

A well-developed system of family farms, small as well as moderate in size and stage of development, will help stem the tide of migrants from the farms to the cities.

We are convinced that rural people will stay in rural areas, will stay on farms, if they are given a chance to make a decent living.

A recent survey by the Gallup report showed that 56 percent of Americans prefer to live in rural America.

The percent of people who would like to live in cities, suburbs, or small towns is declining. The number preferring the farm is rapidly rising.

We favor the family farm because it is good for small business, is, in itself a small business.

Family farmers trade at home.

The managers of large-scale corporation farms deal directly with the wholesalers or even the manufacturers of the products they need to run their farms, raise their crops.

In an area where corporation farms dominate there is no place for the village farm supply dealer, the co-op grain elevator, the small banker.

You simply cannot have corporation farms and small business enterprises cheek by jowl.

On the other hand, where family farms thrive, small businesses flourish too.

Take the impact on rural small businessmen that was created by the 190,000 farm families that used the supervised credit services of my agency, the Farmers Home Administration during 1967.

With average gross incomes estimated at \$17,000, these farmers had a total gross income of more than \$3.2 billion to spend on Main Street.

Out of this, \$736 million was spent for clothing, food, drugs, television sets, and other consumer items. In addition some \$1.7 billion was used for goods and services to produce crops and livestock and \$704 million for the repayment of debt and purchase of new farm equipment.

And every dollar was spent locally, in support of a small business.

We favor the family farm because we question the type of farming that does not accept year-round responsibility for its work force.

We believe that large-scale farming with its dependence on migrant labor has created the most degrading type of labor imaginable in the modern world of today.

We favor the family farm because the family farm supports decentralized decisionmaking and diffused economic power.

We recognize that vast segments of our industrialized economy long ago became highly centralized so far as controls and decisionmaking are concerned.

But we are not at all satisfied that just because this has happened in the steel industry, the automobile industry, the communications industry, to name a few, that is necessarily good.

We do not advocate going back to the horse and buggy days but we do believe that the makers of our modern buggies would be more responsive to our needs for antismog devices and safety devices if they had a few more competitors.

Why then, if we sense the superiority of family farming over all