to bear on this part of the world.

While the terrorists destroyed the World Trade Center in New York, they will never destroy trade. Humanitarian aid along with trade can, and will, provide a more long-term solution than all the military hardware we throw at terrorists.

Trade—including wheat from Kansas—with people in this part of the

world has the ability to increase the material well-being of every country and every person it touches. Trade and humanitarian aid have the potential to promote democracy and the American way of life bin Laden so desperately seeks to destroy. What better way to show these people what our country is all about than to give these starving families food for their children.

Helping feed the world has been a goal of the United States for nearly half a century. Aid in the form of food rather than money originated with Cheyenne County Farm Bureau in 1953. The northwestern Kansas farm organization drafted a foreign aid resolution that called for exporting grain to other countries. The Farm Bureau leaders believed that if underdeveloped countries were able to secure food, once they became prosperous they would become major buyers of U.S. commodities. The Food for Peace law, P.L. 480, was signed the next year on July 10, 1954.

Food for Peace was an outgrowth of this country's foreign aid policy. A few years after the conclusion of World War II, the United States implemented plans to help countries devastated by the war. The Marshall Plan, in Western Europe, became the cornerstone of this newly emerging program.

As a country founded on humanitarian principles, we must never forget the power associated with supplying hungry people with food. Not since the last great world war has helping feed the world been as important as it is today.

John Schlageck is the managing editor of Kansas Living, a quarterly magazine published by the Kansas Farm Bureau.

CAPITAL UPDATE

Farm Bureau continues to work on FQPA implementation

Since 1996, the American Farm Bureau Federation has taken a leading role in the unfolding implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) by the Environmental Protection Agency. With the August 2002 FQPA deadline to reassess 66 percent of tolerances, Farm Bureau faces a new challenge.

"Our ultimate goal from the beginning was simple—to make sure producers continue to have access to safe, affordable crop protectant products," said Adam Sharp, an AFBF director of congressional relations. "Farm Bureau has worked hard to make sure EPA

used a clear process based on sound science that also allows users of crop protectants to have a say. Our efforts need to be stronger than ever as we face this new deadline."

Under federal law, EPA has until 2006 to review the safety of all existing crop protectant tolerances that were in effect as of August 1996. Tolerance assessment is being accomplished through the pesticide re-registration program by reviewing all existing uses of a pesticide and by revoking tolerances for pesticide uses that have been canceled.

Since the law requires that the review of pesticides be based on the level

of suspected risk, EPA placed all crop protectants in one of three priority groups. While the priority groups do not define a schedule, they do show the general priority for action.

Among the crop protectants found in EPA's Priority Group 1 currently undergoing tolerance reassessment are organophosphate pesticides (such as Lorsban, Guthion and Imadian), carbamate pesticides (such as Carbaryl, Carbofuran and Aldocarb), organochlorine pesticides (such as Lindane and Endosulfan) and carcinogens (such as Atrazine and Simazine).

Of this group, the organophosphates and other pesticides that are chemically similar are additionally reviewed under the EPA-developed framework for conducting cumulative risk assessments. EPA will be able to consider whether the risks posed by a group of pesticides meet the current safety standard of "reasonable certainty of no harm" as defined by FQPA. Pesticides that meet this standard may then successfully complete tolerance reassessment.

Farm Bureau is currently submitting comments on multiple cumulative risk assessment policy papers EPA is generat-

ing this fall. The agency has targeted Dec. 1 for the release of the organophosphate preliminary cumulative risk assessment, with a technical briefing on the preliminary risk assessment in January 2002 and the public comment period ending in mid-March 2002. A complete revised cumulative risk assessment will then be developed in time to meet the Aug. 1, 2002, FQPA deadline.

"It is critical that Farm Bureau remain involved during this process, since our work is definitely not complete on FQPA," Sharp said. "The EPA's risk assessment process still needs further refinement and various policies still need to be developed, including the FQPA cumulative risk assessment process that is currently under way."

"In addition, more data needs to be generated for other areas of pesticide exposure, and pressure on EPA to use sound science in risk assessments will need to continue through 2006 when FQPA implementation and product review should be completed. We have appreciated the efforts already put forth by our members and will continue to work together as we strive to reach our goal."

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How do exchange rates affect agricultural trade?

When the U.S. dollar becomes stronger in relation to the currencies of a number of countries—especially those of our competitors and key import markets—U.S. products become less competitive in general.

The U.S. dollar has appreciated relative to the currencies of most of our trading partners over the last five years. The currencies of Korea, Brazil and Mexico have dropped significantly against the U.S. dollar, while the Japanese yen declined through late 1998, began a moderate recovery, then fell again.

When U.S. exports fall during a period when the dollar is considered strong, as has happened in recent years, questions arise about U.S. monetary policy. Questions also arise about the monetary policies of our trading partners and whether they might be manipulating their policies to give their exporters an advantage over U.S. producers.

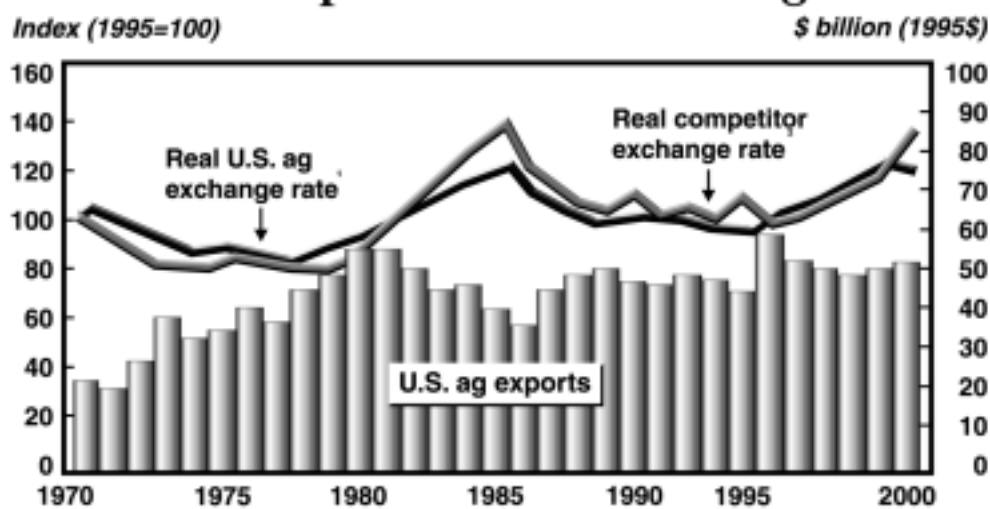
In recent months, questions have also been asked about what specific actions or offsets might be available and permissible to help producers compete with lower priced products from other countries.

