The original documents are located in Box 2, folder "Department of Agriculture - Presidential and Departmental Accomplishments" of the Norman Ross Files, 1974-75 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

PRESIDENTIAL AND ADMINISTRATION
ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN AGRICULTURE
SINCE AUGUST 1974

Reduced Farm Program Payments

As a result of the strengthened economic situation for farmers, and a program that encourages farmers to get their income from expanded sales in the domestic and foreign market, tax outlays for farm program payments were reduced to $500 million in calendar 1974. Payments had been as high as $3.9 billion two years earlier. The President vetoed a costly farm bill that would have burdened farmers with surpluses and government controls; increased consumer food costs and tax bills; lowered farm income in the long run; harmed farm exports and our ability to negotiate for freer access to growing farm export markets for American farmers; and triggered another round of budget deficits and inflation that would have been harmful to consumers and farmers alike. However, the Administration assured farmers that in the event that markets weaken and prices drop, existing authority will be used to increase loan levels to protect the farm economy. It increased national wheat allotments for 1976 by 15 percent, which broadens the support protection for farmers in the event that wheat prices fall below target levels.

Consumer Concerns

The Administration has maintained a strong U.S. food policy based upon adequate food for consumers at reasonable prices; abolishing poverty-induced hunger in the nation; and providing adequate incentives for American farmers to produce fully for the food and fiber needs of the nation and the world.

Support for a Healthy Farming Industry

The Administration has strongly supported a program to provide farmers with the opportunity to make their own decisions, avoid bureaucratic interference, get their income from strengthened markets, and participate more fully in American economic life. Farm income in 1974 was the second highest of record, and 1975 promises to be the third best farm income year ever. The annual decline in the number of farms (11,000 in 1974) has reached the lowest level in a generation (220,000 in 1950; 138,000 in 1960; 45,000 in 1970), reflecting better economic conditions on farms and more faith in the future of agriculture and rural areas.

International Trade Policy for Agriculture

The President has instituted a firm international trade negotiating policy that will tie industry and agriculture together in upcoming trade barrier negotiations. This will assure that any negotiated downward adjustment in trade barriers will also provide that our farm exports gain easier access to foreign markets. He has appointed a broad representation of farm commodity leaders to assist the United States in upcoming trade negotiations.

Cheese Imports

The President has aggressively counteracted a move by the Common Market countries of Europe to subsidize a glut of cut-rate cheese imports into the United States that would have jeapordized the future of the American dairy industry and its ability to meet the consumer needs for cheese in the years ahead. In January 1975 strengthened Milk Market Order prices and dairy price supports.

Beef Imports

The U.S. government has negotiated voluntary agreements which limit excessive imports of beef that threatened U.S. beef producers and could have caused a liquidation of beef herds that would have been harmful to consumers by limiting beef supplies in the years ahead.

Grain Exports

The Administration instituted a grain export monitoring system in 1974 that prevented possible raids by foreign buyers intent on getting an undue share of our short supplies of grain. This kept our exports moving out smoothly and forestalled the threat that mandatory, harmful controls on exports would be legislated by Congress. Farm exports will hit a record high of $22 billion 1975 fiscal year, following exports of $21.3 billion last year. This contributed a favorable $11.8 billion toward the nation's total trade balance last fiscal year and $12.3 billion this year; at a time when this favorable balance is vitally important to protect the value of the dollar and permit us to purchase vitally-needed energy and mineral supplies from abroad.

World Hunger

With increased hunger stalking the world, particularly in places such as Sahel Africa and Sri Lanka, the President increased the fiscal 1975 funds available for Food for Peace aid by $600 million, more than a 50 percent increase. Provided strong backing for the World Food Conference and subsequent actions which have given the United States a strong position of leadership in providing more adequate food for the world's hungry as well as technical assistance to increase the capacity of less developed nations to feed their expanding populations.

Soil and Water Conservation

The Department of Agriculture has stepped up efforts to conserve soil and water as farmers increase their planted acreage in 1975. Twenty P.L. 566 watershed projects have been approved for installation since July 1, 1974 and funds for watershed installations in 1975 will equal the record $75 million in 1974. Ten additional multi-county Resource Conservation and Development projects have been designated to be eligible for program assistance, bringing the nation's total to 158.

Rural Development

The Department of Agriculture has maintained aggressive rural development efforts to improve the well-being of rural people through improved social services and job oqportunities. Through the Farmers Home Administration, rental housing and local businesses have been financed in 400 communities since last summer, and provided funds for 500 new water and waste disposal systems. Farmers Home loans and grants provided nearly 25,000 permanent jobs and 300,000 secondary jobs. Credit assistance was provided to 25,000 farmers whose operations were damaged by natural disasters. Through the Rural Development Service leaders in 450 rural communities have been provided with guidance on programs that are available to them. Increased electrical and telephone service has been brought to nearly 400,000 people living in rural America.

