should be pooled at executive headquarters, then rebated back to the farmers. Then all farmers would receive the same price per pound of butter fat for their product with the exception of a difference of about five cents per pound for quality A and quality B milk. This to me seems to be a just method for after all—isn't a pound of butter fat produced by one farmer worth as much as a pound of butter fat produced by another farm providing they were produced under equally sanitary conditions.

What Should Be Done With the 40 to 50 Million Acres Taken Out of Production?

Miss Beth Miller
Evansville, Wis.

(Copy of talk not available)

What Should Be Done With the 40 to 50 Million Acres Taken Out of Production?

Mrs. L. G. Lambert
Elk Mound, Wis.

Disposal of land contracted to the federal government is a question of vital interest to the farmers of Wisconsin. Will this land be utilized for legumes and consequently compete with Wisconsin's important dairy industry? Consider the fact that these retired acres represent an area four times the amount of land under cultivation in the state of Wisconsin.

What will be done with this land? Various sections of our country are adapted to certain industries. The mid-western states are important for the production of wheat. The southern states for the production of cotton. These sections need not be apprehensive of our state competing against them in the production of these products. But what of Wisconsin's important industry? Its chief source of income is derived from dairy products. Is there danger of other states competing against us? Decidedly yes. We find the dairy cow in every section of the United States. With the advent of our federal program of crop reduction farmers all over the nation will be encouraged to expand their dairy activities because certain AAA provisions permit contracted acres to be planted to legumes.

Permit me to cite a few figures regarding the dairy industry of Wisconsin: Livestock and livestock products amount to 38.7% of the total agricultural income of Wisconsin. Milk alone provides 51.3% of all farm income. Wisconsin produces over one-tenth of all milk produced in America. From these figures one can readily understand the importance of protecting the dairy interests of Wisconsin.

How can we dispose of these retired lands?

The official answer as given in Section 5 of the AAA ruling provides for the use of these lands as follows:
(a) Planting additional permanent pasture.
(b) Soil improving and erosion preventing crops.
(c) Resting or fallowing the land.
(d) Planting farm wood lots.

I shall comment briefly upon the above provisions. Newly seeded, additional permanent pasture may be grazed in 1934.

Soil improving and erosion preventing crops means the planting of legumes. These two provisions will tend to encourage the expansion of the dairy industry.

Resting or fallowing the land is a commendable provision because lands so disposed will not prove injurious to any section of our country. Planting farm wood lots which may be used as a wind break, to supply wood, or used to furnish wood pulp will not be considered practical by farmers in general. From a selfish standpoint the present generation would derive no benefit.

I wish to present a two-point program for your consideration which would effectively dispose of retired acres. First, contracted acres should remain idle because farmers are being paid by our government to retire them.

The second method which I advocate for contracted acreage would be a utilization of all sub-marginal lands under a federal reforestation program. This would be a good plan for disposing of unprofitable lands and converting them into a national asset.

European nations have stringent laws for the preservation of their forests whereas our natural heritage has been ruthlessly destroyed by fire and the avarice of capitalists.

The United States government has at present a number of forest reserves which provide employment to many people. A national reforestation program would add further employment and serve as a future supply for lumber and fuel.

I realize a great national problem confronts our president. We must cooperate with him.

The following lines by Edwin Markham illustrate the fact that we have a common cause.

"There is a destiny that makes us brothers; None goes his way alone:
All that we send into the lives of others
Comes back into our own."

Summarizing: A federal reforestation project and following contracted acres would eliminate dairy competition.

In conclusion, let us realize that one valuable lesson farmers will derive from crop reduction is that the important thing to consider is not how much we raise but the price we receive for our products. It will encourage the tendency for better business procedure on the part of our farmers and a demand for cost of production.