12-14-05

Munich, N.D. 58352

Sec. of Ag. Mike Johanns,

As an active farmer for 41 years I would like to express a few thoughts or ideas on the new farm bill.

One of my greatest concerns is the possible elimination of the safety net that has been in place for years. We cannot continue to raise wheat at the 3.50 to 3.22 a bushel and still keep the farm going. I live only 30 miles from the Canadian border and seeing their trucks roll by the farm again is certainly not going to solve our problem of low prices.

One son is taking over the farm in the next 2 years and is struggling now so any reduction in farm payment guarantee could mean the end to the family farm that has been here since 1882. We would like to grow edible beans but would have to gamble on that amount of acreage due to the fruit & vegetable bill in the program.

Raising the loan rate on some of the crops and doing away with the LDP if they were high enough would go a long way to stabilize the prices as the loan rates have historically been the benchmark for commodity prices.

I sold wheat in the 60's for the same price as we're seeing now so we're looking to other commodities to take the place of wheat which in years past was 75-80 percent of our production, now we're at 35-40% and possibly 20-20% in the near future. It was a great mistake to take the Canadian wht embargo off as it proved it was working like it was intended to.

Federal Crop Insurance,

There are a lot of changes to be made in this regard. The thing that was help us the most would be to get our guarantees up to at least meet the cost of production.

Then there's the 10 year crop history requirement that needs some rethinking. Do to 4-5 years of consecutive crop losses due to seab + other diseases we cannot recover our lost yields to maintain a decent guarantee. We'll still using 1986-87 crop history on sunflower as they require a 3-4 year rotation so could take 30-40 years to remove those years of below yields of which were almost 0.

Thank you,

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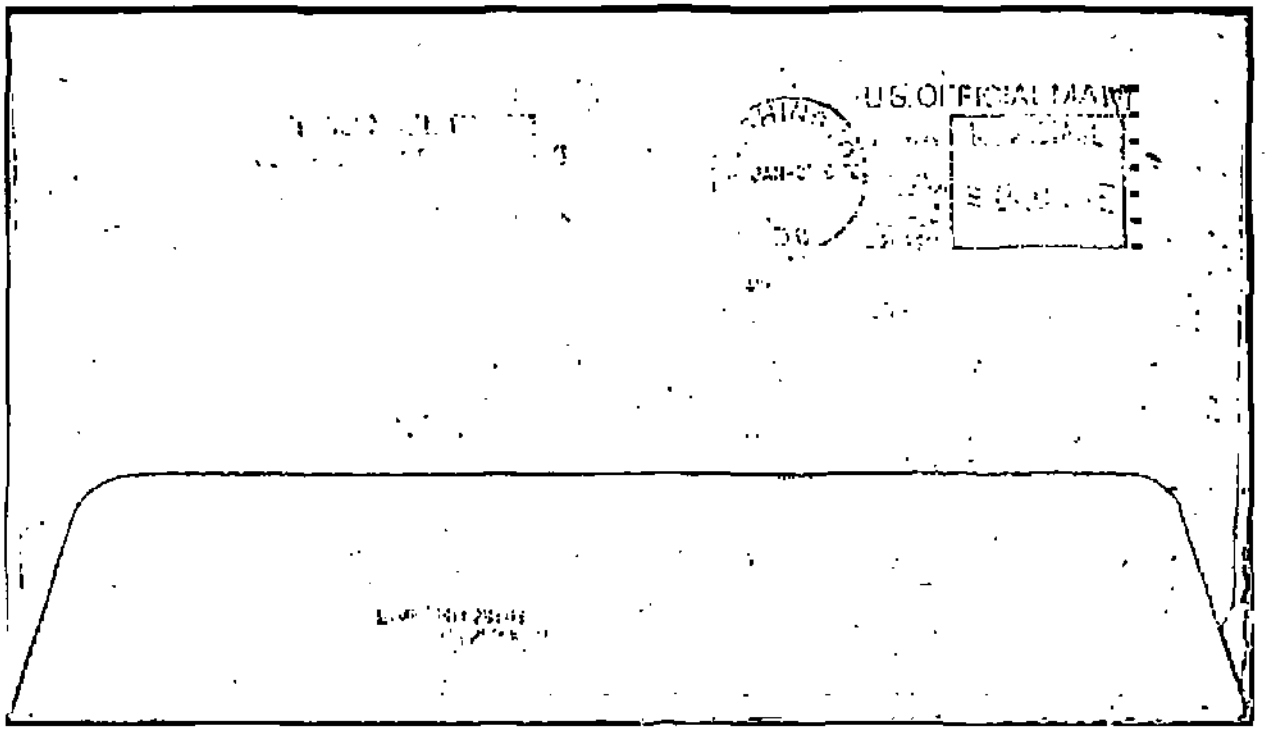
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