The following is an effort to respond to these questions about monetary policy and trade.

Q Do fluctuating exchange rates affect the competitiveness of U.S. agricultural products?

A Yes, but they are not the only factor that determines whether U.S. producers can compete with their foreign counterparts. Other factors include supply levels (mainly affected by weather and government programs), costs of production (including input costs, regulatory requirements, land costs and taxes), infrastructure, product quality and, of course, the same factors in competing countries. In fact, a strong currency can make

U.S. ag exports remain below mid-1990s peak as dollar strengthens



Total U.S. exports 2000 preliminary.

¹ Index of bilateral U.S.-dollar exchange rates (U.S.-export market countries) adjusted for inflation and weighted by country shares of U.S. exports.

² Index of bilateral U.S.-dollar exchange rates (U.S.-competitor countries) adjusted for inflation and weighted by countries' export shares of world exports (excluding the United States).

Source: Economic Research Service, USDA

input costs lower than in countries with weaker currencies.

Q Do exchange rates affect import levels as much as exports?

A Studies have shown that, in general, a strong dollar does not significantly change import patterns or result in substitution of domestic for imported agricultural products. Bigger factors affecting imports include per capita income growth and overall competitiveness of foreign producers. Of course, in certain specific products, a strengthening dollar can attract more imports and put additional pressure on domestic prices.

Q Are other countries manipulating their currencies, keeping

them weak, to give their producers a competitive advantage in world markets or in the U.S. market?

A It is possible, but it is more likely that foreign currencies are weaker due to the relatively weaker performance of their economies. The Canadian dollar, for example, has fluctuated widely in relation to the U.S. dollar this year in response to macroeconomic factors, including the health of the Canadian economy, according to the Federal Reserve Board. The trade-off for countries that try to put downward pressure on their currencies for trade benefits is the potential for higher inflation and higher interest rates, neither of which helps stimulate growth.

Q Would it be possible to offset the lower price of foreign products entering the U.S. market resulting from a weak foreign currency by imposing a special "currency adjustment levy?"

A There are three serious impediments to doing this.

(1) Virtually all U.S. tariffs are bound in the World Trade Organization, meaning that any given tariff may be increased only through a process that requires the United States to compensate affected exporting countries by reducing tariffs on one or more other products of equal trade value. Applying a currency adjustment levy would be equivalent to increasing the normal tariff and would require the United States to compensate the affected country. In addition, exchange rates affect the price of all imports from a country. Therefore, a currency adjustment levy would have to be applied to all imports from that country and it would be effectively impossible to

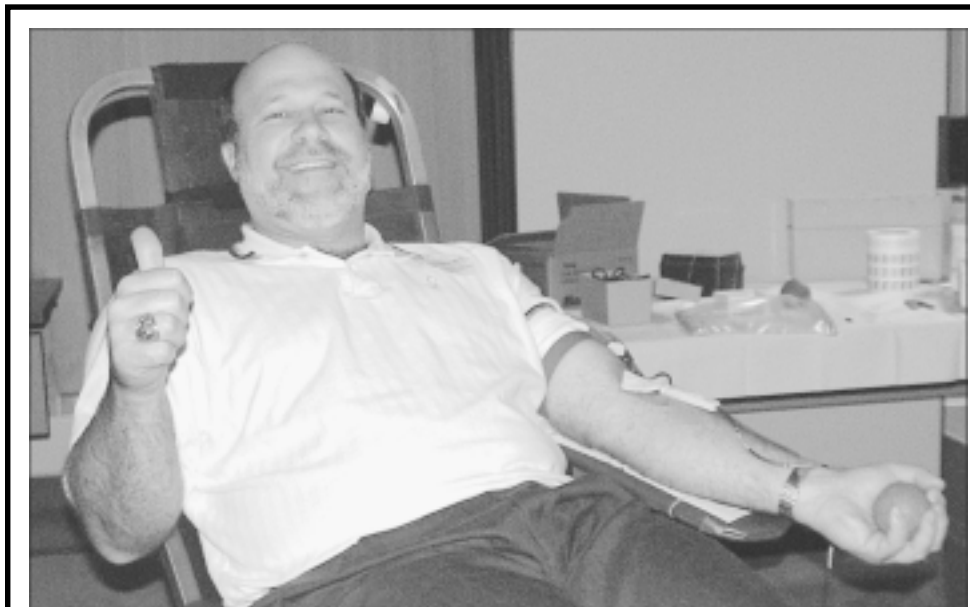
compensate the country as WTO rules require. The affected country would, as a result, be authorized to retaliate against an equivalent value of U.S. exports.

(2) WTO rules also require countries to treat all trading partners equally, so any currency adjustment levy would have to be applied to imports from all countries. The U.S. dollar fluctuates differently compared with the currencies of the 121 or so member countries of the WTO. So the only logical way to apply a levy equally would be to adjust the levy for a basket of foreign currencies and apply the same levy to imports from all countries. This would have enormous implications for U.S. and global trade, because whatever tool the United States uses to offset exchange rate fluctuations is sure to be used by other countries as well.

(3) Based on the above problems, changes to international trading rules would have to be negotiated to make such a system work. Even in the unlikely event that other countries, or even the United States, would be willing to discuss the concept of changing these WTO commitments, agreement would first have to be reached on a base period when rates of exchange were considered to be normal. Most countries would probably seek to have the current period become the base. Assuming that the dollar is more likely to weaken than strengthen in the future, the effect of starting with current exchange rates as the base would be to have other countries imposing currency adjustment levies on our exports rather than the other way around.

Q Would it be possible to offset the strength of the dollar by making direct payments to producers; for example, through income supports under the WTO "green box?"

