

# Industry Leaders Urge Action in Feed Crisis

(Editor's Note: Rising feed prices have understandably concerned leaders in various segments of agriculture. The messages here were sent this week to government officials in an attempt to loosen the feed market.)

To - Senators Richard Schweiker and Hugh Scott. From - Richard I Ammon, executive director, Northeastern Poultry Producers Council

Dear Senator  
This morning representatives of the poultry industry from throughout the United States met with Secretary of Agriculture, Dr Earl Butz, Assistant Secretary, Richard Lyng, Deputy Director of the Cost of Living Council, James McLane, and Richard Fairbanks of the White House staff

Representing the Northeastern poultry industry at this meeting was Mr Robert B Graybill, President, Pennfield Corporation, 711 Rohrerstown Road, Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Purpose of the meeting was to seek some relief for the industry from the skyrocketing cost of poultry feed. Specifically, the industry leaders requested:

- 1 That the Secretary release for domestic sale, Commodity Credit Corporation loan stocks of current crop corn (the Secretary has already announced that older corn will not be eligible for resale - i.e. it must move into domestic commercial channels)
- 2 That the Secretary restrict the volume of soybeans and soybean meal that can be exported for the next six months to the volume

exported during the same period a year earlier.  
3. That the Cost of Living Council review and revise its definition of broilers to allow them to be treated the same as other agricultural products so far as price or margin controls are concerned.

In a year's time, feed costs have jumped almost 4 cents for each pound of broiler meat and about 5 cents for each dozen of eggs being marketed today. Corn is up 28.9 percent over the same date last year, soybean meal is up 127.3 percent, fish meal is up 50 percent but almost impossible to find because Peru has banned fishing until March due to the anchovy scarcity. This means a complete feed for laying hens currently costs farmers about \$92 a ton, while the price of broiler grower feed is \$120 a ton, both up \$24 to \$35 a ton over a few months ago

Obviously, this problem has serious economic implications for everyone. Retail prices of all foods containing meat, milk and eggs are advancing and will advance further and faster if feed prices are not soon lowered.

Secretary Butz told the group he would see what could be done to release CCC stocks of this year's corn but for both diplomatic and economic reasons, he doubted that anything could be done about restricting soybean exports

The Secretary strongly supported the industry's request for the Cost of Living Council to treat broilers the same as other agricultural products and Mr. McLane immediately set up a meeting with the group for next week to go over this matter in detail

While today's meeting did not produce miracles, none were expected. Yet we do feel that actions may be forthcoming that could bring some much needed relief to poultry and livestock farmers in the form of lower feed costs

It would be greatly appreciated, therefore, if you would contact Secretary Butz to express your interest in the poultry industry feed cost problem and your hope that he will find a way to release CCC-held stocks of feed grains. Would you also contact Mr. McLane to request that he give every possible consideration to the industry broiler definition request

Thank you very much for your continued interest in and support of the poultry industry of our state and nation. If you need additional information or if we can be of further help to you in this matter please call us

To - Earl L. Butz, James McHale, Milton Shapp, Herbert Kapleau From - Dr. James D. Honan, general manager, Inter-State Milk Producers Cooperative

Dear Sir:

You have the facts on the recent rapid price increases in feed and hay in the state of Pa. and nationally. These increases have been tremendous and unprecedented on a per-unit basis. Because of the recent weather conditions in our state, our dairy farmers are having to buy proportionately larger amounts for their present herd size than in many previous years. Although there have been some Class I and Class II price increases under federal order 4, these have been by no measure sufficient to cover current increased costs of feed and roughage. Production per farm, in total, from federal order 4 producers in the state of Pa. and in surrounding areas has fallen below previous years because of the shortage of feed and the relatively high price of feed input.

This matter has reached practically emergency proportions and we would appreciate the earliest opportunity to discuss methods of relief for our dairy farmers.

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