

President's Letter
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Well, it is official! By the time you read this, you will have probably heard that Congress went home without passing a Farm Bill. First off, I would like to thank everyone for their help in urging Congress to take action. All of your letters and phone calls were not wasted. It just seems that Congress had a different understanding of what the Farm Bill means to us. I was reading an article about why Congress didn't pass the Farm Bill, and there was a comment that really bothered me. The comment was to the effect that the bill was not passed because it raised subsidies to profitable farmers in times of record incomes while reducing the monies available for the poor. It seems as though no one realizes the fact that yes our gross incomes might be larger than they have ever been, but our input costs are also larger than they have ever been. To me, that comment just shows the ignorance of people as to where their food comes from. But I guess it will not hit home in Washington until you have people complain about what it costs for a gallon of milk or a box of cereal. I am sure at that point, the few farmers who are left standing will be blamed for the cost when the sad fact will be there just isn't enough to go around.

I know I am preaching to the choir, but if you see our state delegates, be sure to remind them. We have already tightened our belts. You can only squeeze so much juice out of an orange just like you can only get so much milk out of a cow. The family farms in our state are a model of efficiency. If they are unaware of this, just have them look at USDA numbers for milk production per cow. It is a shame the most efficient family farms are being strained to save ones that are not.