A Since offset payments would be based on current prices, they probably could not be defended as decoupled in order to be considered "green box" supports. They would therefore be subject to the \$19.1 billion payment limit under the Uruguay Round Agriculture Agreement along with loan deficiency payments, marketing loan gains and other price support payments. Further, the prospect of other countries using exchange fluctuations to justify payments to their farmers could harm U.S. farmers. Lastly, other segments of the economy, such as manufactured goods and services, are equally affected by the value of the U.S. dollar and could be expected to question why such payments would be made only in agriculture.



Giving the gift of life

American Farm Bureau Federation President Bob Stallman sets an example for Farm Bureau employees at the Oct. 10 blood drive at AFBF's Park Ridge, Ill., office. A total of 38 people signed up and 30 units of blood were collected.



Agricultural terrorism at forefront of nation's concerns

Farmers, government and the public are taking the threat of agricultural terrorism, or agroterrorism, more seriously in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Those attacks have heightened efforts to predict how and when terrorists will try to strike again, and prevent them from succeeding.

While counter-terrorism experts and farmers have known for years that our agriculture industry is susceptible to tampering, only recently has that threat been in the national spotlight.

A biological attack on U.S. agriculture could not only threaten public health and cause farmers to lose animals and crops, it could also jeopardize our \$50 billion export markets.

Joe Miller, an American Farm Bureau Federation regulatory specialist for livestock, says that livestock farmers are well aware of the importance of biosecurity. Nonetheless, Farm Bureau is urging farmers and ranchers to take extra precautions in allowing people to come onto their property.

Miller also pointed to the need for Congress to pass the Animal Health Protection Act (S. 1482 and H.R. 2002) to consolidate and modernize animal health laws. "Right now there's just a hodgepodge of laws out there and the last thing we need in case of an outbreak is everybody arguing over who does what," Miller said.

Infecting a herd of livestock that lives out in the open would be easier than attacking people, and some diseases such as foot-and-mouth could spread quickly as farmers move and disperse their herds. Thus, while the media attention lately has focused on

rare cases of human exposure to anthrax, agriculture faces a higher risk of contamination, lost assets, and lost business.

President Bush and Attorney General John Ashcroft have advised the public not to panic, but have called for citizens to "have a heightened sense of awareness of their surroundings," be vigilant in protecting against terrorism and report any suspicious activity to law enforcement authorities. That advice is especially important for those involved in producing our nation's food and fiber.

There are numerous efforts under way to address the agroterrorism threat. AFBF President Bob Stallman wrote the president Oct. 2 to request that the new Office of Homeland Security be staffed with at least one specialist in safeguarding agriculture and the nation's food supply. Stallman also offered AFBF's help to advise Tom Ridge, who recently resigned as governor of Pennsylvania to head the new office.

"An attack aimed at the safety of our food supply and agricultural infrastructure could cause widespread and long-term damage," Stallman wrote. "Farm Bureau urges that comprehensive preventative measures be endorsed and carried out by the Office of Homeland Security to safeguard the U.S. food supply and agricultural infrastructure."

Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Kan.) introduced Oct. 15 legislation to allocate \$3.5 billion over the next 10 years to upgrade the Agriculture Department's research facilities and capabilities. The bill would beef up security procedures; fund training in rapid response strat-

egy; and provide grants to develop vaccines, antidotes and disease-resistant varieties of plants.

Roberts emphasized, "I'm not trying to panic anybody, not trying to be an alarmist. As the president has indicated time and time again, we have to be vigilant. We have to use common sense. We have to use logic. It is only logical to me, it seems, that we take a step of this nature." Roberts said he had heard of no specific threats to agricultural operations as part of his work on the Senate Agriculture and Select Intelligence Committees.

Sens. Chuck Hagel (R-Neb.) and John Edwards (D-N.C.) Oct. 2 introduced legislation to create a \$100 million block grant program to help states fight agroterrorism. The Hagel-Edwards bill would also provide \$350 million to USDA to improve food safety.

Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman announced last week the distribution of nearly \$2 million in grants to 32 states to bolster emergency animal disease prevention, preparedness, response and recovery systems. Veneman said the grant funding "will be used for training, equipment purchases and to conduct emergency preparedness exercises to help strengthen these important programs."

Federal Bureau of Investigation officials have said that more investigation will be needed to determine whether a link to terrorism exists in recent cases of exposure to anthrax. One Florida man has died of the disease.

According to AFBF's Miller, anthrax does not spread easily. It is more

prevalent in grazing animals than in people. While any animal that grazes can swallow anthrax spores from the soil, cattle, sheep and goats seem to be the most susceptible, followed by horses and dogs. Obviously, people can get anthrax, but human cases are very uncommon. Until the recent cases, there had been only one other human case in the United States during the past 15 years. Human deaths caused by anthrax are even rarer since anthrax can be effectively treated with common antibiotics.

The best protection against anthrax on the farm is simply good hygiene. It is important to be careful around sick animals. One should always bury or burn animals dead from suspected anthrax.

Generally, anthrax in livestock is less likely in cooler weather.

In a related development, Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) and Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) have introduced AFBF-opposed legislation (S. 1501 and H.R. 1671) to consolidate food safety responsibility under an independent, federal food safety agency. Food safety monitoring is currently divided between USDA, the Food and Drug Administration and other federal agencies. USDA inspects most meat, poultry and egg processing facilities. Farm Bureau believes USDA does an excellent job of ensuring food safety while avoiding overly burdensome regulations that could impede farmers' profitability, and should maintain its oversight of meat, poultry and egg inspection.

Steps to protect your farm from terrorism

Earlier this year, the Animal Agriculture Alliance, of which Farm Bureau is a member, developed steps farmers can take to contain the domestic terrorism threat. These steps seem even more prudent in light of recent events and will help farmers prevent and prepare for the possibility of becoming a target. Depending on the size and nature of your farming operation, some of these steps will be more feasible than others. But we recommend them all to you and hope that you

will implement them as appropriate.

✓ Talk seriously with your local police, fire and emergency departments. Get to know them and let them know that you are making security a priority at your facility and will report any suspicious activities.

✓ Make sure the appropriate public authorities have copies of maps of your facilities that indicate service shut-off locations, security areas and any other areas of sensitivity or vulnerability.

✓ Evaluate every request for information about your operation. Never agree to an unusual request unless you have verified its validity. Whenever possible, require requests for sensitive infor-

mation or tours to be in writing. Obtain as much information as possible—name, telephone number, address, reason for request, what the person will be doing with the information, who else has been contacted, etc. If anyone hesitates to cooperate with these requests, do not reveal information about or provide access to your operation.