Forest Resources

The U.S. Forest Service has maintained a strong conservation and recreational program in our national forests and provided an optimum harvest of trees from these forests for use by the public. The Youth Conservation Corps on national forest lands will provide jobs for 4,000 young people in 1975. The Rural Community Fire Protection Program was expanded to provide technical and financial assistance to rural communities for fire prevention and suppression. To help meet future demands for wood products, forestry assistance has been provided to approximately 20,000 non-industrial private forest owners under the Forestry Incentives Program. Recommendations for classification of Wilderness Areas under the National Wilderness Preservation Act of 1964 have been completed. A nation-wide assessment of the timber, range, wildlife, water, outdoor recreation and other renewable resources on 1-1/2 billion acres of public and private forest lands, including the likely demand for these resources, was started. Also began developing a long-range program to meet the demand for the renewable resources on Forest Service lands.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Communication

5/16/75

TO: Norm Ross

Here is a substantial list of important actions in Agriculture.

Claude Gifford

CLAUDE W. GIFFORD
Director of Communication
Ext. 75247-76311

5-16

Presidential and Administration
Accomplishments in Agriculture

1. As a result of the strengthened economic situation for farmers, and a program that encourages farmers to get their income from expanded sales in the domestic and foreign market, tax outlays for farm program payments were reduced to $500 million in fiscal 1976. Payments had been as high as $4 billion two years earlier.

2. Used the backing of the Office of the President to assure that farmers would have the fuel and supplies necessary to carry out their production plans for 1975 in order to meet the increased need for larger food supplies at home and abroad.

3. Vetoed a costly farm bill that would have saddled farmers with surpluses and government controls; would have increased consumer food costs and tax bills; would have lowered farm income in the long run; would have harmed farm exports and our ability to negotiate for freer access to growing farm export markets for American farmers; and would have triggered another round of budget deficits and inflation that would have been harmful to consumers and farmers alike.

4. Assured farmers that in the event that markets weaken and prices drop, existing authority will be used to increase loan levels to protect the farm economy. Increased national wheat allotments by 15 percent, which broadens the support protection for farmers in the event that wheat prices fall below target levels.

5. Maintained a constant vigil against unsound fiscal policy and loose spending bills which would incite another round of inflation that would boost farmers' costs, reduce their income, and cheapen their dollars.

6. Has seen that supplies of natural gas were available to produce fertilizer, thus averting a serious fertilizer shortage.

7. Has backed a program to monitor marketing costs of food between the farm gate and the consumers' plate and put the spotlight on any excessive margins.

8. Has maintained a strong U.S. food policy based upon adequate food for consumers at reasonable prices; abolishing poverty-induced hunger in the nation; and providing adequate incentives for American farmers to produce fully for the food and fiber needs of the nation and the world.

9. Has strongly supported Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz in a program to provide farmers with the opportunity to make their own decisions, avoid bureaucratic interference, get their income from strengthened markets, and participate more fully in American economic life. Farm income in 1974 was the second highest of record, and 1975 promises to be the third best farm income year ever. The annual decline in the number of farms (11,000 in 1974) has reached the lowest level in a generation (220,000 in 1950; 138,000 in 1960; 45,000 in 1970), reflecting better economic conditions on farms and more faith in the future of agriculture and rural areas.

10. Moved aggressively to counteract a move by the Common Market countries of Europe to subsidize a glut of cut-rate cheese imports into the United States that would have jeapordized the future of the American dairy industry and its ability to meet the consumer needs for cheese in the years ahead. In January 1975 strengthened Milk Market Order prices and dairy price supports.

11. Negotiated voluntary agreements which limit excessive imports of beef that threatened U.S. beef producers and could have caused a liquidation of beef herds that would have been harmful to consumers by limiting beef supplies in the years ahead.

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14. With increased hunger stalking the world, particularly in places such as Sahel Africa and Sri Lanka, increased the fiscal 1976 funds available for Food for Peace aid by $600 million, more than a 50 percent increase.

15. Provided strong backing for the World Food Conference and subsequent actions which have given the United States a strong position of leadership in providing more adequate food for the world's hungry as well as technical assistance to increase the capacity of less developed nations to feed their expanding populations.

16. Has maintained aggressive Rural Development efforts to improve the well-being of rural people through improved social services and job opportunities.

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5/16/75

F.Y.I.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Communication

5/22/75

TO: Norm Ross

Here is a new list of accomplishments to take the place of the list we sent last week.

This includes four new items and slight revisions in items No. 1 and 13 that we sent last week.

