

Carter meets

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the recommended levels for the four-year farm bill and said he regarded them as "better than the Butz figures."

Carter said the support levels would be revised, but gave no indication of when changes might be made.

"There will be adjustments as we find them possible," he said. The President asked the Farmers Union leaders to keep in close and frequent consultation with him and the Department of Agriculture.

"We trust your judgement and need your advice even if we cannot entirely agree," he said. "We're approachable."

In an opening session with Vice President Mondale and Secretary Bergland, the Farmers Union presidents were told that President Carter is committed to make international commodity

agreements on farm products work.

"We will start with sugar very shortly and will later work on grains," Bergland assured them, citing his recent talks with Canadian and Australian officials and his forthcoming May talks in Ottawa, Canada, with representatives of Canada, Australia, and perhaps Argentina.

The Tuesday afternoon meeting did not resolve a fundamental question involving the contention of Carter and Bergland that the U.S. wheat support levels could not go above \$2.25 a bushel because we would cease to be competitive in world markets.

Bergland, and later Carter, had contended that a U.S. wheat support of \$2.25 a bushel is the rough equivalent, because of transportation and currency differences, to the Canadian

initial guarantee to producers of \$3.00 a bushel.

Farmers Union officials responded that the Canadian initial price-guarantee has little significance as an indicator of actual selling prices of Canadian wheat.

"The price that counts is the selling price set by the Canadian wheat board," said Robert G. Lewis, National Secretary of Farmers Union and chief economist of that organization. "In all but two or three of the past 40 years, actual selling prices for Canadian wheat have been higher than the initial guarantee. Last year, the Canadian government increased its initial guarantee from \$3.00 to \$3.75 per bushel at the time the harvest was beginning. The Canadian system is a pool, and the initial price guarantee is not all comparable to the U.S. support loan rate. My information from both government and producer sources is that the Canadian and Australian wheat boards are eager to raise their selling prices, if we would raise ours. It is the low U.S. support and market price that is depressing the world trading price for what."

President Dechant warned that the low U.S. wheat loan rate seriously compromises chances to negotiate an international wheat agreement with a minimum price higher than \$2.25 a bushel.

President Carter reviewed recent decisions on the

special programs of draught and disaster assistance, which will total more than \$840 million, with \$600 million in disaster aid loans. He also noted that producers in 475 counties are now included in emergency livestock assistance programs.

Told of the credit crisis attributed by Farmers Union to the low levels of price support, Carter expressed concern about the problem. "It all gets back to prices," said the Farmers Union leaders. Carter announced that he has asked Federal Reserve Chairman Arthur Burns and Treasury Secretary W. Michael Blumenthal to ascertain why loan funds for agricultural purposes appear insufficient in Nebraska, Colorado and other states.

The President expressed confidence that a good team had been put together in USDA, explaining that the process had been slow because he had insisted on being careful and responsible and had imposed strict guidelines on conflicts of interest.

"I have been President less than three months and have had to make more than 1,400 important appointments," he explained.

"I thought it was a worthwhile meeting," said Albert Mellinger, chairman of the Advisory Board of the Pennsylvania Farmers Union. "It was inconclusive, yet I feel we have reason to feel encouraged!"

AEB funds cholesterol research

PARK RIDGE, ILL.—Lipid researchers from university centers across the United States have been awarded research grants totaling over \$300,000 by the American Egg Board following submission of research protocols and applications for grants-in-aid. The American Egg Board is a national organization of 18 members appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture under the authority of the Egg Research and Consumer Information Act. In an effort to learn the truth about dietary cholesterol and to help resolve the

scientific controversy about cholesterol, AEF, under the supervision of the United States Department of Agriculture, has awarded research grants with the stipulation that researchers may publish their findings freely. More research grants are currently under consideration.

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Cow gets

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program. He pointed out the economic value realized by Pennsylvania from the dairy industry.