✓ Ask for references. Make calls to verify that the person requesting any sensitive information is who he or she claims to be, especially if the person claims to be a reporter.

✓ Ensure that access to your facility is controlled. Establish check-in procedures for visitors. Require visitors

to sign in and out upon entering and leaving the facility. Use visitor identification badges. This protects your visitor as well as you and your operation.

✓ Escort visitors at all times while they are on the premises. Employees should be instructed to report all unescorted visitors to the appropriate management and security personnel immediately.

✓ Maintain basic security by locking office doors and file cabinets. Have firewalls installed on your computer systems. Maintain separate business and personal computers. Keep all animal health products under lock and key. Use security lighting and alarms.



Foot-and-mouth surveillance may prevent attacks

Recent events have sparked the public's interest in preventing entry of biological threats into the United States. But, the Agriculture Department has already implemented heightened security procedures to prevent the introduction of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD). These tighter than normal security measures, in place since February, in addition to routine screening practices, may have already prevented entry of a biological agent and they continue to protect animal and plant health.

While it is impossible to know what might have happened, or whether the safeguarding activities in place have, in fact, prevented an attack on U.S. agriculture, recent events have underscored the importance of the government's efforts to keep contagious animal diseases like FMD out of the country. The United States has banned imports of many animal products, live ruminants and swine from FMD-affected countries.

Due to this year's increase in FMD flare-ups around the world, USDA has assigned additional inspectors and dog teams at airports to check incoming flights and passengers.

FMD is no longer making daily headlines, but outbreaks continue to vex livestock producers in parts of Europe, South America, Asia and Africa. The United States has been free of FMD since 1929. The United States in May lifted import restrictions on 10 European Union countries. Restrictions remain in five others.

More than 4 million farm animals, out of herds of approximately 60 million, have been eliminated in Great



Countries where foot-and-mouth disease has been reported since 2000.

Britain due to FMD. That is a large number of animals, but it is only a fraction of the damage that would be caused if an FMD outbreak of the same scale occurred in the United States, where the herds total an estimated 160 million head.

FMD is the most contagious animal disease known, with nearly 100 percent of exposed animals becoming infected. One report estimates that if FMD became established in the United States, it would cost livestock producers an estimated \$12 billion just to deal with the direct consequences of the crisis, such as the cost of drugs and veterinary services, lost production and lower prices. In addition, the pub-

lic would bear the multibillion-dollar cost of depopulating herds, and other industries linked to the dairy and livestock industries would suffer losses and unemployment. Finally, U.S. exports of meat and dairy products would halt abruptly and would not resume for at least six months, but probably much longer.

USDA's foreign animal disease diagnostic laboratory on Plum Island, New York, is the custodian for a bank of FMD vaccines owned by Canada, Mexico and the United States. If necessary, scientists can come up with new vaccines for newly emerging types of FMD in as little as four days. There are currently seven different types and

more than 60 subtypes of FMD. Vaccines for FMD must match the type and subtype present in the affected area and there is no universal vaccine against the disease. Use of an FMD vaccine causes a country to lose its FMD-free status.

USDA, the state departments of agriculture and farm organizations like Farm Bureau have worked to educate livestock producers about the importance of diagnosing FMD early. The support of producers is key to successful surveillance and prevention. USDA has also worked to educate the public, particularly hurrying travelers, about the importance of airport security procedures to prevent entry of FMD and other diseases.

Britain in September lifted restrictions on thousands of farms in northern England after evidence from blood tests showed no significant level of FMD. But another area was classified as high risk following newly confirmed cases of the disease on Sept. 30. There have been 2,030 confirmed cases of FMD in England.

FMD is a viral disease of cattle and swine, as well as certain ruminants. It is one of the most dreaded animal diseases because it can spread quickly and easily, and it causes severe economic impacts. The disease reduces meat and milk production. The most obvious signs of FMD include blisters followed by sores on the mouth or feet, slobbering and lameness. Humans are not susceptible to the disease, but they can spread it to animals if they have been on a farm or come into contact with animals infected with FMD.

Maintain fencing and gates. Post signs indicating restricted areas and no trespassing.

✓ Thoroughly screen all job applicants. Take the time to check all references. Double check anyone who shows a university or college identification card. Any hesitation by the prospective employee should exclude him or her from further consideration.

✓ Watch for unusual behavior by new employees. Pay attention to workers who stay unusually late, arrive unusually early or access files, information or other areas of the facility outside their responsibility. Do not allow workers to remove documents from

the site. Be suspicious of employees who ask questions on sensitive subjects or bring cameras or video equipment onsite. Watch for workers who are standoffish. Note the mode of dress, e.g. absence of leather or other animal products.

✓ Tell all workers at hiring that unannounced locker checks are part of your routine security maintenance operation and that your operation will report and file charges against any employee who breaks the law.

✓ Inform employees in vulnerable areas that unauthorized surveillance or infiltration is a possibility. Any suspicious activity should be re-

ported to supervisors or the appropriate security person immediately.

✓ Watch for warning signs that your operation may be a target. Such signs can include an increase in requests for animal specific information or on-farm tours, calls and letters questioning or criticizing your business or particular practices, any harassing calls and letters to you or a nearby operation, increase in media attention to issues relating to the livestock industry, special interest group campaigns locally and unusual interest in gaining employment.

✓ Develop a company statement concerning care, treatment and

nutrition for your animals. Designate a single spokesperson to handle all calls about animal care, animal rights or any company policy concerning animals.

✓ Conduct routine tests of your security system and, if necessary, mock drills on your response procedures.

✓ Develop a crisis communication and action plan. Establish policies and procedures for handling disruptive and illegal situations, as well as for handling adverse publicity that might result. In developing response procedures, remember that steps to protect people should take priority over steps to protect property.

FOR THE RECORD

Roll Call

vote

vote

vote

vote

vote

vote

vote

House rejects Boehlert-Kind amendment

Oct. 4, 2001

The House rejected, 200-226, an amendment sponsored by Reps. Sherwood Boehlert (R-N.Y.), Ron Kind (D-Wis.), Wayne Gilchrest (R-Md.) and John Dingell (D-Mich.) that would have transferred \$1.9 billion per year from the commodity title of the farm bill to the conservation title. Farm Bureau urged a "nay" (N) vote.

