

Cleona co-op

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percent fewer cows, with each cow's average production up 45 percent from 7780 pounds to 11,259 pounds per year.

"The bright light in the dairy business is cheese," Smith said, "even though the rest has been gloomy." He added that butter sales also have increased, but non-fat dry milk has declined. The American - Italian - Cream cheeses have increased the most, with mozzarella at 83 million pounds and ricotta at 44 million pounds. The milk used to produce these cheeses was formerly used to make butter or powdered milk.

In the past two to three years, the government hasn't had to buy much cheese to stabilize prices and put a floor on the market, but Smith said 1980 may find more of a difference between production and commercial purchases. He pointed out milk production is up 3 percent, estimated at 126 billion pounds. The federal government anticipates a cost of \$600 million to \$800 million to support the price, he said.

The 80 percent parity semi-annual price adjustment will be up-dated on April 1, 1980, adding 85 cents to the current \$11.22 per hundredweight, Smith said. He noted the government has recently been buying a lot of cheese, adding that he's not sure whether they're buying because of the supply on hand or the price of money. Smith anticipates another price change by October 1 because of inflation.

Smith warned there is a movement to reduce the 80 percent parity to 75 percent. "This figures out to about 60 cents less per hundredweight for the dairy farmer," he said.

The 1980 price forecast for Class I and II milk, said Smith, is \$14.10 and \$12.87 respectively. And, he called to the producers' attentions that there will be a referendum in a few months to determine whether the promotion and advertising

support will be charged to dairymen in the cooperatives at a rate of 12 cents per cwt. or at one percent of the blend price of the previous year.

Smith concluded by saying dairymen must defend the system that has worked reasonably well since 1937. "As private buyers drop farmers, the cooperatives save the day and fulfill their members guarantee of a milk market. You can have all of the milk orders, but if you don't have a market for your milk, you don't have anything."

James Beaver, District Director for Co-op #10, Bellefonte, told the group the Community Nutrition Institute's November 13th proposal is a federally funded organization's attempt to go against farmers. "One dealer and three consumers filed a petition with the Secretary of Agriculture to get reconstituted milk off Class I prices. This would drop the \$2.25 price of skim milk from 8.270 cents per pound to 6.15 cents if it were in Class II."

Beaver listed nine points why the co-ops are opposed to CNI, saying it will waste energy; reduce milk supply and cause shortages; and ruin the federal order, creating chaos.

"At the present time it looks like CNI has been stopped, but it's an election year and if a candidate feels if by pushing for a hearing it will mean more consumer votes, things may change. Farmers don't represent a large number of voters," Beaver stated.

The Bellefonte dairyman reviewed the status of Senate Bill 1287, the Milk Security Bill, which requires dealers to have a bond to cover 60 days of milk purchased or pay 1 cent per cwt. into a fund governed by the Milk Marketing Board in Pennsylvania. (See page one story). He concluded by emphasizing that co-ops that don't want to be involved in the Milk Security Fund must "ask out" every year.

PARK RIDGE, IL. — Farm Bureau leaders will tell both major political parties that "farmers want to produce for the market—not for the government" when the platform drafting committees of the two parties meet in April and May.

In the statement, the American Farm Bureau Federation will advise the two committees that "Farm Bureau supports commodity loans, target price programs and farmer-held grain reserves which are designed to facilitate the orderly marketing of agricultural products but is unalterably opposed to government-owned reserves of agricultural commodities.

The Democratic Party's four regional platform drafting committees will meet in Baltimore, Maryland, April 10; Seattle, Washington, April 30; Columbus, Ohio, May 8; and Houston, Texas, May 29. The

farm plank of the Republican Party platform will be considered in Davenport, Iowa, on April 18.

The summary of Farm Bureau views to be expressed to the platform committees will reflect the policies adopted by voting delegates at the 61st annual AFBF meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, in January, 1980.

Areas of concern to the more than three million AFBF member-families will include reliance on the market price system; control of monopoly power; fiscal responsibility; tax policies; role of the U.S. Department of Agriculture; access to markets; marketing and bargaining; farm programs; government regulations; transportation; and opposition to any form of compulsory national health insurance.

The summary statement confirms Farm Bureau's

belief in the American capitalistic, private, competitive enterprise system in which most property is privately owned, privately managed and operated for profit and individual satisfaction.

"We support efforts to maintain constitutional government, strengthen the market system, reduce

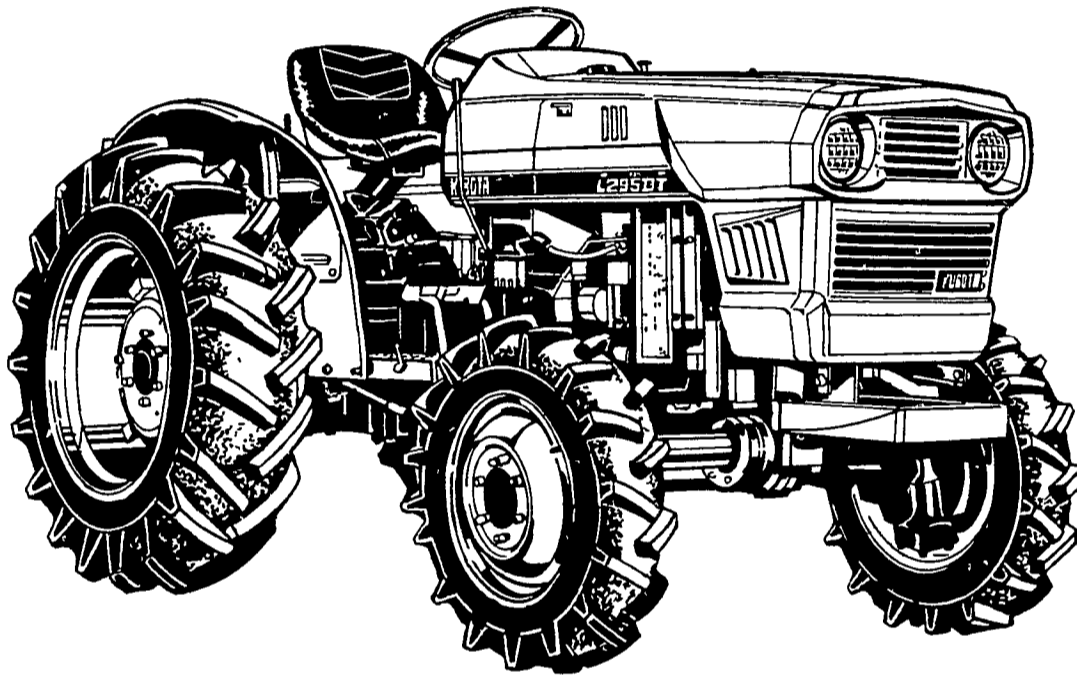
government interference in the management decisions of individual farmers, stabilize the general price level, restrain monopoly and prevent price-fixing, promote private ownership and management of resources, and expand mutually advantageous international trade," the summary statement concludes.

Ag Progress Days August 19-21

ROCK SPRINGS — "Penn State Agriculture—125 Years of Progress", is the theme for Penn State's Ag Progress Days to be held August 19, 20, and 21 at the Rock Springs Agricultural Research Center, nine miles west of the campus on Route 45.

Machinery will demonstrate harvesting of corn and alfalfa. Featured will be tours to plant science research plots and to a soil and water conservation site.

Family and youth activities, dairy and livestock exhibits, and educational and commercial displays will be highlighted.



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