

FIGURE 2  
**Ten states produce 42% of U.S. marijuana output**  
 (billions \$)



Source: NORML; EIR estimates

in remote areas impoverished by the shutdown of local coal mines and other industries and by the fall in farm commodity prices. Added to that is the counterculture's "Mother Earth"-type farmer, based especially on the West Coast, but located around the country, as a product of the "New Age."

If, over the 1980s there had been genuine economic growth, instead of "Reaganomics" followed by Bush's equally disastrous free market liberalism, then the U.S. farm sector would be booming, and marijuana would not have become the new crop of "alternative agriculture."

## Pop singers say, 'Grow dope, not food'

The most prominent promoter of marijuana cultivation is the entertainment mafia's favorite pothead, Willie Nelson, billed as a country and western singer. Wailing Willie is the figurehead for an outfit called FarmAid, which in 1985 began annual charity concert bashes to raise funds to donate to needy farmers. FarmAid has worked hand-in-glove with the FBI Community Relations division, to police rural areas and prevent any serious political farm movement from taking shape.

FarmAid has pledged financing for a national emergency farm protest meeting in March in Washington, D.C.; the group will have its usual strings attached to see that the meeting remains at the level of impotent "protest," not "program."

Last October, Nelson was on the election trail for

pot. In Kentucky he supported gubernatorial candidate Gatewood Galbraith, whose platform called for a "hemp-based economy." Galbraith, the best-known marijuana lawyer in the state, calls for legalizing marijuana, levying stiff taxes on it, and applying the revenues for action against "hard" drugs. Galbraith says that pot growing has caused the "revitalization of the rural economy."

In his 1988 autobiography, *Willie*, Nelson bragged about how he and a pal smoked marijuana on the White House roof, during a stay as guests of President Jimmy Carter. "The boys don't play where they can't smoke dope," Nelson told a reporter who asked whether his band indulged in illegal drug use at the White House.

Now that Willie has come to be the entertainment industry's "friend of the farmer," his message continues to be: "Feelin' bad? Try dope." The *Washington Post* featured Willie in its "Personalities" column in October 1990, saying, "I don't think there's any big secret how I've felt about cannabis [hemp or marijuana] over the years. The biggest killer on the planet is stress, and I still think the best medicine is and always has been cannabis."