House approves FB-supported farm bill

Oct. 5, 2001

The House approved, 291-120, the Farm Security Act of 2001 (H.R. 2646). The American Farm Bureau Federation-supported bill would provide \$167 billion over 10 years, including an additional \$73.5 billion for commodity support, conservation and nutrition programs. It would replace the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, which expires in September 2002. Farm Bureau urged a "yea" (Y) vote.

LEGEND: Y,y — yea N,n — nay ? — not voting S — Speaker

Name	Party	Vote 1	Vote 2
6 Baker	(R)	N	?
7 John	(D)	NY	

Maine

1 Allen	(D)	y	Y
2 Baldacci	(D)	y	Y

Maryland

1 Gilchrest	(R)	y	Y
2 Ehrlich	(R)	y	Y
3 Cardin	(D)	y	n
4 Wynn	(D)	y	Y
5 Hoyer	(D)	y	Y
6 Bartlett	(R)	NY	
7 Cummings	(D)	y	Y
8 Morella	(R)	y	n

Massachusetts

1 Olver	(D)	y	?
2 Neal	(D)	y	n
3 McGovern	(D)	y	Y
4 Frank	(D)	y	n
5 Meehan	(D)	y	n
6 Tierney	(D)	y	n
7 Markey	(D)	y	n
8 Capuano	(D)	y	n
9 Vacant			
10 Delahunt	(D)	y	n

Michigan

1 Stupak	(D)	y	Y
2 Hoekstra	(R)	y	n
3 Ehlers	(R)	y	Y
4 Camp	(R)	NY	
5 Barcia	(D)	NY	
6 Upton	(R)	y	Y
7 Smith	(R)	NY	
8 Rogers	(R)	NY	
9 Kildee	(D)	y	Y
10 Bonior	(D)	y	Y
11 Knollenberg	(R)	NY	
12 Levin	(D)	NY	
13 Rivers	(D)	y	n
14 Conyers	(D)	y	n
15 Kilpatrick	(D)	y	?
16 Dingell	(D)	y	Y

Minnesota

1 Gutknecht	(R)	NY	
2 Kennedy	(R)	NY	
3 Ramstad	(R)	y	n
4 McCollum	(D)	y	Y
5 Sabo	(D)	NY	
6 Luther	(D)	y	Y
7 Peterson	(D)	NY	
8 Oberstar	(D)	y	n

Mississippi

1 Wicker	(R)	NY	
2 Thompson	(D)	N	?
3 Pickering	(R)	NY	
4 Shows	(D)	NY	
5 Taylor	(D)	NY	

Missouri

1 Clay	(D)	y	Y
2 Akin	(R)	NY	
3 Gephardt	(D)	y	n
4 Skelton	(D)	NY	
5 McCarthy	(D)	y	?
6 Graves	(R)	NY	
7 Blunt	(R)	NY	
8 Emerson	(R)	NY	
9 Hulshof	(R)	NY	

Montana

AL Rehberg	(R)	NY	
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Nebraska

1 Bereuter	(R)	NY	
2 Terry	(R)	NY	
3 Osborne	(R)	NY	

Nevada

1 Berkley	(D)	NY	
2 Gibbons	(R)	?	?

New Hampshire

1 Sununu	(R)	y	n
2 Bass	(R)	y	n

New Jersey

1 Andrews	(D)	y	Y
2 Lobliondo	(R)	y	n
3 Saxton	(R)	y	Y
4 Smith	(R)	y	Y
5 Roukema	(R)	y	n
6 Pallone	(D)	y	Y
7 Ferguson	(R)	y	n
8 Pascrell	(D)	y	Y
9 Rothman	(D)	y	n
10 Payne	(D)	y	Y

Name	Party	Vote 1	Vote 2
11 Frelinghuysen	(R)	y	n
12 Holt	(D)	y	Y
13 Menendez	(D)	y	n

New Mexico

1 Wilson	(R)	NY	
2 Skeen	(R)	NY	
3 Udall	(D)	y	n

New York

1 Grucci	(R)	y	Y
2 Israel	(D)	y	Y
3 King	(R)	y	n
4 McCarthy	(D)	y	Y
5 Ackerman	(D)	y	Y
6 Meeks	(D)	y	Y
7 Crowley	(D)	y	Y
8 Nadler	(D)	y	n
9 Weiner	(D)	y	n
10 Towns	(D)	y	Y
11 Owens	(D)	y	n
12 Velazquez	(D)	y	n
13 Fossella	(R)	y	n
14 Maloney	(D)	y	n
15 Rangel	(D)	y	Y
16 Serrano	(D)	y	Y
17 Engel	(D)	y	Y
18 Lowey	(D)	y	Y
19 Kelly	(R)	y	Y
20 Gilman	(R)	y	Y
21 McNulty	(D)	y	n
22 Sweeney	(R)	y	Y
23 Boehlert	(R)	y	n
24 McHugh	(R)	y	n
25 Walsh	(R)	y	Y
26 Hinchey	(D)	y	n
27 Reynolds	(R)	y	Y
28 Slaughter	(D)	y	n
29 Lofgren	(D)	y	n
30 Quinn	(R)	y	n
31 Houghton	(R)	?	?

North Carolina

1 Clayton	(D)	NY	
2 Etheridge	(D)	NY	
3 Jones	(R)	NY	
4 Price	(D)	y	Y
5 Burr	(R)	NY	
6 Coble	(R)	NY	
7 McIntyre	(D)	NY	
8 Hayes	(R)	NY	
9 Myrick	(R)	N	n
10 Ballenger	(R)	NY	
11 Taylor	(R)	NY	
12 Watt	(D)	NY	

North Dakota

AL Pomeroy	(D)	NY	
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Ohio

1 Chabot	(R)	N	n
2 Portman	(R)	NY	
3 Hall	(D)	NY	
4 Oxley	(R)	NY	
5 Gillmor	(R)	NY	
6 Strickland	(D)	y	Y
7 Hobson	(R)	NY	
8 Boehner	(R)	NY	
9 Kaptur	(D)	y	n
10 Kucinich	(D)	y	n
11 Jones	(D)	y	n
12 Tiberi	(R)	NY	
13 Brown	(D)	y	n
14 Sawyer	(D)	y	Y
15 Pryce	(R)	y	Y