Claude Gifford
CLAUDE W. GIFFORD
Director of Communication
Ext. 75247, 76311

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16. Has maintained vigilant programs against animal and plant pests and diseases. This lowers farmers' costs of production and makes more food available for consumers. As the result of a nation-wide eradication program, the United States has remained free of hog cholera since February 7, 1974 and is only a few weeks away from being declared hog-cholera-free for the first time in 130 years. This will increase the possibility of exports to other nations, and will rid the United States of a scourge that has cost billions of dollars in losses to farmers and consumers.

17. Has conducted the largest domestic feeding program for the needy in the history of the nation, which moves this nation nearer to the goal of eliminating poverty-caused hunger. More than 19 million people are receiving food stamps; 25 million school children are in school lunch programs, and 10 million of them receive free or reduced-price lunches. The USDA purchased the largest amount of red meat ever (240 million pounds) for use in school lunch programs during the 1974-75 school year. Food programs will take 70 percent of the USDA budget this year.

18. Has stepped up efforts to conserve soil and water as farmers increase their planted acreage in 1975. Twenty P.L. 566 watershed projects have been approved for installation since July 1, 1974 and funds for watershed installations in 1975 will equal the record $75 million in 1974. Ten additional multi-county Resource Conservation and Development projects have been designated to be eligible for program assistance, bringing the nation's total to 158.

19. Has maintained aggressive Rural Development efforts to improve the well-being of rural people through improved social services and job opportunities. Through the Farmers Home Administration, financed rental housing and local businesses in 400 communities since last summer, and provided funds for 500 new water and waste disposal systems. Farmers Home loans and grants provided nearly 25,000 permanent jobs and 300,000 secondary jobs. Credit assistance was provided to 25,000 farmers whose operations were damaged by natural disasters. Through the Rural Development Service provided leaders in 450 rural communities with guidance on programs that are available to them. Brought increased electrical and telephone service to nearly 400,000 people living in rural America.

20. Maintained a strong conservation and recreational program in our national forests and provided an optimum harvest of trees from these forests for use by the public. The Youth Conservation Corps on national forest lands will provide jobs for 4,000 young people in 1975. Expanded the Rural Community Fire Protection Program to

provide technical and financial assistance to rural communities for fire prevention and suppression. To help meet future demands for wood products, provided forestry assistance to approximately 20,000 non-industrial private forest owners under the Forestry Incentives Program. Completed recommendations for classification of Wilderness Areas under the National Wilderness Preservation Act of 1964. Started a nation-wide assessment of the timber, range, wildlife, water, outdoor recreation and other renewable resources on 1-1/2 billion acres of public and private forest lands, including the likely demand for these resources. Began developing a long-range program to meet the demand for the renewable resources on Forest Service lands.

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Accomplishments in Agriculture

1. As a result of the strengthened economic situation for farmers, and a program that encourages farmers to get their income from expanded sales in the domestic and foreign market, tax outlays for farm program payments were reduced to $500 million in calendar 1974. Payments had been as high as $3.9 billion two years earlier.

2. Used the backing of the Office of the President to assure that farmers would have the fuel and supplies necessary to carry out their production plans for 1975 in order to meet the increased need for larger food supplies at home and abroad.

3. Vetoed a costly farm bill that would have saddled farmers with surpluses and government controls; would have increased consumer food costs and tax bills; would have lowered farm income in the long run; would have harmed farm exports and our ability to negotiate for freer access to growing farm export markets for American farmers; and would have triggered another round of budget deficits and inflation that would have been harmful to consumers and farmers alike.

4. Assured farmers that in the event that markets weaken and prices drop, existing authority will be used to increase loan levels to protect the farm economy. Increased national wheat allotments by 15 percent, which broadens the support protection for farmers in the event that wheat prices fall below target levels.

5. Maintained a constant vigil against unsound fiscal policy and loose spending bills which would incite another round of inflation that would boost farmers' costs, reduce their income, and cheapen their dollars.

6. Has seen that supplies of natural gas were available to produce fertilizer, thus averting a serious fertilizer shortage.

7. Has backed a program to monitor marketing costs of food between the farm gate and the consumers' plate and put the spotlight on any excessive margins.

8. Has maintained a strong U.S. food policy based upon adequate food for consumers at reasonable prices; abolishing poverty-induced hunger in the nation; and providing adequate incentives for American farmers to produce fully for the food and fiber needs of the nation and the world.

9. Has strongly supported Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz in a program to provide farmers with the opportunity to make their own decisions, avoid bureaucratic interference, get their income from strengthened markets, and participate more fully in American economic life. Farm income in 1974 was the second highest of record, and 1975 promises to be the third best farm income year ever. The annual decline in the number of farms (11,000 in 1974) has reached the lowest level in a generation (220,000 in 1950; 138,000 in 1960; 45,000 in 1970), reflecting better economic conditions on farms and more faith in the future of agriculture and rural areas.

