



National Family Farm Coalition

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Statement of George Naylor, President – National Family Farm Coalition Geneva Framework Agreement: August 2, 2004

The National Family Farm Coalition challenges the veracity of the WTO framework agreement which claims to cut farm subsidies and improve the outlook for the world's farmers. The Coalition consistently supports efforts of farmers in the US and other countries to get a fair price and halt the exodus of rural people from their communities.

The WTO negotiations rightly failed in Cancun, and this agreement framework reached in Geneva misleads farmers and the global public in order to make the appearance that these negotiations are back on track.

“The new framework agreement should be called “Promises, Promises, Promises—to be continued,” George Naylor, Iowa farmer and president of the National Family Farm Coalition stated. “The US promise to cut US subsidies rings hollow because even if subsidies were to be cut, farmers around the world won't have any option other than to plant fencerow-to-fencerow and take what ever low price is paid by multinational corporations on the world market.”

The Coalition views the subsidies in the US farm bill as symptoms of low prices that should be addressed by international trade cooperation to raise commodity prices worldwide. The trade liberalization goals of the WTO can only result in lower farm prices and more farmers either being more dependent on subsidies or leaving the land altogether.