Name	Party	Vote 1	Vote 2
16 Regula	(R)	NY	
17 Traficant	(D)	NY	
18 Ney	(R)	y	Y
19 Latourette	(R)	y	Y

Oklahoma

1 Largent	(R)	NY	
2 Carson	(D)	NY	
3 Watkins	(R)	NY	
4 Watts	(R)	NY	
5 Istook	(R)	N	n
6 Lucas	(R)	NY	

Oregon

1 Wu	(D)	y	Y
2 Walden	(R)	NY	
3 Blumenauer	(D)	y	n
4 Defazio	(D)	y	n
5 Hooley	(D)	y	Y

Pennsylvania

1 Brady	(D)	y	n
2 Fattah	(D)	y	n
3 Borski	(D)	y	n
4 Hart	(R)	y	Y
5 Peterson	(R)	NY	
6 Holden	(D)	y	Y
7 Weldon	(R)	y	Y
8 Greenwood	(R)	y	Y
9 Shuster	(I)	y	Y
10 Sherwood	(R)	y	n
11 Kanjorski	(D)	y	n
12 Murtha	(D)	y	n
13 Hoeffel	(D)	y	n
14 Coyne	(D)	y	n
15 Toomey	(R)	y	n
16 Pitts	(R)	N	n
17 Gekas	(R)	NY	
18 Doyle	(D)	y	Y
19 Platts	(R)	NY	
20 Mascara	(D)	y	Y
21 English	(R)	NY	

Rhode Island

1 Kennedy	(D)	y	Y
2 Langevin	(D)	y	Y

South Carolina

1 Brown	(R)	NY	
2 Vacant			
3 Graham	(R)	NY	
4 Demint	(R)	N	n
5 Spratt	(D)	NY	
6 Clyburn	(D)	NY	

South Dakota

AL Thune	(R)	NY	
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Tennessee

1 Jenkins	(R)	NY	
2 Duncan	(R)	N	?
3 Wamp	(R)	N	n
4 Hilleary	(R)	NY	
5 Clement	(D)	NY	
6 Gordon	(D)	NY	
7 Bryant	(R)	NY	
8 Tanner	(D)	NY	
9 Ford	(D)	NY	

Texas

1 Sandlin	(D)	NY	
2 Turner	(D)	NY	
3 Johnson, S.	(R)	NY	
4 Hall	(D)	NY	
5 Sessions	(R)	NY	
6 Barton	(R)	NY	

Name	Party	Vote 1	Vote 2
7 Culberson	(R)	N	n
8 Brady	(R)	NY	
9 Lampson	(D)	NY	
10 Doggett	(D)	y	n
11 Edwards	(D)	NY	
12 Granger	(R)	NY	
13 Thornberry	(R)	NY	
14 Paul	(R)	N	n
15 Hinojosa	(D)	NY	
16 Reyes	(D)	NY	
17 Stenholm	(D)	NY	
18 Jackson-Lee	(D)	y	Y
19 Combest	(R)	NY	
20 Gonzalez	(D)	NY	
21 Smith	(R)	NY	
22 Delay	(R)	N	n
23 Bonilla	(R)	NY	
24 Frost	(D)	NY	
25 Bentsen	(D)	NY	
26 Armey	(R)	N	n
27 Ortiz	(D)	NY	
28 Rodriguez	(D)	NY	
29 Green	(D)	y	Y
30 Johnson, E.	(D)	y	Y

Utah

1 Hansen	(R)	NY	
2 Matheson	(D)	NY	
3 Cannon	(R)	NY	

Vermont

AL Sanders	(I)	y	n
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Virginia

1 Davis, J.	(R)	NY	
2 Schrock	(R)	N	n
3 Scott	(D)	NY	
4 Forbes	(R)	NY	
5 Goode	(I)	NY	
6 Goodlatte	(R)	NY	
7 Cantor	(R)	NY	
8 Moran	(D)	y	

Colorado ranchers fight chronic wasting disease

By Karen Salaz

The sound of elk bugling echoes throughout the Rocky Mountain high country, signaling mating season. This year the ancient ritual carries with it a haunting overture. Chronic wasting disease (CWD), which attacks the neurological systems of elk and deer and causes chronic weight loss and eminent death, is spreading at an epidemic rate.

Colorado has quarantined 1,600 elk on seven ranches, and agriculture officials have ordered 148 elk at 20 of the state's ranches destroyed and tested.

Until now, the incidence of CWD has been rare. The brain-wasting malady belongs to the transmissible spongiform encephalopathies family, which includes bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or mad cow disease, and scrapie. It is now on the rise among both wild and domestic elk and deer.

To date, the disease has been found in about 1 percent of wild elk and 3-15 percent of deer in portions of north-eastern and north central Colorado, and parts of Wyoming and Nebraska. It has also been found in Canada and Korea. The story however goes far beyond the wild—the disease has been identified in at least three Colorado captive herds.

Compounding the malady's impact is the fact that there is no live-animal diagnostic test, known prevention or treatment. Researchers are working to develop live-animal diagnostic tests and determine the origin and mode of



Colorado Farm Bureau members Dave and Sue Whittlesey have, so far, avoided chronic wasting disease (CWD) in their elk herd in Delta County. Colorado producers and wildlife officials are taking precautions to protect domestic and wild elk populations from CWD exposure.

transmission of CWD. Research suggests that the disease may be harbored in the soil from dying and dead animals.

Colorado Farm Bureau member and elk rancher Dave Whittlesey is working to resolve the current dilemma. "Elk producers are dealing positively with this disease and we will eradicate it at great personal cost to our producers," said Whittlesey. "Regardless of whether we get paid for the animals that are destroyed or not, we recognize we need to protect the integrity of wild elk in this state and we will do whatever we have to do."

The Agriculture Department has authorized \$2.6 million from Commodity Credit Corporation funds to implement a CWD enhanced surveillance and indemnity program in the United States. The Colorado and federal governments will reimburse producers for destroyed animals. USDA has offered to buy up to 245 ranched elk in Colorado, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Utah, Idaho, South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Colorado's Agriculture Department

and Wildlife Division, along with USDA, have been working with elk ranchers and wildlife biologists identifying the scope of the disease spread through captive animals from infected herds bought and sold throughout the United States and Canada.

