Even Mr. K Has to Bow to U.S. Farmers

"Farming is everybody's business. It's the biggest business in America — and the only one to which even Khrushchev tips his hat.

"It's a $38 billion-a-year industry that affects our taxes, our foreign policy, our housewives' budgets and our eating habits."

So says Kenneth Scheibel, who for 12 years has covered farm news from Washington for the Gannett papers and is now starting a weekly column, "Washington Farm Beat," for North American Newspaper Alliance.

Our readers will wish to watch their daily newspaper for this NANA 700-word weekly farm column issued for Monday publication.

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Agriculture and the Common Market

"All parents tell their children about the piggies," says Dr. Conrad F. Joyner, University of Arizona associate professor of government, "but dilemmas arising out of the creation of the European Common Market (ECM) make it possible to tell the story in a new way."

This little piggy went to the Common Market.

This little piggy stayed home in Iowa.

This little piggy wished he were roast beef.

This little piggy didn't know what he was.

This little piggy cried 'wee, wee, wee, I can't find my home.'

"We find in the world today the paradox of agricultural abundance in some areas in contrast to over-all scarcity," says Dr. Joyner. Technical advances and fertile land make some areas more productive than others yet the rising birth rate and lower infant mortality rate have caused a scarcity of food.

Tariffs and other barriers discourage distribution from the more productive areas to those less fortunate.

The traditional economic solution to these problems is a free world market in which each country produces what it is best suited to, imports what it needs and exports its surplus.

In the long run (theoretically) everything would balance out.

The European Common Market is supposedly moving towards this type of free world market.

Differences between the agricultural situation in the Common Market and that in the United States will create dilemmas. Some of the differences he points out, are that the United States farmer is more efficient, that the Common Market must import some of its agricultural products and that despite aids, farmers in Common Market countries have a lower income than those here.

In the European Common Market there are 180 million acres under agricultural production; in the United States there are 300 million acres.

In the ECM there are 900 million farms; in the United States there are 3.7 million farms. We have abandoned the 12, 15, 17 and 18 acre farms that still exist in abundance in Europe, Dr. Joyner notes.

In the ECM there are 12.5 million male farm workers; in the United States there are only half that many.

The goal of the ECM is to solve some of the problems inherent in the European agricultural situation.

Editor's Note: This summary of Dr. Joyner's talk, before the League of Women Voters' foreign economic policy workshop here, was written by Susan Seekley of the Tucson Daily Citizen staff.