

THE WICKER REPORT

By: United States Senator Roger Wicker



Wicker Praises Farm Bill’s Support for American Agriculture

Congress Passes Five-Year Reauthorization of Farming and Conservation Programs

In the late 1970s, radio broadcaster Paul Harvey delivered what would become a famous speech about farmers. He began by saying, “And on the 8th day, God looked down on his planned paradise and said, ‘I need a caretaker.’ So God made a farmer.” Harvey then described the hard work, long hours, strength, compassion, and resourcefulness that characterize a farmer.

Bill Offers Farmers Critical Support, More Certainty

Many years later, those powerful lines would again capture audiences as part of a popular Super Bowl commercial. They still apply today, underscoring the

importance of our farmers to our nation and the world. Because of U.S. farmers, consumers here at home and in distant places have access to the nourishment they need to keep themselves and their families healthy. American farms – including the more than 36,000 in our state – quite literally feed the world. Convenient food access can make it easy to overlook the incredible challenges for our farmers, including the constant risk of extreme weather or market instability. Massive drops in net farm income shed light on the struggles that farmers have dealt with in recent years.

The regulatory reforms of the Trump Administration

have no doubt helped minimize some of these challenges, but Congress can do more. I am encouraged that the enactment of a five-year farm bill, titled the “Agriculture Improvement Act,” is now within reach. The bill, which has also been passed by the House, would support programs that our farmers turn to when hurt by natural disasters or low commodity prices. It would strengthen public-private research partnerships. For rural communities in Mississippi and across the country, the bill would foster broadband deployment and better water infrastructure, strengthening local economies.

Precision Agriculture Is Shaping Farms of the Future

Broadband expansion in our rural areas is imperative to our nation’s agricultural productivity, now and into the future. When equipped with a high-speed internet connection and a drone or sensor out in the field, our farmers have the capacity to



Boss says get a credit card

Dear Dave,
I recently got a new job that requires monthly expenses of almost \$5,000 that are reimbursed. I can’t swing that

kind of money right now, and my company told me to get a credit card to cover things. I’m trying to get out of debt, and I don’t like this idea. What should I do?

John

Dear John,

Your company should be fronting the money for these expenses. When you talk about the cost of doing business, it’s the responsibility of the company — not the employee — to pay expenses.

If I send someone on the road to make money for my company, I pay the bills. It doesn’t matter if you’re talking about hotel rooms, airfare, or rental cars, those are my expenses. If it’s someone who travels a lot, we give them a company debit card. If it’s just an occasional thing, we’ll give them money out of petty cash. But a company shouldn’t treat its employees this way. That’s just plain wrong.

It’s a mystery to me how some segments of Corporate America have sold their employees on the idea of being the company bank. Ultimately, my provision would

mately, the decision is yours. If you don’t mind covering your company’s expenses and getting reimbursed, but you don’t want to go into debt, you’ll have to save and build up a \$5,000 business expense fund in a separate checking account. This should be used only for business expenses, and what’s spent should be replenished immediately when they reimburse you.

You’re in an unusual spot, John. Personally, I think this is an unprofessional way to run a business. But if you like your job, and want to stay without taking on any more debt, the good news is you’ll only have to fill up your expense account one time.

Good luck!

Dave

Well meaning, but misguided

Dear Dave,

My sister has bad credit due to a lot of late payments. She has finally started to change her ways and get control of her finances, because she and her fiancé want to make an offer on a house. The bank won’t approve it if she is on the loan, and his income alone isn’t enough to get the
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Living With Children

By John Rosemond

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A column of mine that originally appeared in January of 2017 has been circulating on the Internet ever since, accumulating over a million hits to date. In a nutshell, its message is simply that parents, not children, are the most important people in a family and the husband-wife

relationship should greatly “trump” that between either parent and the kids. In other words, mom and dad are secondary roles. Spouse should rule, in both directions.

That is likely disorienting to most folks who are raising children today, but neither of those propositions is re-

garded as radical by people over age sixty – folks who were raised prior to the onset of the psychological parenting revolution that has throttled the functionality of the American Family since the early 1970s. Individuals in that demographic don’t need a college education to see that the primacy of the parent-child relationship in today’s typical family is what’s causing most if not all of any given family’s problems, and especially those involving child discipline.

How, pray tell, can one successfully discipline someone else – irrespective of that someone’s age – while at the same time be focused primarily on having a “wonderful relationship”? Answer: There is no “how.” It is an impossible proposition. Effective leadership is cancelled by the attempt to have “wonderful relationship.” When relationship priorities are properly ordered in a family, the discipline (leadership) of children is relatively simple and painless for all concerned.

The column in question has generated lots of comment – pro and con (as usual, I am some variety of monster to parenting progressives) – and questions. One such question was recently posed to me by a single mom in the beautiful state of Kentucky: “How does your advice apply to the man I’m dating and my relationship with him?”

Given that my mother was single for most of my first seven years, I am eminently qualified to answer: to wit, as
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