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Government stocks biggest since 1960's

Dairy surpluses getting heavier

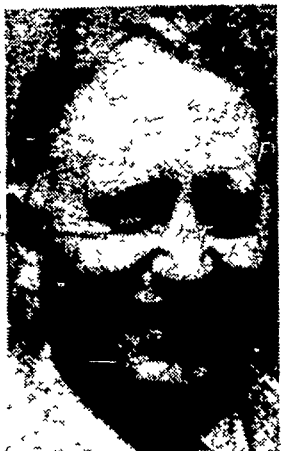
By DIETER KRIEG

LANCASTER - Snow and milk have a lot in common this year, aside from the fact that both are white.

Everybody is complaining about there being too much snow, or at least having shoveled too much snow this year. Milk handlers are saying loudly that they have more milk than they can handle profitably. Snow removal and milk marketing are both costing a bundle this year.



John York



Franklin Wagner



Freeburn Love



William Johnstone



Henry Geisinger

Unlike the snow situation, which will go away once warmer weather sets in, the surplus milk situation won't leave unless dairymen begin to take some action. Cull cow prices, which have approached the 40 cents per pound mark, could help solve the problem if farmers take advantage of it. Virtually all milk marketing specialists are urging dairymen to do just that.

The problem with surplus

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Robert Barry

Promotion won't do enough

By SALLY BAIR
Staff Writer

LANCASTER - The problem of surplus milk and what to do with it was the number one concern of Lester C. Jones, president of Inter-state Milk Producers Cooperative, as he spoke to the 125 people attending the annual meeting of District 5

at Meadow Hills Dining House Thursday.

"We have too much milk," Jones said, "And our promotion program is not enough to take care of it."

Jones said he is a strong believer in promotion, but adds "If we increase consumption by one per cent a year that's good - but with

production increasing by seven per cent it's not enough. We can maintain a healthy market with the help of milk promotions, but we can't sell everything we've got." At present in this area, 13 cents per consumer is spent on promotional programs. In California, Jones notes, the dairy in-

dustry is spending 33 cents per consumer.

In addition to increased promotion, Jones said other steps must be considered to reduce surplus milk and cut production. Cutting the price of milk would help cut production, he said, "But it

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Lester Jones

USDA tightening controls on meat purchases

By JOANNE SPAHR
WASHINGTON, D.C. - The United States Department of Agriculture is tightening up its controls on federal purchases of imported meat. Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland has announced that beginning February 27 all firms selling meat to the department for school lunch and other feeding programs will have to certify that the meat originated from

livestock produced in the United States.

Up to this point, the USDA has attempted to prevent the use of imported meat in purchases by the department through requiring that ground beef and other meat products sold to the government originate from animals slaughtered in federally inspected U.S. plants.

However, under these

regulations, a plant could slaughter imported livestock in the United States and technically still be in compliance with the stipulations.

"That procedure was not illegal," stated Leonard Condon, chief of meat procurement, meat quality division, U.S. Department of Agriculture. "However, there has been considerable pressure over the past

several months and we are not attempting to control the importation of cattle for immediate slaughter."

The government has no way of controlling the purchase of animals imported into the United States and then raised in U.S. herds. According to Condon, a lot of Mexican and Canadian feeder cattle are imported, fed out and then sold as domestic.

"Once they are commingled, there is no way to tell they were imported," he stated.

Under the new requirement announced last week, the sellers will be required to certify United States origin of the cattle, keep purchase records, and make those records available for USDA review.

"We'll have to run spot checks to insure compliance

with the ruling," stated Condon. If the government does find that the meat seller is marketing imported beef as American raised, and is giving false certification, there are several options which can be taken. Some of these include terminating his contract, buying against him (reprocuring meat and assessing the extra costs

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EPA restricts use of 23 pesticide ingredients

WASHINGTON - A new era in United States pesticide use has been ushered in by the restricted sale and use of some 2000 pesticide products containing 23 potentially hazardous ingredients. These products will now only be sold to farmers and commercial users who have been certified and shown competent to use the products safely.

The products include agricultural insecticides used on such crops as cotton, wheat, soybeans, other vegetables and fruits; certain weed killing compounds; and pesticides for the control of rats and mice.

This restriction of hazardous pesticides to

certified users or persons working under their supervision is required by the 1972 Federal pesticides law.

The 23 ingredients were restricted because tests or actual experience showed that these compounds can poison people through excessive skin contact or inhalation or that the ingredients might harm birds, fish and other wildlife if misused.

That list includes acrolein, acrylonitrile, aldicarb, allyl alcohol, aluminum phosphide, azinphos methyl, calcium cyanide, demeton, endrin, ethyl parathion, fluoroacetamide/1081, hydrocyanic acid, methomyl, methyl bromide, methyl

parathion, mevinphos, paraquat, picloram, sodium cyanide, sodium fluoroacetate, strychnine, sulfotepp, and tepp.

EPA administrator Douglas M. Costle said the agency is considering limiting the use of 16 other ingredients to trained ap-

plicators and that more pesticides would be studied for similar action in the future. However, he added that "the vast majority of pesticides used by backyard gardeners and homeowners will continue to be available under the same conditions that apply now."

Certification is required by the 1972 pesticides law. Most states have been certifying pesticide applicators for a year or more under EPA-approved programs. In fact, to date, more than one million farmers and ranchers--or roughly two-thirds of those expected to seek certification--have been trained. More than 80 per cent of the country's commercial applicators, such as household pest controllers and aerial applicators, have been certified--or more than 233,000 people.

Under the Federal pesticides law, EPA requires that commercial applicators pass a written exam before being certified.

Once certified, farmers and other users are usually given wallet-sized cards to present when purchasing restricted pesticides.

Makers of the 2000 restricted products have 60 days to submit new product labels to EPA that include the phrase "Restricted Use Pesticide" and other restricted wording. These producers are allowed 120 days to attach the labels or supplemental labeling to new restricted products leaving their plants. Pesticide dealers and sellers are given 270 days to relabel existing stocks.

In cases where a pesticide has both restricted and

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