AFBF is unhappy with sugar subsidy

PARK RIDGE, Ill. — Allan Grant, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, said today that President Jimmy Carter's rejection of proposals to reduce the quota on global imports of sugar from foreign nations is "a disappointment to the American farmers who produce sugar cane and sugar beets."

Grant's comment followed the Administration's announcement of a program of direct government payments to sugar producers.

Grant said Farm Bureau has been urging the Administration to make a substantial reduction in the import quota to provide relief for domestic producers since the expiration of the old sugar act. The Federation president said the Administration's announced support for international sugar agreement "is a further disappointment."

"International determination of sugar prices by governments is wrong in principle and would set a bad precedent for comparable agreements on such a major American export commodities as wheat, feed grain, and oilseeds," Grant said. "Such approaches to international trade problems have been generally unsuccessful in achieving their 'price objectives' for a whole host of reasons."

Grant said he is also disappointed that the President has denied a petition by the American Farm Bureau to remove sugar from the list of items eligible for duty free import from certain developing nations.

Marketing bill

Seven representatives from Sandusky County's agricultural community attended the first hearing by the Ohio Legislature, May 10, on the proposed fruit and vegetable marketing bill.

The bill was introduced by Erie County representative Fred Deering and is known as H. B. 336.

Those from Sandusky County who presented their views on the subject were farmers Bill Gillmor, John Havens, Robert Rimelspach, Ralph "Spiv" Gillmor, Robert Auxter, Robert Reed, and County Extension Agent Glenn Maddy.

This bill is a result of the policy as developed by the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation at its last annual meeting.