

Dairylea president slams CNI pricing proposal

BINGHAMTON, N.Y. — Area dairymen stand to lose an average of \$7000 each under a controversial proposal made by the Community Nutrition Institute of Washington, D.C.

The charge was made today by Dairylea Cooperative President Clyde E. Rutherford of Otego, NY, at a meeting called by House Agriculture Committee Dairy & Poultry committee chairman Al Baldus.

Rutherford spoke on behalf of 4000 Dairylea co-op milk producers in the New

York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania area and the 1200 members of Allied Federated Cooperatives.

Rutherford noted the proposal would permit milk processors to mix water with non-fat milk powder and sell the resulting product as reconstituted milk, to consumers. They would not report the amount of powder used to the Federal Milk Market Administrator for purposes of calculating the minimum price paid to farmers.

"If the CNI proposal prevails," said Rutherford,

"the American consumers will find on the shelves of our food stores the lowest quality, poorest tasting product that can legally advertise itself as 'milk.' It is characteristic of a competitive market that when a cheap, lower quality product appears, everyone is compelled to produce it and eventually the best quality products are squeezed out of existence."

Milk producers in the Northeast from Maine to Maryland face a drop in income of \$201 million



Clyde Rutherford, president of Dairylea Cooperative, left, discussed the proceedings with Chris Braley, president of the Columbia County, N.Y. Farm Bureau. Both opposed the CNI proposal.

annually under the CNI proposal, Rutherford said.

This, he said, is an estimate of the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service. An analysis of the proposal's effect by the New York/New Jersey Milk Market Administrator's staff values the income loss at \$128 million for the approximately 18,000 Order II farmers.

The Dairylea president urged the cooperative's committee to "resist the

urgings of people who are determined to put square wheels on the nation's milk wagon."

Rutherford also told the committee that milk is more than food. Milk means jobs and commerce. The milk industry nationally is the sixth largest manufacturing industry in the nation. U.S. jobs that directly or indirectly start with the dairy cow total ten million.

"That," declared the Otego dairy farmer, "is a lot

more jobs than the Chrysler Corporation provides."

The three cornerstones of the nation's dairy industry are Federal Milk Marketing Orders, the price-support program, and cooperatives, he pointed out.

"These three are totally interwoven," said Rutherford. "Without them, we would not have the supply of fresh, wholesome dairy products which the American public now takes so much for granted."

BINGHAMTON John C. York, member re LeHigh Valley Cooperative Milk testified before House of Representatives Dairy and Poultry committee.

York told the committee Monday his interest in the dairy industry is the viability of dairy in the Northeast.

The Northeast U.S. does sufficient milk consumption of milk and dairy products. Further problem is found in the Northeast. The Penn State in March, 1979.

The study re Northeast impact of the dairy consumed, he said.

The goal of a production in the dairy farm depends upon incentive to dairy maintain and dairy farm. Current and cost-price relation not achieve the said.

Evidence of conclusion is found

PL 480 agreement with Korea amended

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A Public Law 480 Title I agreement with Korea was amended Friday, Jan. 25, to provide for the sale of an

additional \$12.5 million worth of U.S. wheat/wheat flour, \$10.0 million worth of feed grains (corn), and \$7.5 million worth of upland cotton.

The supply period is calendar year 1980 for these commodities.

Kelly Harrison, general sales manager for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, said the first amendment to the June 7, 1979, agreement provides for the sale of about 74,000 metric tons of wheat/wheat flour, 84,000 metric tons of feed grains

and 22,000 bales of upland cotton.

The amendment increases the overall export market value of the agreement with Korea to \$70.0 million.

The new commodity and dollar levels are 214,000 metric tons of wheat/wheat flour valued at \$31.8 million, 164,000 metric tons of feed grains valued at \$18.6 million, and 57,000 bales of upland cotton valued at \$19.6 million.

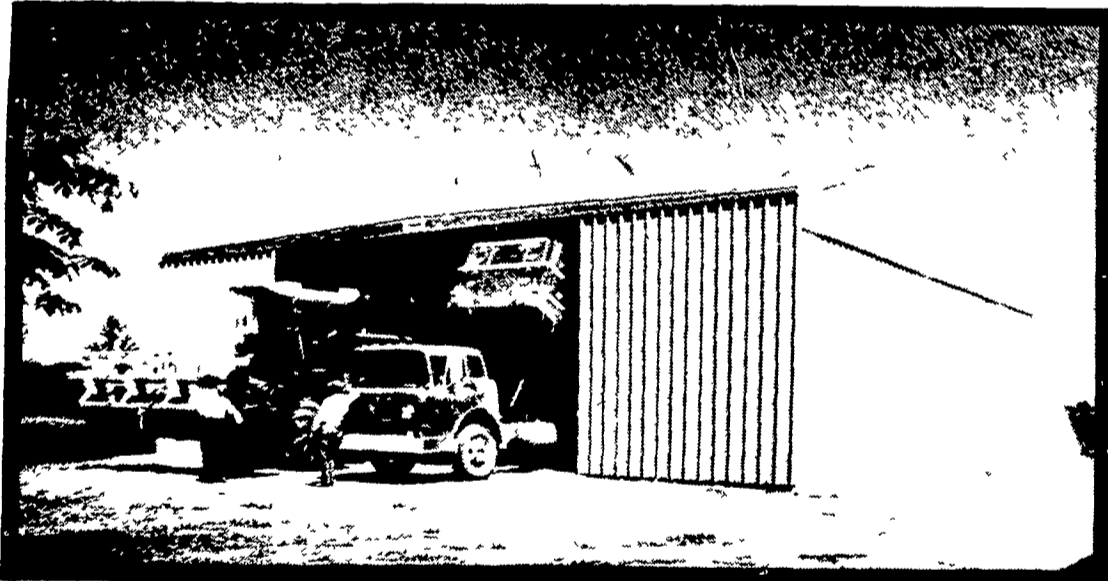
All other terms and conditions of the agreement remain unchanged.

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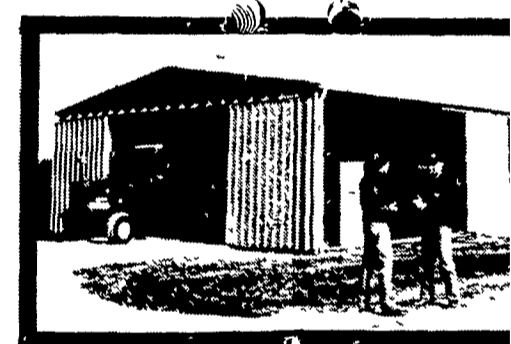
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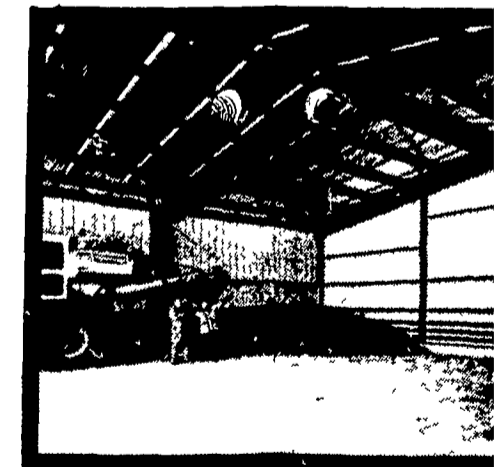
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