The Midland View

By M. M. VAN KIRK
Nebraska Farm Bureau

CROSSROAD CHOICE

Farmers in this election year are faced with a choice — put their faith in a program of full production and reliance on the world export market to provide them with profitable returns or go back to a system of government management, price control and mandated acreage cutbacks

The Agricultural Act of 1973 due to expire at the end of 1977 with its "target price" concept has permitted farmers to plant and harvest as many acres as they desired. It has generally worked well because the volume of U S exports doubled and tripled and cash grain and soybean prices exceeded by wide margins the "target prices" and "loan rates" that the Act called for The commodity futures market set records for trading and the range in prices has been volatile

Producers have liked the freedom of their operation, the satisfaction of high prices and relative independence in putting their land back into production Their costs of production increased greatly during this period of spiraling inflation but so did their gross and generally their net in comes Under the incentive of higher market prices U S farmers have produced record harvests that have exceeded both domestic and export needs Prospects, for example, for a 1 billion bushel carryover of wheat stocks next July 1 have had a depressing effect on wheat prices Likelihood of a second record corn crop has also cut back on corn prices to near cost of production levels

Farmers were infuriated when the Administration bowed to the pressures of labor and consumer groups and applied such interventions as price controls on meat in 1973, an embargo on soybean shipments, and notably in the fall of 1975 an "export moratorium" on grain shipment to Russia

Farmers made their point that this was changing the rules in the middle of the game and both presidential nominees have stated that if elected there will be no more curbs on farm exports They must be held to that commitment.

But Congress writes farm program bills and there are few members of Congress who understand the realities of farm production and economics Most Congressmen are best at counting votes and when they write farm legislation it is certain that they are very much aware that only 4 per cent of the nation's population is representative of farmers and that 96 per cent of the voters know little about food production but are extremely sensitive and vocal about the retail price of food

The question has to be asked, "Will a Congress tuned to labor and consumer interests write and pass a farm program bill that would actually have the federal government provide farmers a system of subsidies covering their costs of production?"

In the long history of farm programs such attempts have never proved successful, but as farm prices slide, some farmers are tempted to go that route again, retracing the maze of government held surpluses, acreage cutbacks, certificate payments etc

The nation's and world's population is growing and with that growth is a fantastic demand for food It's hard to see how the export demand over the years can diminish to any degree

The Agricultural Act of 1973, imperfect as it may be, was a change of direction in the history of farm programs and farmers need to be telling political candidates now whether they want to continue in that direction or turn back They can't go both ways

Burning ban

LINCOLN, Neb (AP) — The state fire marshal's office said Friday that the ban on open burning issued July 12 by that office remains in effect due to continued dry weather

A spokesman for the office said the ban was issued in July by Charles Herbst, assistant fire marshal.

The spokesman said the ban would remain in effect indefinitely, and wouldn't be lifted until the dry conditions change

Correction

OTOE PAINT AND WALLPAPER WILL BE CLOSED LABOR DAY BUT OPEN THE REST OF THE WEEK.

The Buck Ends Here

By Ivan D.E. Beaumont

The signatures —

The Rev Virgil Anderson, pastor of First United Methodist church, has been helping with the organizational work of the money raising project of his church

To do this job (it's a two-year budget) he's served as sort of a secretary and general manager to the several committees In other words, he does most of the work

Rex Snodderly is general chairman and he cracks the whip, and the other day he just about did in the committee

Pastor Anderson took "letters" from Rex around to committees for signatures .about 400 sheets of paper

I looked at the penmanship of Mrs Paul Rowe, Mrs Jack Brawner, Mrs Richard Jacobson and Rex. Very good. Now ..watch the master.

The first few sheets were no problem. I was graceful....after all I won the penmanship contest when I was in the eighth grade .but after 20 or 30 or 40 sheets, I returned to my old sluffin' on the job and bowed my head when I handed the finished job to the next signer, Bill Brockley

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"Pshaw," he said with a great deal of tact "So I can't read your name? So what? You say that's your name and I believe you "

"I apologize, Bill," I said "I should have been the last to sign and then the rest of the committee wouldn't have seen my poor penmanship "

Bill dropped the jesting and assured me that it would be difficult for him to match the grace of the general chairman and ladies

I thanked him for his kindness and waited for the opportunity to bring up another subject .rocks

"My, that's an attractive rock lawn and fence you have along the drive and next to your home," I complimented

Mrs Brockley (Carroll) smiled politely and listened as Bill said, "why, thank you We have quite a collection and it has taken a lot of work "

(I noticed that Carroll's smile was broadening)

"Hey .ya Bill," I said, "what's this about you loading a lebenty-leben pound rock in a canoe and sinking same?""