"We are the dairy state that we are because our families work harder and try harder. Mollie has helped to keep us in the top five dairy states in the nation," said Kerstetter. "If Mollie is to be congratulated, the family that raised her is to be respected even more."

"If you walked a mile for every gallon of milk that Mollie produced, you'd walk to the moon," Kerstetter calculated.

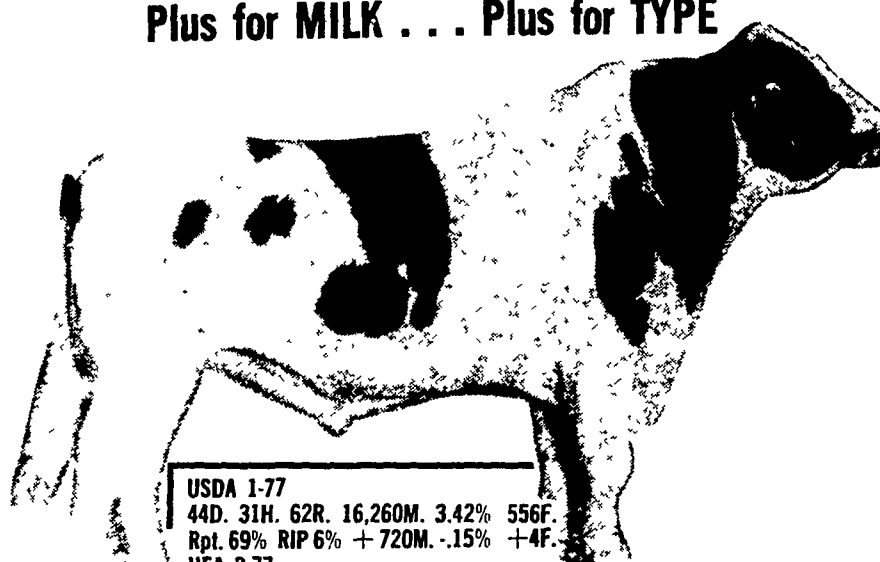
Mollie received a number of awards during the program. Included were a framed photo and pedigree from the National Holstein Association and a photo of her Excellent son, Woodbine Milkman from the United Breeders.

Other speakers during the evening event included James Pound, director of Extension for the Holstein-Friesian Association of America; William Nichol, executive secretary of the Pennsylvania Holstein

Association; David Yoder, general manager of Atlantic Breeders Cooperative; and John T. Smith, York County Extension agent.

Entertainment for the program featured the Singing Millers, a dairy farm family from Dauphin County, and musical group Ken Lightner and the Playboys.

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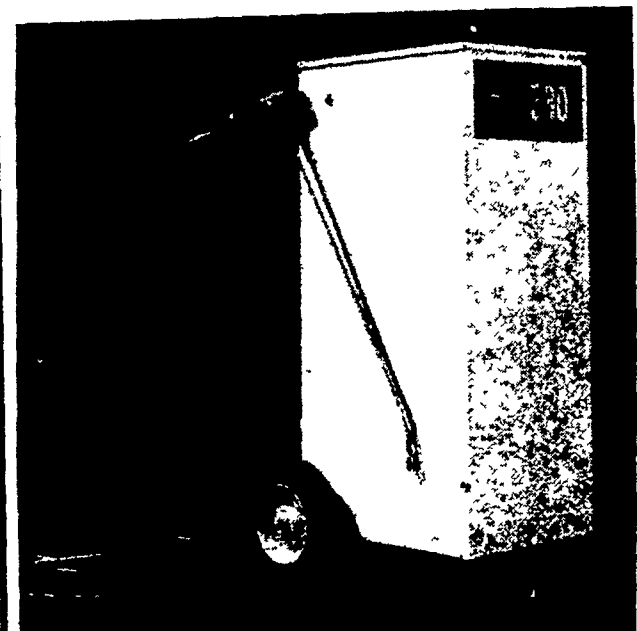
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