

Dairyman learns that farming is no easy game

BELOIT, OH. — Dairyman Dwight Santee has learned that farming is no easy game to play.

This lesson did not come from helping to operate the family's 200-acre, 60-Jersey dairy farm in eastern Ohio, not too far from the Pennsylvania border.

It applies to a farming game that the young dairyman is finally

marketing after some four years of frustrations and hassles.

It's likely safe to say that Santee now realizes that there's only thing more frustrating than farming itself and that's making a game out of it.

Back in 1976, Santee put together a board game he called "Sodbuster." Players

move around a board buying the necessary ingredients of farming, such as land, equipment, seed and livestock.

Object of the game is to plant and harvest three adjacent fields of crops and still have \$50,000 in cash in the bank.

Well, Santee found out that getting the game on the market was about as easy as harvesting three adjacent fields of 150-bushel corn this year.

Santee first tried to get one of the large game companies to produce the game. He contacted 16 of them.

All of them, including Parker Brothers, declined, in essence saying: "Go directly to jail; do not collect \$200."

So, Santee decided to go it alone.

To go along with the name of his game, "Sodbuster," he tried to get a photograph of a tractor and plow from the large machinery companies. He thought it would be good advertising for the company.

But the companies thought otherwise; none would give permission to use a photo.

That is all but one. Ford sent a photo, but it was a discing scene. (Likely, they didn't know the difference between a disc and a plow.)

Therefore, Santee decided to go with original artwork drawings of a tractor and other farm scenes.

When Santee started his patent search and other proceedings, there were no farm games on the market. Then, suddenly they began to appear, including some by large equipment manufacturers.

But Santee still plodded on, tackling his "Sodbuster" problems with the same determination that early pioneers attacked that tough virgin prairie sod



Sod Buster game is played by dairyman Dwight Santee and wife, Karen, with help from their children Samantha and Ben.

Next, Santee got in touch with Parker Brothers to see if he could buy some extra little red hotels used in "Monopoly."

"I thought they'd make great little red barns for my game," Santee said.

But Parker immediately enforced strict "zoning" regulations.

The company essentially told Santee that it was all right for its little red buildings to be on places like the Boardwalk or Park

Place, which now really are gambling casinos, but in no way could they be located on Illinois or Iowa farmland.

Chalk up another one for the city slickers.

So, Santee went to his local high school shop class and the students built the little red barns.

After a few more hassles, such as learning the "ins and outs" of the printing trade, Santee finally got his game altogether earlier this year and is now assembling and

marketing it through his home.

So, if you're interested further in the game and want to become a part of the saga of the little Ohio dairyman vs. the big game and equipment companies, write to:

Dwight R. Santee, 16488 South Range Road, Beloit, Ohio, 44609.

The games sell for \$12 each, including \$10 for the game and \$2 for state sales tax and UPS—DA

USDA announces 1981 feed grain program

LEESPORT — For the second year in a row, U.S. feed grain producers will not need to set aside acreage to be eligible for the farmer-owned reserve, commodity loans and target price protection, according to Mark Balthaser, chairman of the Berks County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee.

"Feed grain producers need only to be sure they plant within their normal crop acreage on all farms in which they have an interest to be eligible for program benefits in 1981," Balthaser said.

The normal crop acreages are currently under review and may be adjusted in cases where appropriate to more adequately reflect farmers' current cropping programs and the application of best farming practices he added.

Jim Williams, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, said, "With world coarse grain production likely to be down slightly from last year, domestic 1980 crop production estimated to be 18 percent lower than last year's crop and the demand for grains continuing to rise, the U.S. Department of Agriculture expects a drawdown in stocks and higher prices

"The provisions of the 1981 feed grain programs will allow U.S. farmers to respond to domestic and world market requirements but still provide them with price and income protection," Williams said.

Chairman Balthaser requests that producers should remember the importance of good farming practices as they plan for 1981; and he recommends against bringing fragile lands into production. Farmers who plant these lands in 1981 will not have this acreage added to their

farms' normal crop acreage in subsequent years.

