

● Amend Milk Order

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Milk Producers Cooperative Association is submitting to Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman to amend and clarify Federal Milk Order #2.

Eastern feels that the Order should be more explicit in what it defines as sterile milk . . . make a distinct interpretation between sterilized whole milk and such products as evaporated and condensed milk . . . and require that the product be made from milk designated as fluid (Class I) milk. Sterile whole milk, which has been in the development stages for several years, has been billed as a product that might replace fresh whole milk. Sterile milk is whole milk from which all bacteria has

been removed by sterilization, homogenized, and the product hermetically sealed in cans. In this form, the milk reportedly has long shelf life at normal temperatures therefore consumers may

feel they can use this product for the same purposes as fresh whole milk. Federal Order #2 specifically classifies any canned milk product as milk for manufacture and it thereby carries a low price classification.

Eastern President Howard Merrill stated emphatically, "If you are going to replace fresh whole milk with sterile whole milk then that milk should be priced as fluid from the beginning

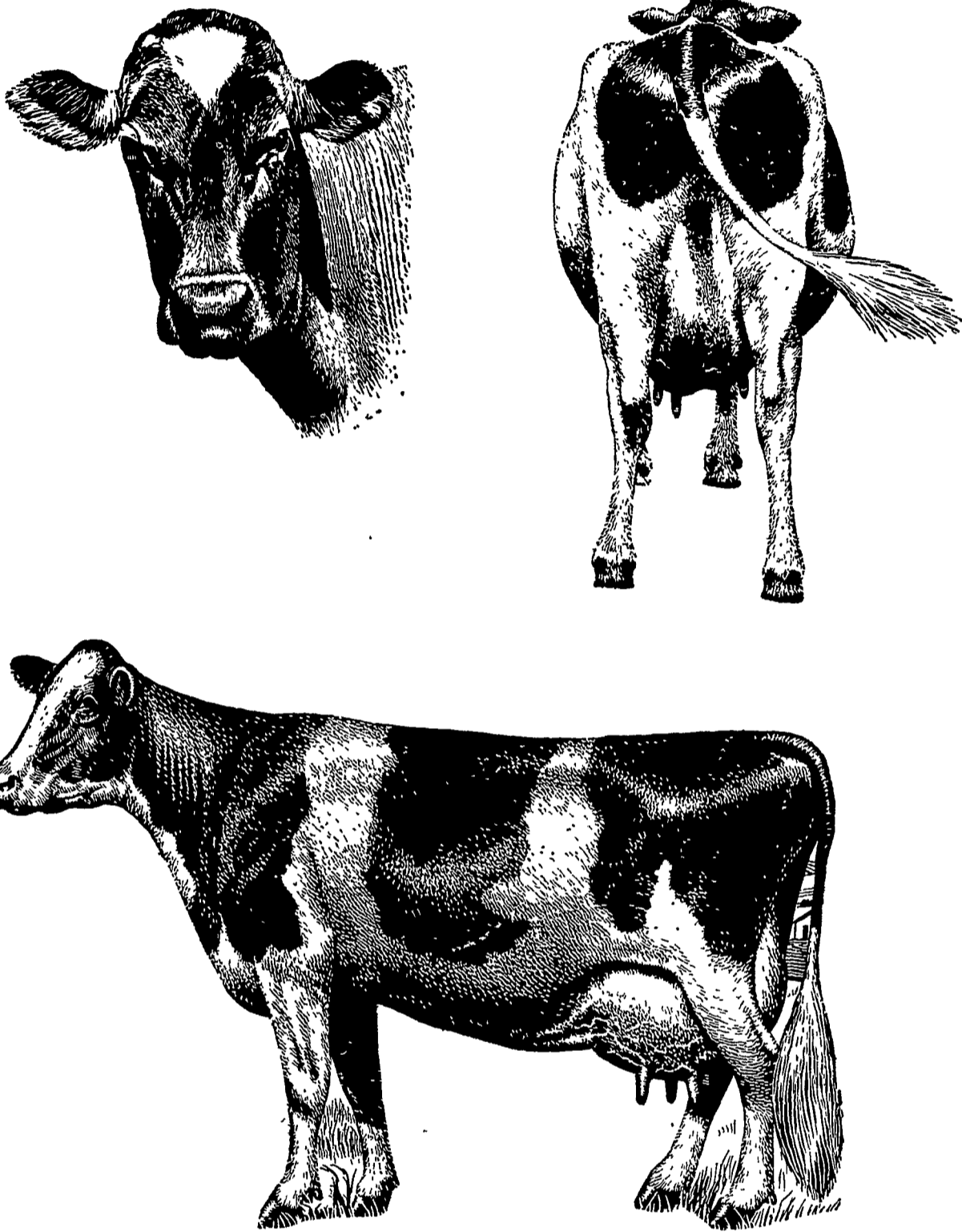
"We all know that many farmers will be out of business if a much higher percentage of our milk goes into manufacturing with a continued lowering of blend price

Let's look at last year's farmer prices in the New York-New Jersey milkshed. With fluid price (Class I) averaging \$5.26 per hundred-weight and the manufacturing price (Class III) averaging \$3.16, the farmer's price averaged \$4.21 per hundred-weight for the year. If Class III replaces more of Class I, then farmers prices will be lowered still further

He pointed out further that one of the biggest threats to the dairymen's fresh fluid milk market is the nearly completed sterile milk processing plant at Oneida NY — owned by Northeast Dairy Co-operative Federation

"With these facilities right in the middle of our milkshed, producing a product which may be a substitute to fresh fluid whole milk, dairymen deserve the protection of having this product come from milk priced as fluid from the outset" We are asking Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman and Commissioner of Agriculture Donald Wickham, and Floyd Hoffman, N.J. Office of Milk Industry for an immediate hearing so that this matter can be brought out into the open and the Federal Order amended. It is our solemn duty to obtain maximum returns for dairymen and we enlist all dairy cooperatives and individual dairymen to support this cause"

ANYWAY YOU LOOK AT IT...



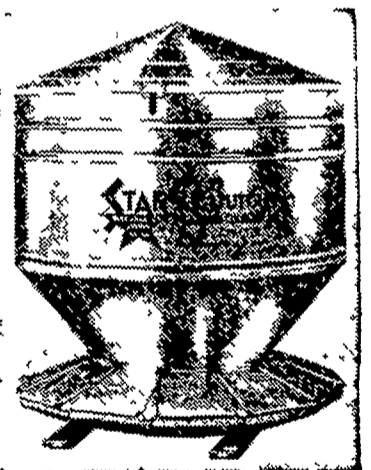
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