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The Rural Viewpoint

TOWN & FARM ANGLES IN THE WASHINGTON NEWS

AT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

WASHINGTON, D. C.—In spite of all the testimony now on hand before the House Ways and Means Committee hearing on the 52% taxation of farmer cooperatives, it is doubtful if anything will be done. There will be any changes made in the law until after next summer's Presidential campaign.

The Committee has patiently heard dozens of witnesses, both for and against. It will hear many others.

But so far, no one in authoritative tax circles has been willing to make any official recommendations as to changes in the cooperative tax laws.

For many years, both Republicans and Democrats have endorsed farmer cooperatives, either directly or by inference, in their political platforms. Support in Congress for farmer cooperatives has come from both parties.

Now, if a change is going to be made, each side wants to put the "blame", if any, on the other.

Certainly, neither party wants to run risk of incurring the wrath of the farm vote in a Presidential election year.

Farmers will be asked by the U. S. Department of Agriculture to plant nearly 6.5 percent more land to livestock feed grains next year in an effort to replenish supplies cut short by this year's poor corn crop.

Larger grain harvests will be needed if a serious shortage of meats, dairy and poultry products is to be averted in 1949. These feeds will be scarcer in 1948 than this year because of the present corn shortage.

The corn production goal for 1948 is now [illegible] bushels, but the government will seek [illegible] of at least that much in 1948. Tentative plans call for a production goal of 97,000,000 acres of corn, [illegible] acres more than the 90,000,000 acres planted this year.

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The wheat goals are larger than the Department would prefer, for its recommended, officials said, because there will require a sacrifice of good crop rotation practices and soil conservation practices. But the controlling factor are the continuing urgent demand for food shipments overseas plus the need for building up reserve stocks at home.

"Feeders" Unhappy

Not all cattlemen are pleased with the present high price of good beef cattle.

Some cattlemen buy young cattle to fatten for future markets, on speculation that taxes may not be as high a year or two hence. Others "feeders" are afraid that by the time the cattle are ready for market, prices may be down and they will lose money. Then, there will be any changes made until after next summer's Presidential campaign.

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