

Food on your table

Editor: I am writing this letter to try to communicate with the people in our cities about our farm problems. I know they have problems of their own, but they do not realize that the backbone of the nation is broken when the farmer is gone.

We are struggling to survive on \$2 a bushel wheat when it costs \$3 to produce. My father got \$2 back when he farmed with horses and he did not have all the machinery to buy parts for, not to mention the original cost of the machinery. You might ask: Why don't we go back to horses if it's cheaper. Well, we cannot stop progress, population and the need to eat.

We were getting \$48.20 per ton in 1974 for our sugar beets, and in 1976 we only got \$19.75 per ton, and yet we are expected to take a cut on our products and say nothing because if we do the consumer rice will go up. What are we if we are not consumers?

We cannot sell our corn for a profit because the cattleman is losing money on his cattle. When we were getting a fair (not outrageous) price for our beef, what did the consumer do but boycott it? How would that same consumer like it if we boycotted his or her place of work because they were getting too high a wage? We have to make a profit or the banker (our boss) says we are out of a job.

So where does that leave us?

In debt so bad that the banker has no choice but to sell us out. Now may I ask the consumer where are you going to get your food when we are all broke? At the super market? I'm afraid not, because if the backbone is gone, so is the food.

If a bill comes up that concerns agriculture, study it and ask a farmer friend if it's good or badn. Don't say it doesn't concern you, because in the end IT DOES.

Wiggins

Beverly Neal

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Foreign Sugar

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Carter met on Monday with his agriculture secretary and members of Congress from sugar-producing states and said he wants to learn as much as possible about competition from foreign sugar.

The President told the meeting in the Cabinet Room at the White House he is interested in a "detailed analysis of competition from foreign sugar...I'm very eager to learn about it, and I welcome your comments."

Domestic sugar producers say they are victims of low sugar prices that do not offset the rising costs of production.