

## Our Readers Write

All cattlemen of this nation are being asked to vote in a national referendum soon to be held at all ASC offices to decide if a check off program on cattle will become a law, as outlined in a "Beef Research and Information Act."

The people who want this law say they want to improve the demand for beef by telling the public that beef is good to eat, and very nourishing, and by so doing will bring better prices for cattle. Of course, there are other places they went to

spread the 30 to 50 million dollars per year, that they are expecting to collect from all cattlemen by this proposed check-off program.

What you are not told, and what all cattlemen should know before they vote is, how does this law affect every cattleman, every auction barn, every slaughter house in the entire 50 United States.

This law is a ten-page document known as Public Law 94-294, and anyone can get a copy by writing to your

congressman, Washington, D.C. 20515.

This law, if passed, places all you as cattlemen, Auction Barns, slaughter houses, etc., under the surveillance of the federal government. It states the requirements for inspection of books and records of slaughter houses; penalties for violations and noncompliance of checkoffs, making it absolutely necessary that every person selling cattle make the check-off, (Deductions from your sale), whether he sold a calf or a truckload of cattle. All this and more, at taxpayers' expense in addition to the infringement in private business, and right of self-government.

The only thing now that will save the cattlemen of

this nation from this false idea for prosperity, it's major No vote in this upcoming referendum.

Reist R. Mumma  
Farmville, Va.

The article on page 61 of the December 15 issue concerning Mill Creek Township's efforts to establish their E-1 zoning might leave a reader with several misconceptions which should be clarified.

I think it is completely unfair to imply that Mr. Martin is a land developer. The fact is that Mr. Martin has been a property owner in the E-1 zone for quite a while and is actively engaged in farming in that area.

That same paragraph said that Mr. Martin wanted to

develop a portion of the area in one-acre lots.

The fact is the whole "battle" going on stems from a single one acre lot that was applied for before the E-1 zone was established.

A number of us in this area are not certain the new

zoning regulations are all that good for farmers and farm land.

Since I may be involved in this controversy personally, please do not use my name on this letter.

Mill Creek Township resident

## Farm exports, imports hit record highs

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. farm exports hit a record \$32 billion in fiscal 1979, improving the country's agricultural balance of trade by 18 percent, Department of Agriculture economists reported today.

This was a 17 percent jump over the cash value of exports for the previous year — also a record-breaker.

Robert Tontz and Thomas Warden, economists for the department's Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service, said the exports gained mostly in feedgrains, wheat, wheat products, soybeans, hides and skins, protein meal and cotton. The 1979 fiscal year ended Sept. 30.

In volume, the nation's farm exports rose nearly four percent over the year — to 137 million metric tons. Agricultural products

coming into the country also gained, up 16 percent in dollar value to \$16 billion. There were increases in all major noncompetitive products — cocoa powder was an exception — and in all competitive products as well, except poultry and sugar.

Noncompetitive imports such as coffee, bananas and cocoa beans were valued at \$7 billion, an eight percent increase over the previous fiscal year. Imported meat products jumped 25 percent to more than \$9 billion.

The U.S. farm trade surplus — exports minus imports — hit an all time high of \$15.8 billion, exceeding the 1978 total by 18 percent.

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Of all farms, 11.3 per cent sold farm products worth \$2,500 to 5,000.00.



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