

NFO Sale

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 up a cheese sale, but ran afoul of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Weights and Measures when some of the packages were found to be underweight.
 The Thursday after the sale, Gerald Charles, a Perry County dairy farmer who is NFO publicity chairman for the area, told Lancaster Farming that they had learned a lot in the two sales held so far, and they were working on another sale in the near future. "At our next sale, we'd like to sell cheese, meat and potatoes," Charles said. "we'd have to get a truckload of potatoes from Maine, and we're not sure yet how to go about setting it

up. But we're learning." One of the things they learned on Monday, Charles said, was that they could return more to their members than they could earn on the open market. The NFO farmers who sold their meat off the back of the truck on Monday can expect to get back 25- to 27-cents per pound.

Out of the retail price, the group had to pay butchering, packaging and hauling expenses. A few other costs, though, most of them incurred by the members who helped set up the sale, weren't deducted. "At a meeting the other night," Charles said Thursday, "one of the fellows suggested that the people who helped set up

the sales should be reimbursed for their expenses. And the suggestion didn't come from one of the people who had helped set it up, it came from one of the members who'd just sent in his cows. We did have some expenses. I know my phone calls alone for this one project came to \$73."

Putting on a sale like this is a lot of work, Charles pointed out, and said the NFO doesn't want to get into retailing on a permanent basis. "But we can hold a sale every week or every day of the week if we have to," he said. "We're going to keep on working until we get better prices for farmers."

Charles said NFO membership in Pennsylvania is growing faster than ever before, and he hopes to see bigger increases in the months ahead. "I'm sick and tired of going to meetings and listening to people talk about the farmers' problems," he said. "We want to do something about our problems, and the only way to do that is in the marketplace. You can't do anything for farmers by going to Washington." While NFO membership is growing, it is still small. Mention NFO to many farmers in Pennsylvania, and they think of milk dumpings, calf slaughters and other acts of militancy.

Is this an accurate portrayal of the NFO, we asked Charles. "Those calf slaughters in Iowa were opposed by the NFO leadership," he replied. "Our president, Oren Lee Staley, asked those people not to shoot the calves, but they went ahead anyway. In a national movement like this, you're bound to have some people fly off the handle. But I don't think the

whole organization should be condemned for the actions of a few. "And you've got to remember that the milk dumpings took place in 1982, which is a long time ago. Our membership has changed a lot since then. Some of the people who dumped milk are still members, but they've pretty much dropped into the background. Today, we're trying to work for better

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Pigs Are Profitable Meets

Swine producers who want to learn more about raising profitable hogs are invited to two "Pigs Are Profitable" meetings at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center, County Agent Max Smith announced this week.

The first meeting, on Monday, Feb. 17, will start at 7:30 p.m. and will feature Dwight Younkin, livestock extension specialist from Penn State, talking about the methods for calculating feed costs and new returns. He will be followed by extension

veterinarian, Dr. Sam Guss, who'll discuss disease control in swine.

The second meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 25, again beginning at 7:30 p.m. The first speaker will be Louis Moore, extension marketing specialist, who will talk about hedging on the futures markets with swine contracts. Then Gerald Bodman, extension agricultural engineer, will discuss odor control and swine waste management.

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