

— Jeff and Zelma Mead

The American Agriculture Movement brought a dramatic change to our community. The first AAM meeting in our county, produced a large crowd of farmers and their wives. The men who conducted the meeting were quite but strong in their convictions! Something has to change and it was up to us the producer to make that change by taking drastic non-violent action.

I was skeptical of AAM. On December 7th, 1977 tractors from Western Kansas passed through Lewis on their way to a rally at the State Capitol in Topeka. As the tractors slowed down so that our local drivers could fall in line, my neighbor and I heard the whine of the fans and the lugs of the rear tires ploding on the pavement. We stood beside the highway and watched the American flags flipping in the wind, and read the signs on the tractors describing our feelings. Trying to make a living farming, with big money fighting you every inch of the way. We began to understand that we needed to help to right the wrongs being done to the producer. From that point in time we worked for American Agriculture diligently.

The weeks that followed were explosive! A strike office opened in Lewis. Our bank furnished the room at no cost. Our grocer made sure we always had coffee and donuts, they refused payment. Our community was supporting AAM.

Financial contributions came in daily. We never ask for a dollar until the tractors went to Washington and again the community responded with \$10,000!

Zelma and I didn't go to Washington with the tractors because we had four older land lords to watch over. We ran the strike office every day keeping track of where the tractorcade had progressed to, and waiting for news of how our people were fairing. People of our community were in the office daily, anxious for information. We were thankful when the tractors and drivers came home safely.

The recent election brought us new hope. Our problems are not solved but we are viewing change.



~~The Meads~~

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