

Farm plan proposal may cap federal payments

A blockbuster proposal by two retired farm-state senators and an emerging Washington think tank urges Congress to eliminate direct payments to farmers and let them depend more on the market.

The plan, put forth by former Sens. Bob Dole of Kansas and Tom Daschle of South Dakota, would cap federal payments at a quarter million dollars a year, closing loopholes that allow some wealthy "farmers," including basketball players and other celebrities, to collect millions while others go broke.

Mr. Dole is a former Republican leader and Mr. Daschle a former Democratic leader in the Senate, and their experience in farm-bill battles is considerable. Their advice bears listening to.

No one is ever "happy" with the farm bill. It's something everyone lives with.

Farmers would be happier, no doubt, just to be able to make a living without constant interference, "help" and advice from the government. The evidence suggests they would be better off financially, too, but getting from here to there has always been the problem.

End federal price supports tomorrow, and you might break half the farmers — and half the banks — in rural America. The system is addicted to federal money, has been for years.

There was a time, when Pat Roberts was chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, that it looked as though the "Freedom to Farm" approach would loose farmers from their subsidy habit. We all know how that ended.

If federal programs really supported family farms or kept anyone on the land, we might want to defend them. The stark truth, told by declining population figures and farm numbers, is that these

programs may keep the average operation afloat a few years longer than without them. The trend toward fewer, bigger farms is unchanged.

Since the advent of mechanical harvesting equipment and scientific seed propagation, the hard truth is it's taken fewer farmers every year of the last century to grow more food.

The government has tried to pay people to stay on the land while paying land-grant colleges to make farming more efficient. The efficient farmer is winning, and surviving, while others leave the business in great numbers.

We see no end to that. The question is how to make farming more profitable and make life good for the best producers who remain. And for young men and women who will step up to take their place as the great mass of today's graying farmers retire.

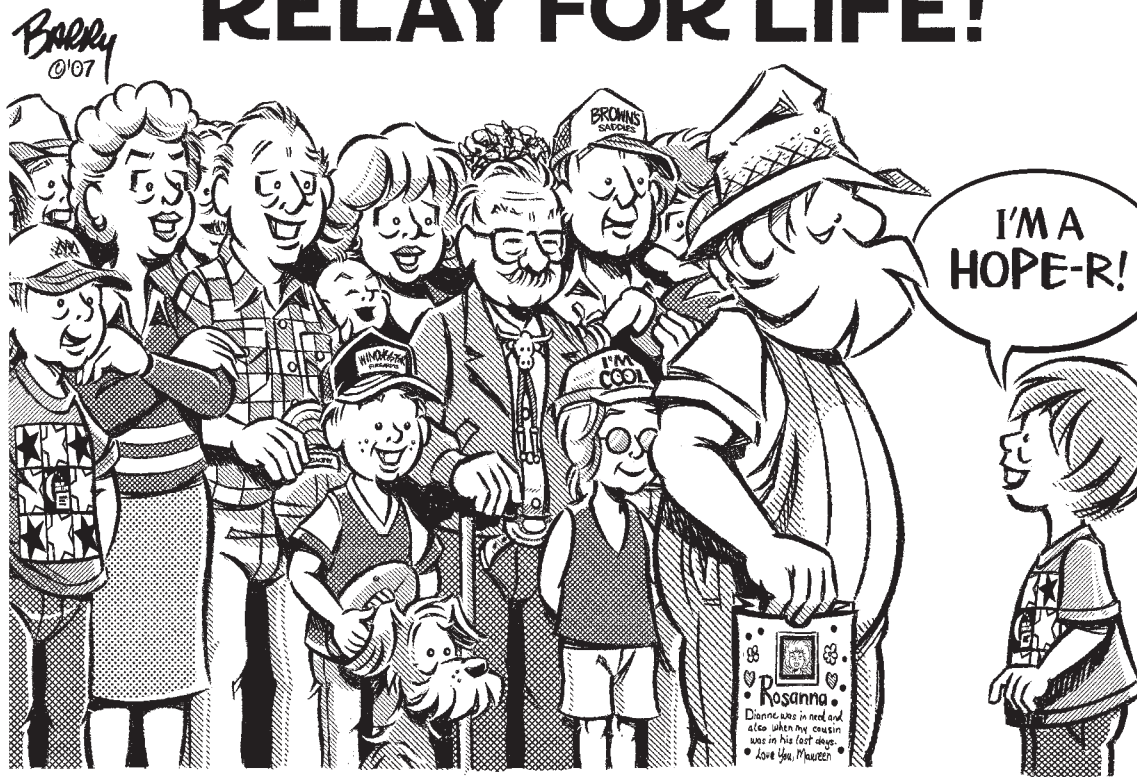
There is no magic formula for farm success. It takes hard work, brains and a special kind of toughness. A lot of people around here have those qualities.

Farmers who grow unregulated, unsubsidized crops tend to make more money and be happier with their lot than those tied to a federal tether. Making more people free to farm ought to be a goal of the farm bill. So should ending subsidies to those who don't need them, and the real goal should be to ensure that — except in times of disaster — most farmers don't.

The Dole-Daschle plan is the first in recent years to look at that end. It claims to have nearly \$5 billion a year in budget savings while makings farmers better off. It's worth a look, as is any plan to ease farming back to fiscal reality.

— Steve Haynes

WHEN IT'S A CHOICE BETWEEN HOPE & HOPELESSNESS, THERE'S... RELAY FOR LIFE!



Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



I'm perplexed.

Professional sports in America serve as a diversion away from our daily routines. It should entertain and provide an escape.

Baseball, a personal favorite, has been called "the national past-time" for over a century.