(This time Carroll couldn't hold it back Paul J "Dick" Niemann was at the house and he also wanted to know the story)

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"Oh that " Bill said "Well, that was a petrified rock

"All I know about the story came from Whoopie Landis," I confessed and "and he has been known .on occasion to insert a bit of untruth in a yarn "

"Shucks," Bill said, "I warn't nuthin' like you were probably told I just saw a big rock and wanted to bring it home "

We're lacking for space in this column to describe and - or repeat the explanation of Whoopie, but the truth is .Bill found the rock while canoeing in the Valentine area, loaded it in his canoe and brought it home (Whoopie can fill you in on the details)

The huge petrified rock — for you rock lovers — is truly a beautiful thing .and completely different than the Polynesian Love Stones displayed and explained by Bill

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Back to Kansas —

We spent an interesting weekend in Kansas visiting relatives while my parents vacationed here for a week I tried to keep track the youngest man we visited was 71 years old "I'll be 72 in a couple more months," the ex-farmer said

We stopped in Washington, Kans , my old hometown and made a special stop at the place where I worked — Lewis Hadachek's Produce Station

"Lewie" bubbled out of the back room where he had been moving cases (that's 30 dozen eggs) and getting them ready for shipment.

I admired his quick wit and plentiful energy. "The Missus and I don't do much any more," Lewie said "There's no cream business and no 100 pound sacks of laying mash. We just work three days a week."

Lewie is 82 years young

Then there was the aunt and uncle who wanted one of those new kind of carpet sweepers. .one that will last for a long time. He is 82 and she's right behind him Millie got the sweeper for them, assembled it and made two people very happy

Then there was the man who many years ago operated a clothing store (the wife works every day, too) and now has a variety-type store and fabric center

"Once you hit 70," I heard him tell my dad, "you ain't worth a damn "

"How old are you, Mr Barley?" I asked politely

"Too old to work 76," he said.

"He tried retiring once," Mrs Barley interrupted "He just sat in the living room all winter waiting for spring I said that was enough! We opened this store "

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Everyplace we went I admired the good health, appetities and energies of the "senior citizens" in our family of friends and the family itself

I learned a lot .everyone waits for the third of the month .Social Security payday They expect the checks They depend on that supplemental income

Everyone travels They have homes or trailers or apartments in Texas, Florida, and California for winter retreats

Most have a new or late model cars "I told Mom this will be the last new car we'll ever have so I got a comfortable one " Some have relatives or hired drivers for long distance trips

All are independent If they want help on a step or crossing a street, they ask for it .otherwise keep your cotton picking hands off Pride and dignity are paramount in the Golden Years

A favorite retired school teacher said she "bums" rides around the country to "see some old people " Miss Ilah Sackett played the piano and sang some of Red Foley's spiritual songs (The memory wheels started clicking .she was always peppy)

The long visits were wearing me out and I suggested to some of the "senior citizens" that maybe they would like to take a drive

"Where could you take us that we haven't already been?" they asked

"Oh I dunno I just thought maybe you'd enjoy a drive in the nice weather, perhaps a trip to the river or maybe a "Decoration Day" visit to the cemetery "

"The cemetery!" they exploded

"We'll get there soon enough without your help," they snapped

I headed for the door

"Where are you going, Ivan," Millie called

"To the grocery store for some ice cream "

"I don't believe anyone is hungry," she suggested

"I know I know I just want to cool them down a bit "

National Brownie patches available

The Girl Scout Sampler for Homestead Girl Scout Council, Inc , Southeast, Nebraska, reports there is something new for Brownies National Brownie Patches will soon be available There are two kinds of Brownie Patches

Brownie B Patches — three pie-shaped patches, recognizing participation in troop activities centered around being a discoverer, friend-maker and ready helper during the year

The bridge Junior Patch — an arcshaped patch which fits over the B Patches, recognizing third grade Brownies' participating in special bridging activities

There is also a Patch for Juniors

Junior Aide Patch — a bar-shaped patch which fits under the B and Bridge to Juniors Patches, recognizing active assistance in helping Brownies plan and carry out their bridging activities

The Brownie Patches have been designed to be non-competitive and to encourage girls and leaders to select, plan and experience a well-rounded variety of troop activities each year The best elements of all the council-developed patches were incorporated into the national patches Now all Brownie Girl Scouts may work on and wear the same Brownie Patches

A Leader's guide to Brownie Patches, "Junior Aide Patch Tips for Junior Leaders", order forms and price lists for patches and additional guides will be available soon

OTOE

Mrs Harry Kastens

Evergreen Project club me with Mrs Sran Boldt for the August meeting

The traveling basket won by Mrs Walter Power, was brought by Mrs Willard Ropers A quiz was held

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