



DIRECT CONNECTIONS

YOUR AGRICULTURE NEWS SOURCE

This Week: Let the People Know!

Cities need strong rural communities and especially a strong agriculture sector

We need rural communities growing because young people are coming back to participate in what should be one of the most valued possessions of our country.

Farmers can preserve the land and provide new renewable energy needs for the future but they need help getting through the current agricultural crisis.

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Find out more about the farm crisis at www.agcat.org

Or visit Dave's website at: www.directagsales.com



Dave's Corner Someone once said we should not be astonished at the ease with which men resign themselves to ignorance about what is most important for them to know. Such sentiments were on my mind as I recently read in the Western Producer that the Conference Board of Canada had recently released a study indicating that the best way to help smaller communities was to give urban centers a greater share of the resources. This at the expense of smaller communities which supposedly would benefit more if the dollars went to the cities.

Cities need strong rural communities and especially a strong agriculture sector and may be unaware of this fact. The kind of communities I am talking about are not just the bedroom communities around large urban centers that are growing because those leaving cities are looking for cheaper housing and a safer community. Our country needs a strong agricultural sector that can provide a profitable living for those that farm and ranch. This is needed to ensure that continuation of the strong foundation upon which this country was built upon and which the country depends to manage its most precious renewable land and people resources. We need rural communities growing because young people are coming back to participate in what should be one of the most valued possessions of our country.

All citizens and politicians must make themselves aware that meeting the urgent short term needs of the cities at the exclusion of less known but possibly more important long term needs of rural communities will have severe consequences. A collapse of the farm sector is possible unless more money gets to the farmers and ranchers that produce our food.

Some critics' wonder why farmers continue if they can't make a return. Why is it we have stuck with it when all reason would indicate that we should do otherwise? Why have we been subsidizing the cost of food with our own unpaid labor and that of our families? Farming and ranching is more than a lifestyle choice. It is a stewardship. There is an obligation we have to the land which connects us to generations past and ensures the land is preserved for the future. Family farming and ranching has met this responsibility very well.

While it is true the present agricultural crisis is threatening this process. The fact that we have taken care of the land may help. According to Preston Manning, the one issue that could unite the country is taking care of our land. In the city they call this taking care of the environment. Preston has said "If somebody could ever effectively marry a genuine concern and action plan for the conservation of Alberta's magnificent environment with this province's historic commitment to marketplace economic development – I believe you would have an idea that would galvanize political interest and support on an unprecedented scale."

Farmers and ranchers have been doing this for years. We must communicate to those in the urban areas of the important role we do play in preserving our environment and the tremendous value that is generated from which they all benefit. It's time to let the people know the important role we play. They need us to continue doing this job, and we need them to speak up and help us preserve the land and provide new renewable energy needs for the future. Agriculture can do both of those jobs if we can survive the current farm crisis. So I am asking all citizens to speak up for farmers and help secure a better future for everyone. Farmers need your help. Find out about the farm crisis and see what you can do to help!