

PFU wants security fund for Pa. dairy producers

HARRISBURG - Forney Longenecker, chairman of the advisory committee of the Pennsylvania Farmers Union (PFU) said recently, the green light has been given to push in the State legislature for adoption of a Security Fund for Pennsylvania dairy producers.

PFU desires a fund composed entirely of contributions from milk handlers, which is similar to the fund now working in New York State.

Contributions would not exceed \$.01 per hundredweight on milk purchases, and would cease after the fund amounted to the dollar value of milk handled by the state's largest dairy in a 60 day period.

A portion of the fund would be deposited in interest-bearing securities to generate additional fund reserves. Fund proceeds could be used only to pay producers for milk delivered to dealers who defaulted in payments because of bankruptcies.

The Pennsylvania Farmers Union fund would exempt handlers willing to furnish sufficient bond for the milk they handle in a 60 day period, provided the bond is administered to be paid on identical conditions and in the same time as the Milk Security Fund.

Cooperatives also would be included in the PFU plan. When cooperatives act as a processor or manufacturer

of milk products, they would be required to contribute to the fund at the established rate. Additionally, they would contribute for milk purchases from non-members for processing and manufacturing.

Longenecker said a bill would soon be drafted for introduction in the House or Senate, and every effort would be made to promote the legislation among the state's farm community. "We cannot continue to have milk producers absorb losses of \$10,000 or more in the failure of a dairy. Bond ceilings in the state are

totally inadequate, higher bond levels would bankrupt small handlers, so we believe a handler-paid fund is the best solution."

The organization's director in Harrisburg, Leonard Zematis, noted that currently farmers are required to wait more than 55 days after shipment to receive payment from dairies. "That's enough of a gift to the dairies. No other businesses automatically extend a 55 day period without at least some payment. Dairy producers should not be expected to do otherwise."

WHAT'S NEW

ROW CROP HEAD

A new Model 774 row crop head has been introduced by Avco New Idea for Uni-System forage harvester customers who want to harvest four rows of crops with row spacing of 28 to 32 inches.



The row crop head gathers the crop, cuts it off at the desired height, and delivers the crop uniformly for

smooth forage harvester performance, says the manufacturer.


Avco New Idea-design row crop heads, utilizing three gathering chains per row, provide full crop control from the standing plant to the forage harvester feed rolls; the company claims.

The Model 774 joins the family of other Avco New Idea row crop heads consisting of the 762, 763, and 768.

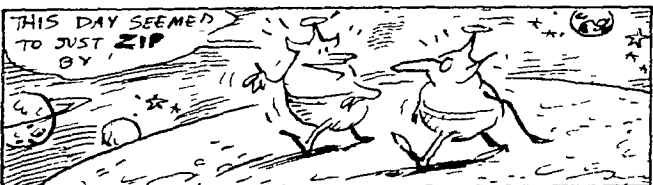
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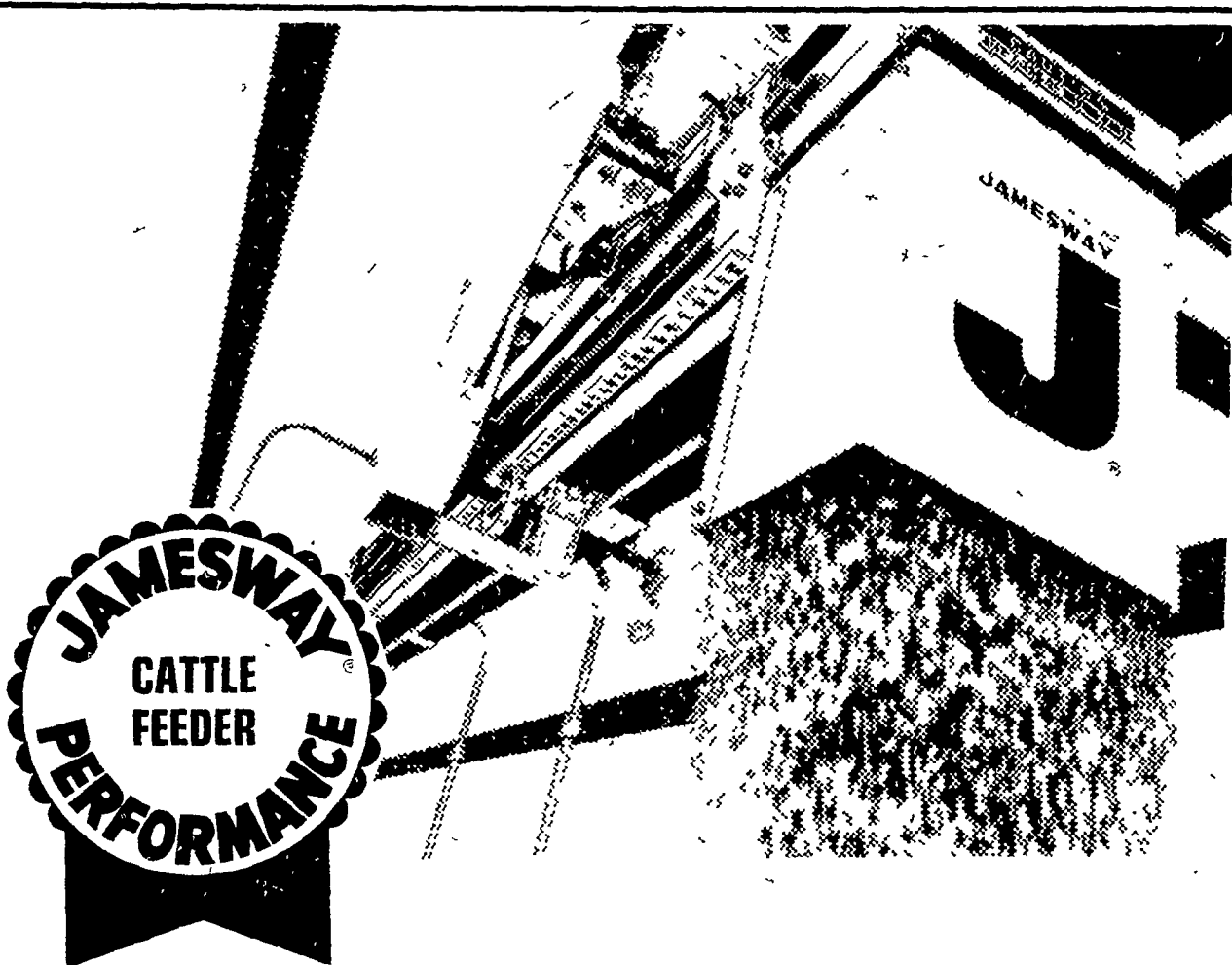
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