Then along comes Barry Bonds. As I write, he is seven homeruns short of tying Hank Aaron's 755 career mark.

This should be reason for joy. History is being made. So what's wrong?

George Herman "Babe" Ruth amassed 714 homers during his illustrious career, 1914 to 1935. It took until April 8, 1974, for Aaron to break that mark. He later added another 41. One ball player, playing on an equal field, did what many

thought was impossible.

So why don't I care about Bonds catching Aaron? It is pretty obvious that Major League Baseball has turned a blind eye to the use of steroids in their game.

I remember watching a skinny kid playing baseball for the Arizona State Sun Devils in the mid-1980s. Although he was the son of San Francisco Giant great, Bobby Bonds, he lacked heart then. After college he went to the Pittsburgh Pirates and argued with his manager and team-mates. In 1993 he became a Giant, just like his dad. That is where the similarities end.

Not only have Bond's homeruns increased, so has his size and strength. Someday the record may come clean, but for now I can only offer my opinion that he has

cheated. It is not like the moment Hank caught the "Babe."

Looking at the Baseball Encyclopedia, the page that lists the homerun record looks wrong. Some names belong; Aaron, Ruth, Willie Mays (660), Mickey Mantle (536), Ted Williams (521), Ernie Banks (512), Lou Gehrig (493) and Stan Musial (475), just to name a few, have earned their place in baseball history.

Some don't belong; Bonds, Sammy Sosa (588), Mark McGuire (583), Rafael Palmeiro (569) and Jose Conseco (462).

Baseball will survive and it will remain a welcome break from life's realities. But baseball historians will have some explaining to do.

Road construction to begin

To the editor, To whom it may concern:

Road construction will begin soon on the South River Road (RS 877) southwest of St. Francis as Cheyenne County has been planning this federal-aid project for several years. Beginning at Highway 36, Venture Corporation will be laying asphalt going south and southwest for 3.2 miles and ending at Road 11. Yes, that's correct as we will be extending the asphalt another 1 1/4 miles to alleviate some

Letters to the Editor

road problems in that stretch. During construction, this road may be closed and traffic will be detoured.

Before the contractors start, the Cheyenne County Road Department will be doing dirt work on two bridges to meet federal guidelines and performing any sub-grade work as required. After the road is paved, the crew will be doing shoulder and side

slope work and completing it with grass seeding.

We realize this may be inconvenient with everyone's busy schedules, but we must accommodate the contractor so he can do a good job.

Please be patient, slow down and drive careful!

Dave Flemming
Road Supervisor

St. Francis residents enjoy visitor

Letter to the Editor:

This morning we had the only Hancock child still living (Eda Mae) visit us at the house (she was in town to celebrate her 65th high school reunion!). To many in our community, our house at 110 E. Spencer is still considered the Hancock House.

The house was built by one of the bankers in St. Francis, but purchased by Albert and Frances Hancock for something around \$2,000. Eda Mae said that it was such an incredible amount of money at that time that her grandmother help fund the purchase.

Her mother, Francis, was lovingly called "Mom Honey" and her dad, Al, was called "High Pop." They had five children, two boys and three girls.

As she toured the house, every room had a story or two that came to life such as dances on the porch and in the living room, Christmas celebrations, visits from the pastor, pranks pulled by brothers, a front porch fire, and others.

We found out that Eda Mae was married in our living room after making a grand entrance down our staircase. And, it was Grandma



THE HANCOCK house now owned by Carl and Kate Jenkins.

Mussie who hand-painted the border in the upstairs bathroom. She can remember Mussie standing in the claw foot tub painting scenes.

It was fascinating to experience her and her memories.

Carl and Kate Jenkins
St. Francis

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Years Ago

45 years ago - 1962
Over 300 people attended the St. Francis Community High School Alumni reunion over the weekend. Fifty year pins were given to two members of the class of 1912, Mrs. Leone (Reinhold) Cram and Ward Smull of Lawrence.
Lynn Horwege was installed as the new president of the Lions Club. He succeeds Bill Andrist.

GOD SAYS
The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord.
Isaiah 65:25

Church of Christ
332-2380, Pars. 332-3424
502 W. Spencer
Norman Morrow - Minister
Bible Class 11 a.m.
Morning Worship 10 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
625 S. River • 332-2680
Fr. Roger Meitl
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.
Weekday Mass 8 a.m.
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
332-2888 • 3rd & Adams
Pastor Mike Larson
Sabbath School 9:30
Morning Worship 10:45

United Methodist
Church Office 332-2292,
Church 332-2254,
512 S. Scott
Pastor Morita Truman
Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

First Christian Church
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster
Sunday School 9:20 a.m.
Church Service 10:30 a.m.
Wed. night Bible Study 7 p.m.

First Baptist Church
2nd & Scott • 332-3921
J.W. Glidewell, Pastor
Sunday School 9:30
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m.,
Wed. AWANA Club 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Salem Lutheran Church
332-3002
Pastor Chris Farmer
No Summer Sunday School
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Grace Assembly of God
332-2925, Pars. 332-2899
208 E. 2nd
Rev. Rob Meyer
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30
Sunday Eve. Service 6 p.m.

Peace Lutheran Church
202 N. College
Pastor Ken Hart
332-2928 Pars. 332-2312
No Summer Sunday School
Worship 9:30 a.m.
with fellowship to following

St. Francis Community Church
332-3150
204 N. Quincy Street
www.sfccfamily.com
Pastor: David Butler
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Potluck & Communion -
Every 2nd Sunday
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

Clough Valley Church of Hope
12 m. west, 6 m. north of SF
Pastor Jason Howard
332-3152
Saturdays
8 p.m. CT or 7 p.m. MT

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