Quarantines are in effect on a growing number of elk ranches. Ranchers with animals identified as infected wait for their herds to be put down. Other ranchers wait for an elk register inventory and identification system analysis to see if they received animals from infected herds either directly or indirectly.

"Elk producers are going to try to do whatever we need to do to get this over with," said Whittlesey. "They all recognize that these animals need to be dealt with so that we can get a clear picture of where we are at."

Wildlife officials are on a fast track trying to control infected wild deer and elk populations.

The most obvious clinical sign of CWD is weight loss. Other, behavioral signs include decreased interaction with other animals, listlessness, lowering of the head, blank facial expression and repetitive walking in set patterns. In elk, signs can also include disinterest in food, excessive salivation and grinding of the teeth. CWD has not been positively linked to any human or livestock illness.

Karen Salaz is director of information and media services for the Colorado Farm Bureau Federation.

Pennsylvania FB conducts seminar via Internet

In its first attempt to provide interactive, Web-based training, the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau recently conducted a seminar on biotechnology and animal health via the Internet. The seminar was targeted toward farmers who wanted to learn the latest information about biotechnology products, handling and safety concerns, and how to protect their animals and farms from disease.

WITF, a public television station in Harrisburg, hosted the seminar at no cost to PFB. WITF offered the prize of free Web-based training to the organization that submitted the best explanation of how it would use the technology, and PFB won the contest. The program was filmed at WITF and broadcast live over the Internet on Aug. 10. Participants faxed, e-mailed and called-in their questions, most of which the panelists answered during the hour-long seminar.

More than 100 Pennsylvanians registered for the seminar, and there were 55 actual logins during the program. Five of the logins were from satellite locations at Pennsylvania State Univer-

sity extension sites and the Milton Hershey School, where the seminar was shown on large screens and people who did not have the necessary multimedia software and equipment at home could participate. PFB staff could not say exactly how many people participated, but believed it was between 150 and 200 people. Participants who logged on via the Internet needed a personal computer with speakers, video and audio cards and up-to-date multimedia software, including a media player.

Biotechnology and animal health was one of PFB's priority issues for 2001, as determined by its board of directors after their annual meeting. Gene Schenck, a former news anchor with a local television station, moderated the program, which was opened by PFB President Guy Donaldson. The panel included Dr. Herb Cole, professor of agricultural sciences at Pennsylvania State University; Dr. Gary Smith of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine; Rosemarie Watkins, an American Farm Bureau Federation senior director of

congressional relations; and David Mayonado, agronomic systems manager with Monsanto Corporation. Lorraine Potochney, PFB's Web site manager, created the Web promotions, programmed the Web site to record and automatically respond to new conference registrants, and was generally critical to the program's success.

Sue Bruggeman, PFB's director of program development and training, said the seminar "went really well."

"We received many complimentary comments on the conference," said Bruggeman, who received several requests to do another Web-based program in the future. Bruggeman estimated that the cost of doing a live Web-based seminar similar to the one that PFB provided on Aug. 10 would approach \$5,000. Bruggeman was not sure PFB could justify the investment it would take to produce another live Internet seminar, but pointed out that the ability to reach hundreds of farmers and others quickly could be very useful in a critical situation such as an outbreak of disease. PFB's seminar demonstrates how information on pre-

venting or containing an outbreak could be disseminated quickly and widely via the Internet.

In the meantime, PFB is looking into less costly ways of providing Web-based conferences, including streaming PowerPoint® slides on the Internet in conjunction with conference calls and white board presentations. Such presentations would provide ongoing, easy access to training for the growing number of farmers with current computer technology and Internet access, but very limited time.

To thank WITF for the free session, PFB employees plan to spend a morning answering telephones during the public television station's next fundraising drive. Bruggeman said that, in addition to helping the station, PFB would get additional good publicity by volunteering for the pledge drive.

Bruggeman noted that August is a busy time for farmers and hoped that many who could not participate in the live program would be able to view it later. The recorded seminar is available for viewing on PFB's Web site at www.pfb.com.

