

**Subject:** Farm Economy

**Story summary:** As crop prospects improve this summer, prices are declining. Overall the farm economy does not seem to be getting better, prompting farm groups and farm state members of Congress to push for a better economic safety net.

**TRT:** 1:23

**Suggested lead:** Prospects for a better farm economy this year are fading, as farm groups and Congress seek a better economic safety net.

**Suggested supers:** Bob Stallman  
President, American Farm Bureau  
@ :22

Stewart Truelsen reporting  
@ 1:12

**Farm Economy at Midyear  
Reporter Stewart Truelsen  
June 27, 2000**

<p>Farmer loading planter with corn seed/  Planting corn, wheels of planter pass camera</p>	<p>VO/ WHEN FARMERS PLANTED CROPS THIS SPRING, THE GOVERNMENT WARNED OF A MAJOR DROUGHT. THE WARNING CAUSED PRICES FOR COMMODITIES LIKE CORN AND SOYBEANS TO GO UP.</p>
<p>Camera walk through corn field/ Soybean prices on CBOT/ Phone bank/ Floor action/</p>	<p>BUT AT MID-YEAR, CROPS IN GENERAL ARE DOING BETTER THAN EXPECTED, AND PRICES ARE FALLING TO LEVELS AS LOW OR LOWER THAN LAST YEAR.</p>
<p><b>Bob Stallman, President American Farm Bureau Federation</b>  Stallman interview,</p>	<p>SOT/ IT LOOKS LIKE NOW, WITH THE SUPPLY PROJECTIONS, IT'S GOING TO BE VERY DIFFICULT TO WORK OUT OF THIS EXCESSIVE SUPPLY SITUATION, SO IN TERMS OF PRICES THE ECONOMY DOESN'T LOOK TOO GOOD, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE SOME GOOD YIELDS NOW IN AREAS THAT WEREN'T EXPECTING IT, AND THAT'S A POSITIVE FOR SOME FARMERS.</p>
<p>Start of House Ag committee hearing, Wide shot/ Chairman Combest/ Panel/ Stallman testifying/</p>	<p>VO/ CONGRESS HAS RESPONDED TO WEATHER AND PRICE EMERGENCIES, BUT THE FARM BUREAU IS ASKING FOR A COUNTERCYCLICAL SAFETY NET THAT FARMERS CAN COUNT ON WHEN THE ECONOMIC CYCLE IS AGAINST THEM.</p>
<p>Shot from behind panel table looking at committee/  Stallman</p>	<p>SOT/ WELL, WE ALREADY HAVE SOME COUNTER-CYCLICAL SAFETY NET, THE LOAN PROGRAM, MARKETING LOAN PROGRAM, LDP PROGRAMS, THEY ARE COUNTER-CYCLICAL, EVEN THE AD HOC DISASTER ASSISTANCE THAT CONGRESS HAS BEEN PROVIDING IS</p>

	COUNTER-CYCLICAL, BUT WE THINK WE NEED MORE CERTAINTY AND A MORE STABLE PROGRAM LAID OUT AND WE ARE GOING TO WORK ON DEFINING THOSE DETAILS, BUT IN ESSENCE IT BOILS DOWN TO KEEPING THE PRODUCTIVITY OF AMERICAN AGRICULTURE IN PLACE AND NOT ALLOWING THAT PRODUCTION TO BE DONE OVERSEAS.
Cows walking from free stall barn to milking parlor/ milking parlor/ Sequence from unloading haylage/	VO/ DAIRY IS SUFFERING ONE OF THE BIGGEST PRICE DECLINES THIS YEAR, AND ALL FARMERS ARE BEING SQUEEZED FURTHER BY RISING INTEREST RATES AND HIGHER FUEL PRICES. I'M STEWART TRUELSEN REPORTING.