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American Agriculture In the European Common Market

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UMM News Service
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Area
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For Immediate Release

MORRIS--American agriculture has a long, hard fight ahead to 'break' into the European Common Market, Elmer Learn told those attending the ABC Rally, held in Edson Hall on the UMM campus last Sunday, October 20.

Elmer Learn, chairman of the Department of Agricultural Economics, Institute of Agriculture, University of Minnesota, was the main speaker at the rally. The rally was held to inform the residents of west central Minnesota of the ABC program and to point out the need for further support of it.

Speaking on "American Agriculture and the Common Market," Mr. Learn also said that negotiations for reduced barriers will have to be completed soon. Without the barriers, he said, the American farmer could find a larger market for many of his goods.

Mr. Learn told about the 'Chicken War' as an example of what the American farmer is up against. It was found, last year, that chickens could be shipped to Europe and sold for \$.55 a pound. But the support price for chickens in the Common Market was \$1.10 a pound. The tax assessed against the chickens shipped from the United States was set at \$.55 a pound. If the cost of shipping had been less so that the chickens could have been sold for \$.45 a pound, the tax would have been raised to \$.65 a pound.

Nearly all American agricultural products are taxed so that the final selling price in the Common Market is equal to, or above, the support price of the commodity within the Common Market.

A meeting is to be held next May at which time many of these

problems will be discussed. Mr. Learn told the group that many preliminary meetings have already been held and that many more will be before May. The meeting is to be held with United States officials and officials of the Common Market.

The University of Minnesota, Morris Men's Chorus opened the program on Sunday with a short concert. Edwin Christianson, President of the Minnesota Farmers Union, added his support to the ABC (Agricultural Barter for College) program.

Don Fredrickson, Murdock, Minn., and chairman of the ABC program explained the development and progress of the ABC program. H. G. Croom, Director of Student Services at UMM, introduced students who have been aided by the ABC Loan and Scholarship Fund.