

ENTIREMENT OF FARMERS AGAINST GRAIN HOLDING

Illinois Agricultural Association Advises Members to Market According to Best Judgment

There is a wide divergence of opinion among organized farmers in Illinois regarding the plan of holding grain and awaiting a higher market. The average farmer who is affiliated with the Illinois Agricultural Association is not in favor of holding grain but is in favor of terminating a market system which will stabilize the grain and operate on two supply and demand.

There are farmers feeling about the low price of grain and how much sentiment is there in favor of organized holding? Each member of the executive committee of the Illinois Agricultural Association was asked to answer this question for his district. The answers indicated that there is a whole lot of sentiment and grain farmers are being hard hit by prices which do not pay for the cost of production. The majority of farmers, the committee members said, are in favor of working out a program for the future which will give farmers economic justice rather than blindly holding for a set price without full information on markets and a machine to carry out the plan.

The Illinois Agricultural Association advises its members to market their present grain crop according to their best judgment, and to stand by the farmers' grain marketing committee of 17, which represents all farmers' organizations of the middle west grain growing section and is now formulating a marketing program. Letters from the secretaries of the middle west state farm bureaus show no holding action has been taken, but that all are determined to build for the future.

About a year ago the Illinois Agricultural Association sent a wire to the farm bureau offices advising farmers not to be stampeded by falling prices into rushing corn to market, but to await a safer market. This evoked a storm of ridicule from the board of trade speculators and commission men. Ever

since that day the speculation has been working on the grain marketing subject in a new way. A big percentage was raised and \$2,500,000 appropriated to start the work. The effect of organized holding of the whole grain growing section has combined to solve this problem. The committee of 17 has collected information and experience from many sources to formulate a plan. In order to carry out this work it has asked the state associations for \$20,000, \$10,000 of which has been asked from the Illinois Agricultural Association. This amount was appropriated in the November meeting of the executive committee. In the meantime the Illinois Agricultural Association is assisting in the organization of local farmers' cooperative elevators as the first logical step in a marketing system. There are many farmers in this

section of the country that have lost considerable by holding grain for a higher market. It is said that quite a few men started a long time ago to hold corn for \$3 and that some of these same men hurried to market with their grain before corn dropped under the \$1 mark. Others were not so fortunate and they are still holding their grain.

Farmers declare they cannot produce and sell corn for less than \$1 and make a profit on their labor and land investment.

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