10. Moved aggressively to counteract a move by the Common Market countries of Europe to subsidize a glut of cut-rate cheese imports into the United States that would have jeapordized the future of the American dairy industry and its ability to meet the consumer needs for cheese in the years ahead. In January 1975 strengthened Milk Market Order prices and dairy price supports.

11. Negotiated voluntary agreements which limit excessive imports of beef that threatened U.S. beef producers and could have caused a liquidation of beef herds that would have been harmful to consumers by limiting beef supplies in the years ahead.

12. Instituted a firm international trade negotiating policy that will tie industry and agriculture together in upcoming trade barrier negotiations. This will assure that any negotiated downward adjustment in trade barriers will also provide that our farm exports gain easier access to foreign markets. Appointed a broad representation of farm commodity leaders to assist the United States in upcoming trade negotiations.

13. Instituted a grain export monitoring system in 1974 that prevented possible raids for foreign buyers intent on getting an undue share of our short supplies of grain. This kept our exports moving out smoothly and forestalled the threat that mandatory, harmful controls on exports would be legislated by Congress. Farm exports will hit a record high of $22 billion this fiscal year, following exports of $21.3 billion last year. This contributed a favorable $11.8 billion toward the nation's total trade balance last fiscal year and $12.3 billion this year; at a time when this favorable balance is vitally important to protect the value of the dollar and permit us to purchase vitally-needed energy and mineral supplies from abroad.

14. With increased hunger stalking the world, particularly in places such as Sahel Africa and Sri Lanka, increased the fiscal 1976 funds available for Food for Peace aid by $600 million, more than a 50 percent increase.

15. Provided strong backing for the World Food Conference and subsequent actions which have given the United States a strong position of leadership in providing more adequate food for the world's hungry as well as technical assistance to increase the capacity of less developed nations to feed their expanding populations.

16. Has maintained vigilant programs against animal and plant pests and diseases. This lowers farmers' costs of production and makes more food available for consumers. As the result of a nation-wide eradication program, the United States has remained free of hog cholera since February 7, 1974 and is only a few weeks away from being declared hog-cholera-free for the first time in 130 years. This will increase the possibility of exports to other nations, and will rid the United States of a scourge that has cost billions of dollars in losses to farmers and consumers.

17. Has conducted the largest domestic feeding program for the needy in the history of the nation, which moves this nation nearer to the goal of eliminating poverty-caused hunger. More than 19 million people are receiving food stamps; 25 million school children are in school lunch programs, and 10 million of them receive free or reduced-price lunches. The USDA purchased the largest amount of red meat ever (240 million pounds) for use in school lunch programs during the 1974-75 school year. Food programs will take 70 percent of the USDA budget this year.

18. Has stepped up efforts to conserve soil and water as farmers increase their planted acreage in 1975. Twenty P.L. 566 watershed projects have been approved for installation since July 1, 1974 and funds for watershed installations in 1975 will equal the record $75 million in 1974. Ten additional multi-county Resource Conservation and Development projects have been designated to be eligible for program assistance, bringing the nation's total to 158.

19. Has maintained aggressive Rural Development efforts to improve the well-being of rural people through improved social services and job opportunities. Through the Farmers Home Administration, financed rental housing and local businesses in 400 communities since last summer, and provided funds for 500 new water and waste disposal systems. Farmers Home loans and grants provided nearly 25,000 permanent jobs and 300,000 secondary jobs. Credit assistance was provided to 25,000 farmers whose operations were damaged by natural disasters. Through the Rural Development Service provided leaders in 450 rural communities with guidance on programs that are available to them. Brought increased electrical and telephone service to nearly 400,000 people living in rural America.

20. Maintained a strong conservation and recreational program in our national forests and provided an optimum harvest of trees from these forests for use by the public. The Youth Conservation Corps on national forest lands will provide jobs for 4,000 young people in 1975. Expanded the Rural Community Fire Protection Program to

provide technical and financial assistance to rural communities for fire prevention and suppression. To help meet future demands for wood products, provided forestry assistance to approximately 20,000 non-industrial private forest owners under the Forestry Incentives Program. Completed recommendations for classification of Wilderness Areas under the National Wilderness Preservation Act of 1964. Started a nation-wide assessment of the timber, range, wildlife, water, outdoor recreation and other renewable resources on 1-1/2 billion acres of public and private forest lands, including the likely demand for these resources. Began developing a long-range program to meet the demand for the renewable resources on Forest Service lands.

5/22/75