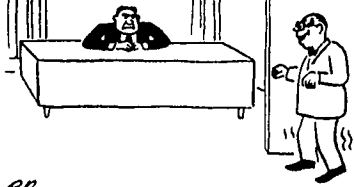


The Old Timer



“Remember that you are your own doctor when it comes to curing cold feet.”

Cattle Committee Opposes Import Prices Ceiling

The National Cattle Industry Advisory Committee, concluding a two-day meeting in Washington, supported Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz in his public opposition to price ceilings for raw farm products.

The majority of the committee, recognizing the need for an increase in voluntary meat import quotas, approved in principle the USDA decision of March 9. “Although an increase from 1.16 to 1.24 billion pounds seems to be too liberal,” the committee stated, “we agree with Secretary Butz that the increase is preferable to unworkable ceilings on meat prices.” “Such ceilings,” the committee resolved, “would be disastrous to

America’s farmers, consumers, and to the overall economy. Food—the best in the world—at a cost to the consumer of 16 per cent of disposable income—is a better bargain today than ever before.

The group pointed out that if meat prices are to be held below competitive levels, rationing would become necessary, as during World War II.

The committee, composed of representatives from producing, packing, retailing, consuming and other interests, was formed in 1971 to advise USDA on all phases of its programs of service to the cattle industry. The 35 members consulted with Secretary Butz and with key USDA administrators during the meeting.

The committee also:

1. Urged beef producers to comply with regulations in the use and handling of all agricultural chemicals, antibiotics and additives, in order that the continued acceptance of beef by consumers be assured.
2. Supported the USDA

proposal for establishing revised grade standards for young bulls for retail usage that would be comparable in requirements to those for steers, but would require carcass identification as a separate class of beef.

3. Called for understanding on the part of consumers of the cyclical nature of the livestock industry and the need for cattlemen to earn returns that will permit a continued supply of high quality beef. The committee pointed out that per capita beef consumption has doubled in the past 20 years with consumer costs reflecting a substantially lower percentage of disposable income than in 1951—while production costs have increased in line with inflation in the rest of the economy.

4. Approved recent improvements in cattle estimates but cautioned against unquestioned use of “marketing intentions” figures because of the uncertainties inherent in such figures.

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I have _____ Cattle
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Thoughts

(Continued from Page 12)

The analysis must be studied objectively with goals and comparisons in mind. An excellent reference booklet for dairy farm comparisons is the “Pennsylvania Dairy Farm Business Analysis”, Farm Management Number 46, College of Agriculture, Penn State University, University Park, Pa. 16802.

After the comparisons have been made and the problems have been identified, alternative solutions are selected and tested. The sophisticated technique to employ at this point would be a computerized linear program of the business to measure which alternative would be the most profitable.

The end result should be a more efficient farm business and a higher net income to the farmer and his family.

C. O. NOLT

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