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**USDA Issues Report on Dairy  
Product Prices and Consumption**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued results of a study on "Prices and Consumption of Dairy Products with Price Supports and Milk Orders."

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service said the study was made to portray the prices, price relationships and price structures that developed under

milk pricing programs, as well as the reactions of consumers as measured by milk consumption.

Some important considerations covered by the study are the impact, over a period of more than 20 years, of the milk order and price support programs on:

—Retail prices of milk and dairy products relative to other foods.

—Competition between fluid milk products and manufactured products such as nonfat dry milk and dry milk mixes and the effect on fluid consumption.

—Changes in consumption of butterfat and solids-no-fat in various milk products.

—Changes in the margin of the price for bottling milk over that of milk for manufacturing.

—Changes in relative price and value of butterfat and solids-no-fat in milk.

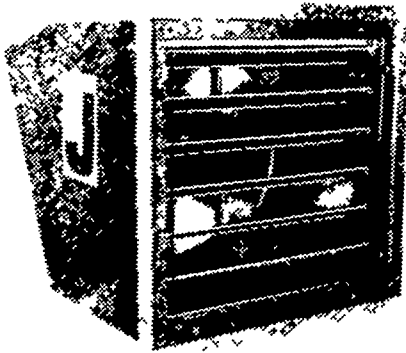
AMS officials said the report will be helpful to handlers who process and distribute milk and dairy products, and to dairy farmers and their cooperatives, in understanding the impact of

the price support and milk order programs on the dairy economy.

The report contains basic information for further study of how present milk pricing systems can be improved.

Single copies of "Prices and Consumption of Dairy Products with Price Supports and Milk Orders," AER 226, may be obtained by postcard request from the Office of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. Please include your zip code.

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**Pa. Tobacco Crop Smallest Since '38**

Pennsylvania appears headed for the smallest harvest of tobacco in 38 years. Estimates by the Crop Reporting Service on August 1, indicated that production this year would be 26,400,000 pounds. The acreage devoted to tobacco is the lowest in nearly 100 years.

The decline is not associated with the cigarette-cancer link as most of the tobacco grown in the Commonwealth — Pennsylvania seedleaf or Type No 41 — is utilized in the manufacture of cigars. In fact, production of all types of tobacco grown in the U.S. is being forecast at up 13,000,000 pounds from last year.

Tobacco growing has been on the decline in Pennsylvania since it peaked at 60,000,000 pounds in 1962. Since that time, acreage has decreased almost annually. This year's crop was further distressed as cold, wet weather delayed transplanting until the late June floods stopped all operations.

Although cigarette consumption continues to grow in spite of the surgeon general's warning, cigar smoking appears to be on the wane even though it has been given a relatively clean bill of health.

\* \* \*

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