

Dec. 10, 2005

Mike Johanns, Secretary of Agriculture
Farm Bill, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250-3355

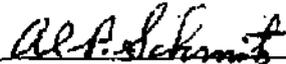
Dear Secretary Johanns,

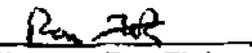
We are a group of 26 farmers in Richland County, Montana asking you to consider our provisions in the 2007 Farm Bill as an option for any producer of food to sign up for.

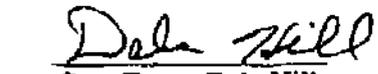
We are enclosing our letter in a brief answer to the six questions USDA has laid before us. Also, enclosed please find our recent "letter to the editor" in which we point out our position on the farm economy recovery plan and in particular our Family Farmer Organization, Inc. provisions. Thank You,

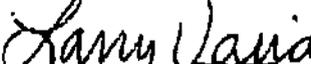
Sincerely,

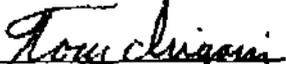
Family Farmer Organization, Inc.
Board of Directors

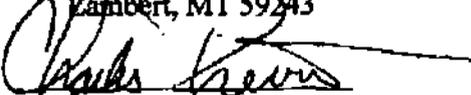

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For Consideration on the 2007 Farm Act.

Dear Editor:

Dec. 15, 2005

From the U.S. Ag. Census (1997) we have found that small businesses employ more labor than do the industrial corporations of the United States. In Montana in its 2004 Montana Small Business Profile report, the Office of Advocacy of the U.S. Small Business Administration shows that 97% of the state's employer firms were small businesses, and as of 2002 hired 67.7 % of the non-farm private sector employees. Nationwide, would not these small businesses depend upon the smaller farmers - 1,213,000 of them on farms (size: 50 to 1,000 acres- 2002 US Census of Agriculture) around our towns, for their business livelihood? Why cannot the tax support money reach these small farmers? We read that "seventy percent of the payments in the last bill went to ten percent of the farmers. Some are asking, 'Is this equitable?'" (Jim Wiesemeyer, a Washington DC based agricultural analyst, *Billings Gazette, Friday, December 9, 2005*). We do know that for any economy to flourish it must have ample money in circulation at the ground level.

The Family Farmer Organization, Inc. is requesting the USDA Secretary, Mike Johanns, to insert into the 2007 Farm Act, our Farm Plan provisions which would give all farmers an option in their farm operation instead of adhering only to the provisions of the 2005 Farm Act. The Family Farmer Organization Farm Plan follows, briefly:

(1) Restrict taxpayer support to cover only the production costs for domestic consumption of the one billion bushels of wheat raised from 169,528 farms under 45,519,970 acres wheat allotment; and of the three billion bushels of corn raised from 348,590 farms under 68,230,523 acre corn allotment; (2002 Census of Agriculture); and of the full production of milk; -- all of which costs are not covered at the market place.

(2) Ascertain the allotted share of the domestic consumption contributed by each producer and calculate the difference between the market price received and the cost of production paid out.

(3) Limit the payment to 500 acres of the wheat farmer's allotment, and to 300 acres of the corn farmer's allotment which would adequately supply domestic needs.

Sincerely,

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On the 2007 Farm Bill

Letter to the Editor:

August 20,2005

What do we want ?—the smaller farmer on the land raising good food and making jobs in our towns!

What does USDA want ?—to hear from the Public on six questions on what policies to follow in the 2007 Farm Act!

Family Farmer Organization, Inc. states its position briefly under each of the USDA questions:

USDA-1) How should farm policy be designed to maximize U.S. competitiveness and our country's ability to effectively compete in global markets?

FFO- To compete in global markets our farmers must have income greater than costs in their allotted sales of commodities at our domestic markets so that they can ~~drop~~ ^{drop} ^{excess} overproduction excess at a loss onto global markets.

USDA-2) How should farm policy address any unintended consequences and ensure that such consequences do not discourage new farmers and the next generation of farmers from entering production agriculture?

FFO- To address farming risks of both weather and man-made, USDA policy should establish a safety-net of support for each producer for his/her allotted share of the domestic market up to a limit in size of operation.

USDA-3) How should farm policy be designed to effectively and fairly distribute assistance to producers?

FFO-Assistance to producers should be only as a safety-net for the smaller operator since the smaller unit on record is shown to supply our domestic needs adequately, with our tax dollars effectively reviving our communities and businesses.

USDA-4) How can farm policy best achieve conservation and environmental goals?

FFO-With income greater than costs a farmer can comply with conservation and environmental requirements as well as do additional projects.

USDA-5) How can Federal rural and farm programs provide effective assistance in rural areas?

FFO-With a policy of assistance to the smaller producer with taxpayer support for his/her costs of production on his/her allotted share of domestic consumption, the rural areas are revived and oversized farms are offered the opportunity to sell down to new farmers.

USDA-6) How should product development, marketing and research-related issues be addressed in the next farm bill?

FFO- If farmers could operate on a profitable level higher yields would not be necessary therefore research could be directed towards better quality in agricultural commodities.

To contact FFO: alnfred@midrivers.com, --www.midrivers.com/~ffo

Sincerely,

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