Price support loan will be at least \$2.25 for corn and other feed grain loan prices would be based upon a feed value relationship to corn.

Feed grain target prices for 1981 crops will be announced next spring but will be at least equal to the 1980 levels of \$2.35 per bushel for corn; \$2.50 per bushel for sorghum and \$2.55 per bushel for barley.

To qualify for full target price protection, farmers cannot plant more corn, sorghum or barley in 1981 than was considered planted in these crops this year. Farmers who exceed this acreage will be subject to an allocation factor that can reduce their target price payment, if any, by up to 20 percent.

National program acreages of 90.1 million acres for corn, 15.4 million acres for sorghum and 9.7 million acres for barley have been announced. The national program acreage is the number of acres for each crop needed to be planted to meet projected domestic and export requirements, as well as provide for an adequate carryover.

MGS Trailers

OVER '59' VARIETIES of New & Used Trailers Under 20,000 Lb GVWR (for hauling utility cycle, auto luggage, wood small equipment building supplies, household goods snowmobiles) Hitches Inspections Repairs Accessories, Custom Work

DEALERS

ARCTIC CAT SALES & SERVICE
R D 1 Highpoint Rd
Cochranville Pa
215/593-6280

MELLOTT BROS. TRLR. SALES
R D 2 (Rt 272N)
Wilow Street Pa
717/464 2311

WHITE OAK LAWN & LEISURE
329 W High St Manheim Pa
717/665-4627

MGS RETAIL SALES
R D 3 (Near Zinn's Diner)
Denver Pa
215/267 7528



I'M NOT LION...

The Classified Livestock Section Has Beastly Selections!

LONG JOHN BALMER INSULATION
643 Penryn Rd.
Manheim, PA
(717) 665-4132

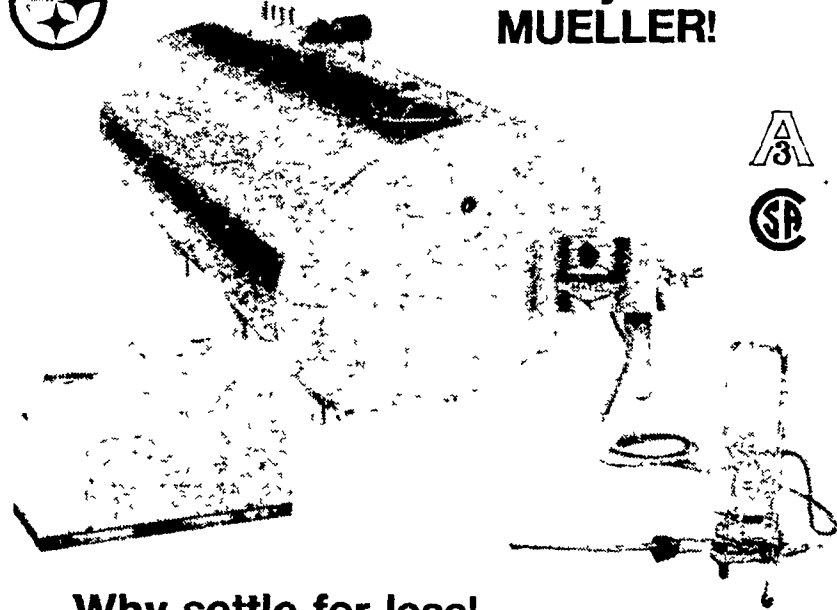
Full Warranty On Insulation For Life Of Structure
• Fully Insured
• Free Estimates
We Can Do The Job Now

MUELLER Milk Coolers™

1. Free Hot Water
2. HiPerForm Cooling
3. Mueller-Matic Washing



... only from MUELLER!



...Why settle for less!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

RUFUS BRUBAKER REFRIGERATION

614 Penryn Rd.

717-665-3525

Manheim, PA 17545

• Authorized Mueller Dealer • Dependable 24 Hr. Service

USED TANKS AVAILABLE...

• 300 Gal. Mojonier • 500 Gal. Tank • 800 Gal. Mueller