

Cooperatives Spokesman Urges Candidate Views On Farming

A spokesman for farmer cooperatives urged the Presidential candidates to state publicly their views on corporation farming.

Kenneth D. Naden, executive vice-president of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, said in a letter to Vice President Hubert Humphrey and Richard Nixon:

"The growing tendency of non-farm corporations to move into the production of crops and livestock is one of the most urgent issues on the farm front. Farmers want to hear what you think about it and what you would do about it if you were President."

Naden asked the candidates to speak out on four specific

questions relating to corporation farming:

Should many or a few own food producing land?

Are social, as well as economic values worth considering?

Do farmers rate legal protection from encroachment by non-farm industries?

How would corporation farming affect food prices?

Naden said the trend could have serious consequences for farmer cooperatives. "Some say the corporate trend will spur farmer efforts to build stronger cooperatives. Others say it will destroy cooperatives because there will be no farmers left who have the decision-making power to own and operate cooperatives."

He asked Nixon and Humphrey for a quick response "so we can give your views wide publicity among our members"

The National Council's membership includes nearly 100 farmer marketing and farm supply cooperatives representing a majority of the nation's food producers.

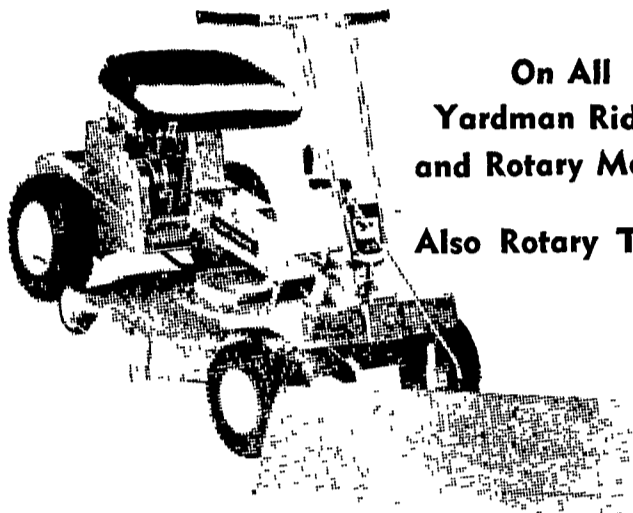
Pennsylvania dairy farmers produced 249 million quarts of milk in August, 9 million fewer quarts than in August a year ago, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service

It was the 31st consecutive month in which total milk production was below the comparable month in the previous year

Milk cows on farms were estimated by the Service at 723,000, down two percent from August a year ago

Milk production per cow declined for the 12th consecutive month. The August production averaged 740 pounds per cow compared to 750 pounds in August last year

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