

# Deadline for milk price support comments is Feb. 17

HARRISBURG — The U.S. Department of Agriculture is seeking public comment until February 17 on its midyear adjustment of the support price for milk and the prices and terms of purchase for butter, cheese and nonfat dry milk by the Department's Commodity Credit Corporation.

CCC supports milk prices by purchasing surplus products from the market.

Congress mandates that USDA must adjust the milk support price to reflect changes in the parity index in the first half of the marketing year. The adjusted support price will be effective April 1 through September 30, the

second half of the marketing year. The index of prices paid, interest, taxes and wage rates (the parity index) is projected to increase about 6.9 percent between October 1, 1980 and April 1, 1981. This would result in a 6.9 percent increase in the support price on April 1.

The support price in effect since October 1, 1980, the beginning of the 1980-81 marketing year, is \$12.80 per hundredweight for manufacturing milk with 3.5 percent milkfat content or \$13.10 per hundredweight for milk with 3.67 percent milkfat, the national average.

Written comments should be directed to the Director,

Procurement and Sales Division, ASCS-USDA, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, D.C., 20013. All written comments will be available for inspection at the Office of the Director during regular business hours.

## Guernsey sale averages \$1346

LANCASTER — Twenty-five head, including two grade cows and two bulls, averaged \$1,346 at the Special Guernsey Sale held January 29 at the Sales Pavilion.

Among buyers, the stock pur-

chased and prices were:

Avalong Farms, Inc., R7, York — Golden Dew Topcats Roxy, \$1400. James G. Delong, Bowers, Pa. — Anchor & Hope Laurel, \$1350.

K. D. & Else Linde, R1, Oxford — Sunnydell Frederick Fanny, \$1775.

Stanley L. Miller, 501 Doe Run Road, Manheim — Greystone Dale Lida, \$1450; Larry K. Dari Fayvor Merry, \$1200; Her Ra Maxim Lavina, \$1350; Sunny Lanes Calla White, \$1250; Wightman Nance Myrna, \$1200; Sunnydell Star Sophia, \$1550; Her Ra Bart Wendulla, \$1350; Anchor & Hope Laurel, \$1250;

Kevin Nedra, Clifton Springs, N.Y. — Sunnydell J. Cameo Rose, \$1950.

Robert H. Nehrig & Son, R2, Homer City — Stoney Hill Sondra, \$1500; Greystone Sultans Helena, \$725; Kelso Bankers Frank, \$725; and Mt. Murren Fabulous Dino, \$1050.

Wilson Bros., Englewood, Tn. — Sunnydell Jupiter Floret, \$1700; Eastleigh C. L. Cedar, \$1500;

Burgess Farm Fayvor Jill, \$1425; Smithside B. Lila, \$1150; Chedco Wistar Janet, \$1300; Sunny Lanes Snow Berry, \$1400; Sunny Lanes Scarlet Red, \$1400; Greystone Stella, \$1200; Jenny Lynn, \$1500.

## Potato Growers to meet

LANCASTER — The Pennsylvania Cooperative Potato Growers, Inc. will hold their annual potato institute in Lancaster this year.

The 30th annual Institute will be held at the Host Town, 30 Keller Avenue, Lancaster. The motel is located just west of Rt. 501 South of the Route 30 bypass.

The meeting will be held Wed-

nesday and Thursday, March 4 and 5.

Registration for the Institute must be made by Friday, February 20.

Reservations for both meals and rooms are required because of the size of the turnout expected at the meeting.

Reservations can be made through the Co-op office at 25 N. Progress Avenue, Harrisburg, or by calling 717/652-4200.

A complete potato growing program will be presented, including talks by several Penn State specialists.

Keynote speaker at the Wednesday evening banquet will be C.E. Howes of the Council on Agriculture Scientific Testing.

Howes will talk about federal government in agriculture.

## Senator charges decontrol will hurt farmers

WASHINGTON, D.C. — When President Reagan ordered the immediate decontrol of oil prices, farmers were among the biggest losers.

His order not only put an immediate end to price controls, but it also ended the special protection which had been extended to farmers to make sure they get the fuel they need — when they need it — for planting and harvesting, said Iowa Senator Tom Harkin.

"A serious shortage which pops up during planting or harvesting time — as we learned in Iowa just last spring — can have irrevocable and disastrous consequences on the nation's farms. Once a crop is planted late, harvested late, or not planted at all, the damage is done," he said.

"We had a special rule that made delivering fuel for farm use a top priority. The President's order abolished it, and I think that's a big mistake. If we have another shortage farmers are just going to be left at the mercy of the big oil companies," he continued.


"I like the idea of reducing government rules, regulations and red tape. But the Reagan Ad-

ministration would do well to learn early on that not all rules and regulations are bad. Some serve a very valuable purpose.

"We may be lucky and not have any serious disruption of supplies. Given the instability of many of our Middle Eastern suppliers, we'd be very lucky if that's the case. If that happens, higher prices will be the only cost we have to bear.

"If we don't have good luck, the nation's farmers may very well be among the first called upon to demonstrate the importance of an old saying to the new administration: Be careful not to throw the baby out with the bathwater," he concluded.

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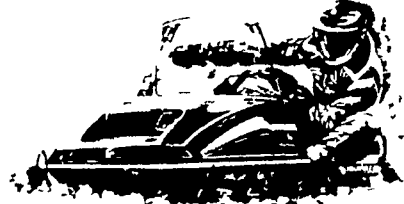
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