

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

Your story concerning the proposed Milk Security Fund (March 29, Lancaster Farming) had some glowing omissions.

The Pennsylvania Farmers' Association does support the establishment of a Milk Security Fund as proposed in S.B. 1287, but PFA will be seeking amendments to the bill to carry out the policy of PFA members.

S.B. 1287 proposes that a one-cent per hundredweight contribution be made by dealers and processors to establish the fund. PFA members have adopted policy calling for two cents per hundredweight.

PFA is noted for representing its members, and it will continue in that tradition.

But, what really bothered us is the fact that you did not mention that it was the cooperatives who put forth the proposal just a year ago, calling for a two-cent per hundredweight contribution by the dealers and processors to raise the necessary security fund.

It was the cooperatives that led everyone to believe that the Security Fund would be worthless unless there was a two-cent per hundredweight contribution by the dealers.

Also, the State Grange has policy calling for a two-cent contribution by the dealers.

How in just one year can a one-cent contribution do the same as a two-cent?

PFA members do not permit their policies the flip-flop back and forth.

The Pennsylvania Association of Milk Dealers opposed a one cent, and a two-cent contribution, which could be expected because they stick to policy.

We should expect the same from our agricultural organizations. They should stick to their policies, instead of changing them on some whim when faced with a little opposition.

As far as we are concerned, it is not possible for PFA to abandon any policy position adopted by our members. If we could do that, what would be the use of having members write policies in the first place?

Yes, PFA does support the creation of a Milk Security Fund, financed by a two-cent contribution by the dealers and processors. That's the policy adopted by our members and that's the amendment we will work to include in S.B. 1287.

Richard W. Newpher
Administrative Secretary
Pennsylvania
Farmers Assn.

Dear editor:

This week's announcement of the new support price is likely to draw many comments. If you were to ask me what my opinion is about this support price announcement, I would say the following.

The goal that most everyone wishes to achieve is 100 percent of parity, whether this is labor, industry or agriculture. The Government's support of dairy prices at 80 percent of parity is still 80 percent of parity. Moreover, support prices are no guarantee that the market will result in prices at 80 percent of parity.

The real question is can dairy agriculture maintain a

stable and productive structure if those engaged in producing the raw product are receiving a level of approximately 80 percent of parity?

Parity is a measure of relative purchasing power. The goal of dairymen is to achieve a return for their labor, investment and risks that will assure them a reasonable return and some future. If this is not the case, they will tend to leave dairying.

In the Northeast, dairy farm members have been consistently going down at the rate of three to four percent a year. Nationally, dairy farm numbers were down 6 percent below the 1978 level from 1979. Cow

numbers were down six-tenths of one percent and production per cow up 2.3 percent.

Consumers are likely to be worse off if farm income does not provide sufficient incentive to adequately

insure farm productivity. Consequently, 80 percent of parity semi-annually adjusted is no big deal for dairymen.

John C. York,
Vice President
Le Hi Dairy

White Rose Dairy Club

YORK—The first meeting of the year for White Rose Dairy Club was held recently at Rutter's Dairy.

The following officers were elected: Brian Lehman, president; Kathy Morrison, vice-president; Mick Ilgenfritz, secretary; Barry Lehman, assistant secretary; Todd Rutter,

treasurer; Lorie Kessler, news reporter; Kelly Blessing, assistant news reporter; Debbie Lehman, game leader; Wendy Am-spacher, assistant game leader.

The next meeting will be held April 9, at the extension office. Reported by Lorie Kessler.

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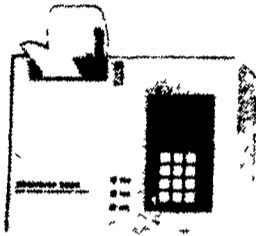
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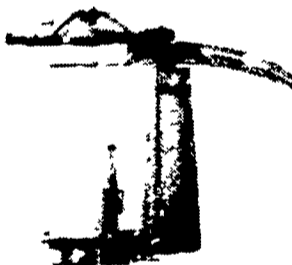
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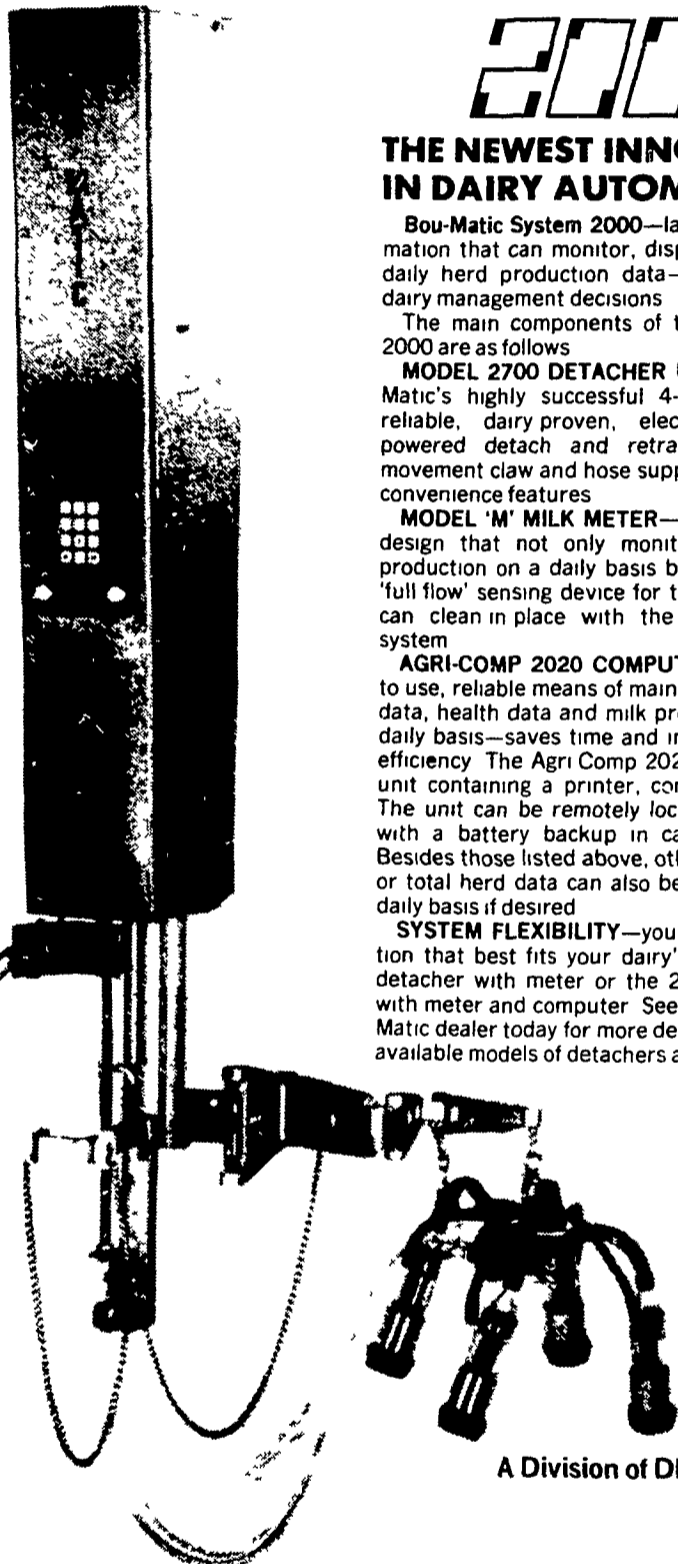
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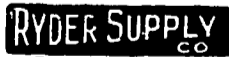


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