

PACA marks 50 years of helping farmers get paid

NEW YORK, N.Y. — When produce marketing went the way of this country's technological and transportation revolution more than a half-century ago, farmers encountered new risks.

One was getting paid for the fruits of their labors.

Dealing directly with local buyers and consumers became a thing of the past. Long-distance, commercial trading became the new thing, and farmers found they had little recourse when buyers didn't pay them or rejected their produce without good cause.

In 1930 — fifty years ago this year — Congress responded to the need of growers and other traders for a code of fair play by passing the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act.

Congress asked the U.S. Department of Agriculture to administer the law, and today that task is carried out by the Fruit and Vegetable Division of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service.

"The law has been a good one, and in fact has gotten better as time goes on," said P.R. Smith, assistant secretary of agriculture for marketing and transportation services. "Legislative amendments have kept it up to date with current marketing practices in the produce industry."

"Our PACA represen-

tatives today service 173,000 farmers and 85,000 others who deal in produce, including retailers."

PACA provides the mechanism, through a system of counseling and enforcement of contracts, to settle trade disputes promptly and recover payments owed so that each load of produce can move through marketing channels and on to consumers quickly.

"Anyone seeking advice on how to avoid specific contract problems with fruit and vegetable purchases or sales can call a regional hotline," Smith explained. "Our PACA representatives answer about 25,000 calls a year from people in the produce industry and counsel them on how to steer clear of business problems."

"When problems occur, PACA representatives on request will go to work on a complaint and help all parties to a contract recover what is rightly theirs."

The assistant secretary said about 75 percent of the 3000 specific complaints that the PACA representatives handle each year are settled informally, recovering about \$8 million for those in the produce industry. A formal complaint procedure is used for more serious cases, with all parties to the complaint submitting evidence.

Smith said a licensing system, now being automated for more ef-

(Turn to Page A33)

Dairy Princess

(Continued from Page A30)

Her milk is good for people of all ages,

And affordable to those who earn high or low wages,

It's a delicious drink and nutritious too,

That's why milk's the best for me and you.

It builds strong white teeth and a nice physique,

It surely helps you feel unique.

So drink milk today from Bessy the cow,

It will help you feel hap-

pier and healthier, right now.

Connie is especially looking forward to choosing her first-place wardrobe gift and to attending the fair parades and handing out ribbons at the shows.

If anything worries her about the coming year, she said writing all those speeches was a little unsettling. But it's obvious to the visitor that she has nothing to fear. All she has to do is smile.



Marketing of produce, while risky today, was extremely hazardous business before enactment of the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act in 1930. Farmers like these North Carolina strawberry growers had little recourse when they

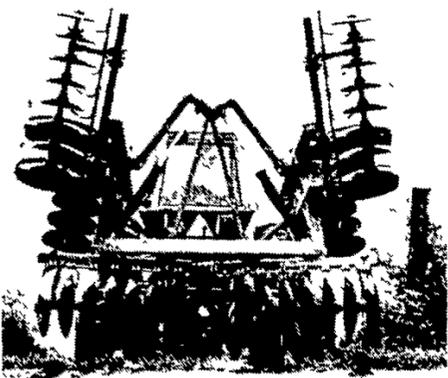
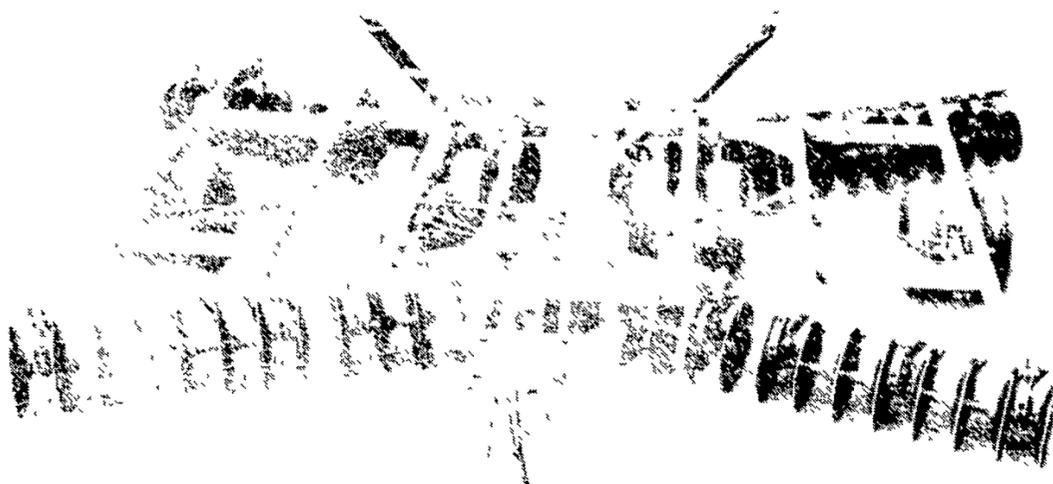
didn't get paid or when their produce was rejected without good cause. Reputable dealers and growers supported idea of fair trading rules that would apply to everyone.

SUMMER DISCOUNT SPECIAL

ON MODELS OF

RHINO DISC HARROWS

10% FACTORY
DISCOUNT
OFF OUR REGULAR
LOW PRICES



11' Transport Width. The Flex 90B will follow inside most tractors with dual wheels, making it easy and safe to go from field to field. through narrow gates and over narrow bridges. You can have peace of mind regardless of who is at the wheel! Takes less storage space also! The narrow transport width is made possible because the heavy wings pivot 16" inside the base gangs' outer disc. This design feature also contributes to the 90B's plowing ability. The heavy wing structures provide the weight needed to make wings penetrate like the center frame gangs. This allows the wings to "flex-up" without lifting the center unit when the inside wing gang strikes a rock or stump, thus reducing shock loads to all components. The Flex 90B is designed to save you money in the field and on the road.

Compare the Weight, Strength, Standard Equipment, Plowing angles, plus Bearings, and Axles. It performs! Your best investment ... RHINO Flex 90B.

**WE HAVE IN STOCK ANYTHING FROM
3 PT. HOOKUP DISC, OFFSET PLOW
DISC, CUT & FINISH DISC UP TO
27 FT. 2 INCHES WIDE!**



BINKLEY & HURST BROS.

133 Rothsville Station Rd., Lititz, PA 17543 Ph: (717) 626-4705
Business Hours: Mon. - Fri. 7 AM to 5 PM; Sat. 7 AM to 11:30

CHUST DOWN THE ROAD



KOOM ON UP THIS WEEK