

Farmers' strike may take bread from nation's tables

By Marjie Lundstrom

UNL students should begin blessing residence hall food or cold leftovers because after Dec. 14, they may not even have that, according to two midwest farmers.

American Agriculture, an eight-week-old farmers organization, is brewing nationwide farmer support and is threatening to strike Dec. 14 if the federal government does not meet their demands.

"We're not saying we're going to starve anyone," said Stan DeBoer, a Bertrand farmer and American Agriculture organizer in Nebraska. "But these people—like in New York City—don't know what it's like not to have bread on their table. But they may find out soon."

Unless the federal government raises prices so farmers get at least the cost of production when they sell, DeBoer said, farmers across the nation will stop buying anything but the bare essentials. In addition, the group has threatened to stop planting or harvesting crops.

"The farmers are desperate," DeBoer said. "They have to have an answer and they are ready to listen."

Verge of depression

"I feel like we're probably on the verge of having a depression that doesn't even compare with the 30s. The farmers plainly don't have any money," he said.

In less than eight weeks, the American Agriculture organization has spread its roots from Springfield, Colo.,—where it was begun by a small group of wheat farmers—to all 50 states, DeBoer said. Pre-strike rallies are planned for Dec. 10 in all 50 state capitals.

The movement also has been branching out across Nebraska, where there have been two or three meetings nightly in various towns.

Most of western Nebraska has been covered, and the organization is beginning to move eastward, he said. Next week's meetings will be concentrated in eastern Nebraska and Iowa.

American Agriculture strike offices also have been located across the state, he said. The offices are "manned" throughout the day by the local farmers' wives, who take phone messages and answer questions, he said.

Midwest rally

A midwest rally met last Oct. 30 in Topeka, Kan., to begin gathering forces. Orville Anstaett, a Garden City, Kan., farmer and meeting organizer, said about 1,000 people from Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, Washington and Delaware attended.

Anstaett said he has no doubts that farmers will organize and that the proposed Dec. 14 strike is "very much a possibility."

"We (farmers) have nothing to lose and everything to gain," he said. "In five weeks, American Agriculture has moved into 45 states. If that isn't organization, I'll be damned what is."

Anstaett said he is fighting for the entire economy because "the root of every dollar has to come from agriculture."

"The consumer world does not take us seriously," Anstaett said. "But without agriculture being alive and viable, we won't be able to keep the rest of the economy alive and growing."

"I'm out to win. I call this war because I'm fighting for myself, my family, my home and the whole economy."

Deer, quail, pheasant hunts begin

Quail, cock pheasant and deer—take cover. Hunting season will open in two weeks.

Pheasant season is Saturday through Dec. 31, except in the Panhandle, where the season ends Nov. 5. Quail can be shot Nov. 12 through Jan. 31, and deer can be stalked with firearms Nov. 12 through Nov. 20.

Quail or pheasant hunters must have a \$6.50 hunting permit and a \$7.50 habitat stamp. Both are available at the Game and Parks Commission, 2200 North 33rd St., sporting goods and hardware stores, banks, and state parks.

If you are out for bigger game, and don't have a deer permit yet, you'll have to wait.

Andy Nielsen, supervisor of law enforcement district no. 5, said deer permits are limited to 2,000 for the Lincoln area. Hunters must apply for the permits at the commission, he said.

This year's limit already has been sold, he said.

However, he added, archery permits can be bought anytime, but only at the commission. Cost is \$15. A

habitat stamp also is needed.

The archery hunting season for deer, which started Sept. 17, will close for the firearm season, Nov. 11 through Nov. 20, Nielsen said. After that it will run Nov. 21 through Dec. 31.

Hunters can hunt upland and small game 15 minutes before sunrise to sunset, he said. Daily bag limit for cock pheasant is two. Hunters can shoot six quail a day, he said.

Nielsen said hunters can shoot almost anywhere around Lincoln.

Most of the hunting area is private property, he said, and the central part of the state is the best place to hunt.

According to the 1977 Nebraska hunting regulation, it is unlawful to shoot any bird or animal from a highway or road. Other restricted areas are private lands, state parks, state wayside areas, state and federal refuges, and within 200 yards of a house, or livestock feedlot without the owner or tenant's permission.

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