

**President's Letter**  
**Luke Woelber**  
**February, 2013**

It's the middle of February and our state legislative session is about half over. The ladies in the office have been working hard to make sure that nothing that would be detrimental to our industry gets passed. I know that there are a few key bills that everyone is worried about...one in particular is the Right to Farm Act. For those of you who do not know, this act is supposed to protect agriculture from frivolous lawsuits. We are working with a number of agencies like ours, as well as the department of agriculture, to reinforce and better protect us under this law.

Moving on to the national level, it seems as though half of the country is more than happy to roll with the extension of the current Farm Bill while the rest of us would just as soon not have anything. At this point, it is my opinion that something has to give. Congress will have to do something, but what I do not know. They still seem to want to pick on the farmer. I read an article that predicted that there would be caps on all subsidies coming out of USDA. They would be not more than \$125,000 per person or \$250,000 for a married couple. The comment was that they were going to make an effort to preserve the small and mid-size family farms. Once again I just do not understand the logic of our government. They seem to take for granted that the food on their table and the tables of their constituents comes from somewhere. They also seem to be out of touch with what costs of production are. The amount of capital expense in land and equipment are prohibitive of the farms they want to protect.

I hope all of our legislators are football fans and watched the Super Bowl. There was a commercial for Dodge pickups that I felt was an awesome explanation of what a farmer is. Hopefully, if they thought it was true, it made them think about what we do for a living. Our careers and farms are a way of life and not just a job that we show up to.