

AAM ACHIEVEMENTS

The AAM has been wholly or in part responsible for the following changes in agriculture and in the public.

- Item: AAM has begun to make Americans more aware of the importance of agriculture as the largest single sector of our economy and the role it can play in bringing on a national economic depression when farm income becomes depressed.
- Item: AAM has helped to make the public aware that farmers have not been responsible for food price inflation: that 87% of the food price increases in the last five years occurred after the commodities left the farm and that most of the remaining 13% resulted from the decline in the value of the dollar so that we have had to pay more for imported commodities.
- Item: AAM has helped expand public knowledge of and concern with the role of agribusiness in the manipulation of both national agricultural policy and the commodity markets.
- Item: AAM has helped consumers to realize the gravity of the situation facing agriculture today and the impact that changes in the structure of agriculture can have on the future of a reasonably priced food supply.
- Item: AAM has worked to expose the way the Carter Administration has pursued short-sighted economic policies to the long-term detriment of national economic health and has scapegoated farmers for problems caused by others.
- Item: AAM uncovered facts about the beef import practices and revealed them to the nation and to the USDA. AAM discovered and revealed that Mexican beef was being brought into the U. S. where it was being placed in the boxes of domestic packers for shipment to domestic market labelled as if it were domestic beef.
- Item: AAM action resulted in stopping the utilization of imported beef in school lunch programs.
- Item: By educating the American people on the situation facing American farmers and ranchers, AAM has helped prevent further beef and other boycotts by consumer organizations.
- Item: By bringing out facts about the beef market and building broader understanding of Congress and consumers, AAM has averted hostility toward beef producers which has developed in the past and has at least deterred Administration actions to break the beef market.
- Item: AAM has exposed the fact that chemically contaminated produce was being imported into the U. S. with misleading labelling, indicating that it could have been grown domestically.
- Item: AAM uncovered and released information about the foreign purchase of farm land in the U. S., which directly led to further investigation by the Congress and news media and resulted in Congressional action to require registration of farmland purchases by foreign nationals.

Item: AAM was directly responsible for the emergency farm credit bill which extended farm credit limits and opened new lines of credit to enable farmers to withstand the present squeeze at least a little longer.

Item: AAM farmers have become involved directly in the political process pressing politicians to take stands on agricultural issues, and exposing those who have not taken appropriate positions.

Item: AAM has helped to elect to office in many states those who have taken more favorable positions on agricultural issues.

Item: AAM action has directly resulted in existing farm groups becoming more responsive to the best interests of farmers and consumers.

Item: AAM has exposed USDA manipulation and distortion of farm income and production cost figures.

Item: AAM has illuminated the way that federal policy is working to eliminate farmland ownership by family farmers and promote the increasing concentration of farmland ownership.

Item: Changes and improvements in the corn set-aside program.

Item: Improvements in the price of corn from \$1.70 per bushel in the fall of 1977 to approximately \$2.30 a bushel now.

Item: Increase in corn target price from \$2.00 to \$2.30.

Item: Increase in wheat target price from \$2.90 to \$3.40.

Item: Increase in the price of wheat from approximately \$1.90 to approximately \$3.00 per bushel.

Item: AAM action caused Secretary of Agriculture Bergland to reconsider and increase feed grains farm storage payments from 10¢ to 25¢ per bushel, and extend haying and grazing to June 1.

Item: AAM has been responsible for many local and state actions which have helped to improve in modest ways the agricultural income situation.

Item: AAM has helped to intensify the political support for the development of biomass fuel and the elimination of various administrative barriers to this development.

Support the AAM - we are all working together to protect the nation. We can only accomplish the needed job if everyone will help.

Please join with us

Written by Don Patterson, coordinator of the Virginia State AAM office in The Plains, Virginia. (American Agriculture News - June 5, 1979)