GRASSROOTS

Farmers cultivate fresh and productive ties with chefs

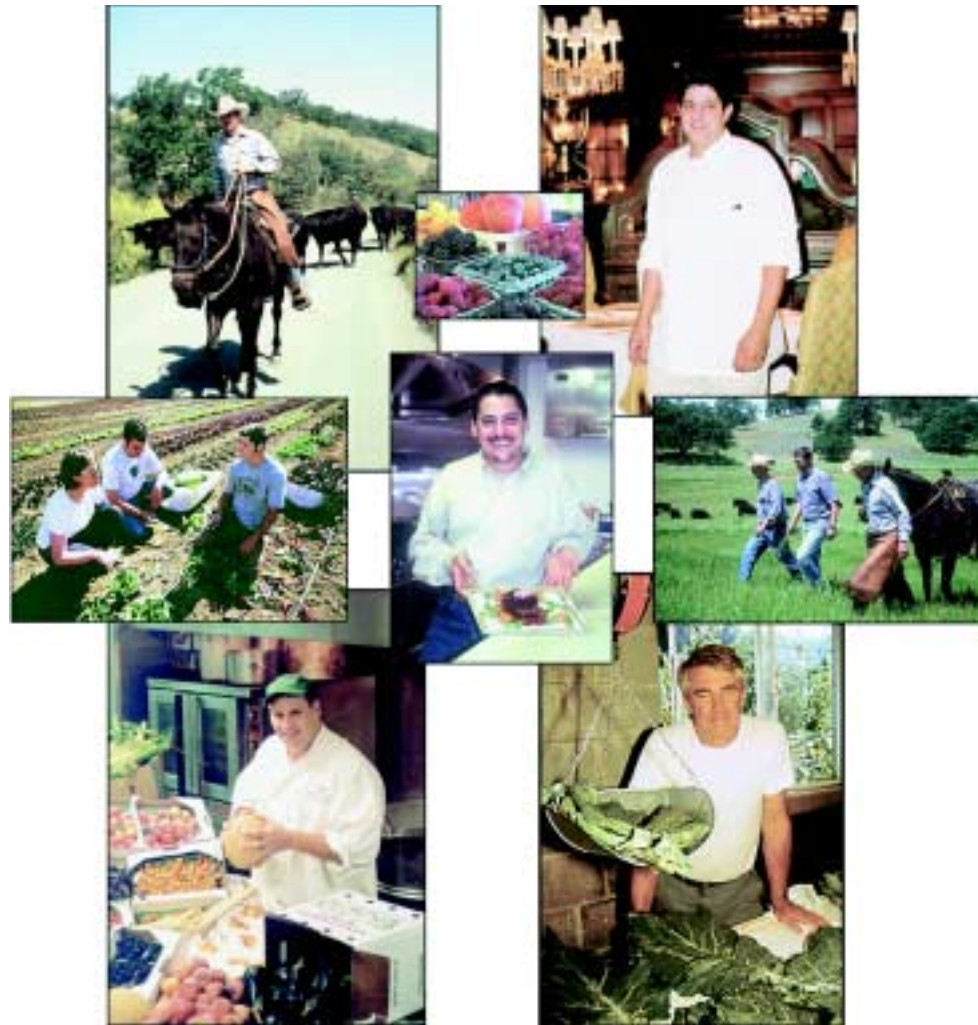
By Anna Burkholder

Diners may not always realize it, but some chefs go to great lengths to bring the freshest possible products to their dining tables while lending support to small local growers.

Selling direct to restaurants, like selling to consumers, eliminates the middlemen. By assuming traditional wholesaler functions, the grower can keep the profit that normally goes to the wholesaler. Working with small suppliers requires more time, planning and labor than does buying from wholesalers. But chefs and restaurant owners are willing to make the extra effort to get high quality and specialty items.

Restaurants still demand the same consistent quality and service from the farmer that they get from a wholesaler—broad product lines, partial cases of products, clean produce, frequent delivery schedules, convenient ordering and expert advice. Some restaurants seek out unusual varieties of vegetables and fruit, such as those usually grown in other countries or old varieties, often referred to as “heirlooms.”

For more than a decade, Clyde's Restaurant Group in Washington, D.C., has incorporated the freshest produce into its menu. Clyde's produce program started when co-owner John Laytham enjoyed some fresh vine-ripened melon he had purchased in the country not far from the nation's capital. The following day he sampled some of the cantaloupe served in one of his res-



Farmers and ranchers across the country are working directly with world-renowned chefs to provide top-quality products, eliminate middlemen and improve their farms' bottom lines. To learn more about the farmers and chefs pictured here, visit the Farm Bureau News Web site at www.fb.org/fbn/html/farmchef.html and click on the photographs.

taurants and was shocked by the difference. He decided to make a change.

In the first year, Clyde's purchased corn, melons, strawberries, sugar snap peas, asparagus, tomatoes and potatoes. The program has grown ever since. They now purchase 10 tons of asparagus, hundreds of flats of a variety of berries, at least 10 different varieties of tomatoes and 25 tons of potatoes.

“It's great that there is interest about this and I hope that more farmers can get involved in it. We see what we pay for the stuff and then you see how much the farmers are making and we would like to see if we can cut out the middleman there and get the proceeds back to [farmers],” said Chef Robert McGowan, executive chef of the Old Ebbitt Grill. “It's 10 times harder for me to buy a head of lettuce from Pennsylvania than it is to buy from a wholesaler in California. But chefs are willing to go through the extra effort because they are left with a product that is outstanding.”

The partnership has worked very well for Virginia Farm Bureau members Gary and Lois Allensworth of Westmoreland County, Va. They have 75 acres of specialty produce and herbs, and half of their crops are devoted to direct sales to restaurants. According

to Lois, the restaurants pay her excellent prices and the chefs give her positive feedback.

“That means a lot to me, it makes me feel good that he would take the time to call me because he has paid enough for the product that he wouldn't really have to do that, so I appreciate it,” Allensworth said.

Once a year she organizes a farm tour and invites the restaurant busboys, waiters and chefs to see where the products come from, how they are grown and what obstacles the growers face.

Some restaurant menus may feature farm names and locations. Executive Chef Gerard Madani of the Willard Intercontinental Hotel makes patrons aware of where the ingredients come from by noting them on the menu. Restaurants also may be willing to have on-table “tent” placecards that provide additional information about the farmer and the produce he or she supplies to the restaurant.

The development of a profitable direct-to-restaurant business could take several years. An effective relationship with a chef involves annual planning to help the chef learn which specialty products can be grown in the area and to help decide what crops to plant for the upcoming season.

The farm to restaurant partnership is not limited to row crops. Thanks to a surging beef demand and a change of heart by his sons to leave corporate America, George Gamble's sons, Tom and Jim, are back on the ranch and have launched a specialty company, Napa Grassfed Beef in Napa County, Calif.

“We are very pleased with what our returns are, but we're still in the building of the business stage and we look forward to being able to add more cattle to increase our revenues,” Tom Gamble said. “I think that as a Farm Bureau member and president of our county Farm Bureau, I see the squeeze that is on all producers of commodities, especially producers of commodities in first world nations.

“Farm Bureau helps protect us, but we also have to help ourselves by learning to market our products. If we are not the biggest, it's going to be hard for us to compete as commodity producers. We have to find ways to get our products directly to consumers if agriculture is going to continue to prosper over the long term in North America.”

Chefs who are passionate about flavor and quality and are successful enough to afford the extra effort of purchasing products from local farmers feel the quality is worth the cost and effort. For farmers, it means extra income and the satisfaction of seeing their carefully tended crops turned into extraordinary dishes. Consumers who care about quality food and want to support independent local growers should also shop at local farmers' markets.

Anna Burkholder is a business associate in the public relations department of AFBF in Washington, D.C.

Farm bill action

continued from page 1

reporting districts. Farm Bureau's analysis found that the investment H.R. 2646 would make in agriculture in just those nine counties would secure 2,781 new or sustained jobs, an additional \$83 million in gross regional product and an additional \$239 million in personal income.

Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) Oct. 10 began working to mark-up less controversial titles of the farm bill, including the credit, research and forestry titles. AFBF President Bob Stallman wrote Harkin Oct. 15, commending the chairman for his efforts to move forward but urging that the farm bill be considered “as a package.” Stallman wrote, “We are concerned by the concept of a piecemeal approach. It will be difficult to support portions of the bill without information on the farm policy and conservation titles.”

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