

'Shooting of 600 calves not a national program'

National Farmers Organization considers killings immature

SALINA, Kan. (AP)—A National Farmers Organization official said Tuesday the NFO has tried to discourage its members from shooting calves as a protest against depressed farm prices.

Max Barnett, representing the NFO meat department, told the annual Kansas NFO convention that last week's shooting of more than 600 baby

calves is not a national program.

"We hope this doesn't spread," Barnett told about 300 persons at Salina's Memorial Auditorium. "We're a mature organization and we don't think we need to shoot calves to get attention."

Barnett added the protest staged by Wisconsin NFO members produced national

publicity on the problem of high farm production costs and low prices paid to farmers. But he said the NFO leadership had discussed the protest with the Wisconsin farmers and attempted to head off the calf shooting.

"We did get a lot of publicity, so it wasn't all bad," Barnett said. "But we hope this doesn't spread across the coun-

try," Barnett said the cause of such protests is the near-bankrupt condition of the U. S. cattle industry, which he said has lost \$250 million a month for the past year.

The NFO meat expert said he expects cattle markets to get worse before prices paid to farmers turn up again. He blamed Congress and the administration for the "cheap

food policy" to please consumers at the expense of farmers.

"They will break every American farmer to have that policy," Barnett told the convention. "We can't let that happen," he said.

Barnett appealed to Kansas NFO members to join a nationwide effort to pool farm production and force up prices paid for live cattle.

"We've got to get every animal we can go through the NFO collection and marketing system," he said. "We want to move 3,000 cows a week and, if we can do that, we'll control the market."

Farmers now have excessive numbers of cows, which provide most of the nation's hamburger and are, therefore, a key to the U. S. meat market,

Barnett explained.

The NFO announced a plan last week to use its 200 collection points for gathering the products of NFO members and shipping them to market under contracts.

The NFO official said 30 percent of the nation's cattle feeders are bankrupt or on the verge of bankruptcy, while eastern investors also are withdrawing funds from the beef industry.

"We've had ups and downs in agriculture since the depression, but this is the first time we've run out of money," Barnett said.

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Panelists discuss mining

A public forum on strip mining will be held Thursday at 8 p.m. in the Medallion Room of the Bryan Utilities Building.

Dr. Earl Cook, dean of Geosciences, who is considered a national authority on energy and natural resources, will be among the speakers. He will lead discussion on water contamination, fertile soil, reclamation standards and appearance of the land after mining.

Almost 2,500 acres of land in Brazos County has been leased by Dow Chemical Co. in its search for mineable lignite deposits.

Dr. Chris Mathewson, a specialist in engineering geology and Dr. Lloyd Hossner, a soil scientist who has done research at the Fairfield strip mine, will also answer questions.

Forum to sponsor State Rep

Political Forum will sponsor a program by State Representative Craig Washington of Houston at 12:30 p.m. in Room 701 of the Rudder Tower, Thursday.

Rep. Washington will speak on the Texas criminal and penal system.

During the abortive Constitutional Convention, Washington chaired the Committee on Local Government. He is also chairman of the Texas House's select committee to investigate Prairie View A&M. A member of the Black Caucus, Washington also served on the Criminal Jurisprudence, Judiciary and Rules Committees of the House of Representatives.

The Political Forum speaker also taught law and was an assistant dean at Texas Southern University Law School, his alma mater, before entering private practice in 1970.

Washington was originally elected to the state legislature in 1972. He represents the 86th District, which is located in Harris County. Currently, he is running for re-election in November.

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