

# Dairy Council challenging proposed school lunch program

ROSEMONT, Ill. — A threat to the nutritional integrity of the National School Lunch Program has been challenged by the

National Dairy Council. Specifically, NDC has objected to a proposed amendment to school lunch regulations which would

allow senior high, junior high and middle school students the option of choosing some of the foods offered on the school lunch menu, but not all.

This, in the opinion of many nutritionists, opens the door to selections by students that could, for example, substitute milk for some other beverage. Such a relation of the school lunch regulations, while introduced as a solution to "food waste" in the program, would be "tantamount to defeating the nutritional goals of the program," says NDC.

"We are opposed to any amendments that would permit school children to

choose a lunch that may not include milk," said NDC President M.F. Brink, recently in commenting on proposed amendments to the National School Lunch Program regulations. In a letter to USDA's Food and Nutrition Service, Dr. Brink said: "For USDA to allow certain senior high as well as junior high and middle school students the option of choosing three of the five (school lunch) items — in the name of curbing food waste — is tantamount to defeating the nutrition goals of the program. The problem becomes even worse if the foods not chosen by the students are the very ones that supply the nutrients that tend to be consumed at less

than recommended levels." In his letter, after a full discussion of the proposed amendments, Dr. Brink offered these recommendations:

"First and foremost, USDA should uphold the nutritional integrity of the meal pattern for school lunch.

"To reduce food waste, USDA should encourage the school foodservice personnel to:

—plan menus that take into account the students' preferences and offer choices wherever possible. Student involvement in menu planning and evaluation of the meals should be sought. Such involvement has proved to be a major factor in the high

degree of success of some school lunch programs.

—maintain quality food preparation.

—where possible, experiment with different methods of serving, such as buffet style or family style service. Some schools have reported reduction in plate waste and increased student participation in the school lunch program by serving the food buffet style. Another school has transformed the school lunchroom into a learning laboratory and is using family style service to reduce food waste and increase student participation in the program.

—reinforce the children's experiences in the school lunchroom with nutrition education."

## Tobacco committee renewed

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland has renewed the Flue-Cured Tobacco Advisory Committee for two years and approved increasing its size from 36 to 37 members and their alternates.

Another warehouse representative will be added to the committee, bringing the total number of warehouse representatives on the committee to nine. The committee's membership representing the other segments of the flue-cured industry includes 20 producers and eight buyers.

According to Barbara Lindemann Schlei, administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) the increase in size was made to include representation by Pee Dee Warehouse Association, Mullins, S.C.

The Flue-Cured Tobacco Committee provides information essential to the orderly marketing of flue-cured tobacco and recommends opening dates and selling schedules for the flue-cured tobacco areas, Ms. Schlei said.

Such information is needed, Ms. Schlei said, to equitably assign inspectors to all designated markets for flue-cured tobacco. Under

the Tobacco Inspection Act, tobacco must be officially inspected to be sold at auction in designated markets.

The committee, authorized by the Federal Advisory Act, reports to the director of AMS' Tobacco Division. It was officially established in 1974 and first renewed in 1976.

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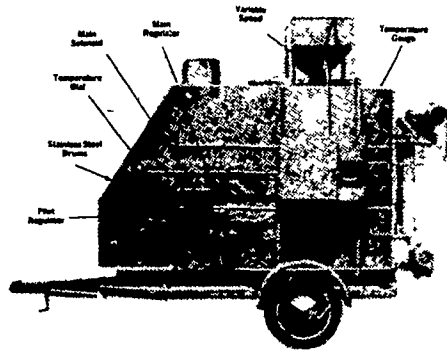
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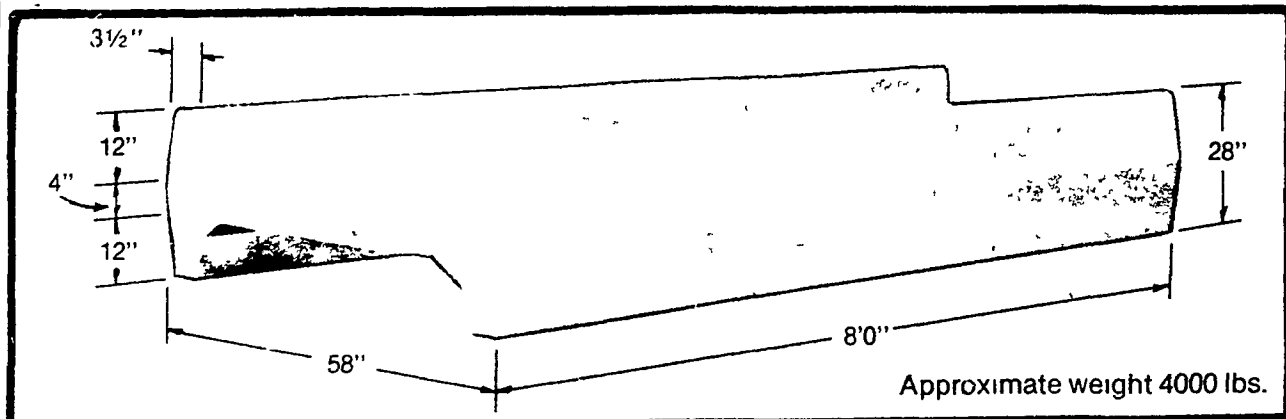
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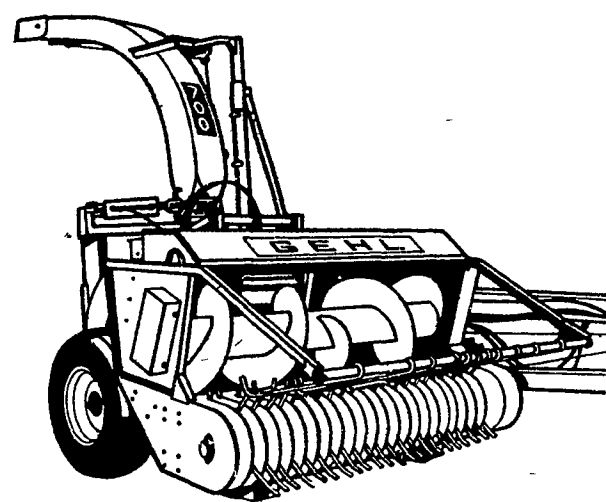
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