

OUR READERS WRITE, AND OTHER OPINIONS

(Continued from Page A10)

have increased dramatically, from 1% of the 77 million pounds imported in 1955 to over 80% of the 150 million pounds imported last year.

Perhaps the saddest part of this issue is the fact that existing law gives authority to cover this situation. Section 22 of the Agriculture Adjustment Act directs that duties or import quotas be imposed when "any article or articles are being imported into the U.S. under such conditions and such quantities as to render or tend to render ineffective, or materially interfere with, any program or operation undertaken under this chapter."

Because of its artificial price, caseinates produced from imported casein have become a displacer of U.S. produced non-fat dry milk. It has also reduced the number of jobs in the U.S. dairy plants and has diminished the number of family operated dairy

farms.

Casein was produced domestically through the 1930's, 40's, and 50's, however, imported casein through subsidized price competition has halted domestic production of casein. While it may be true that complete substitution of casein by non-fat dry milk may not be possible due to functional and nutritional reasons, the two could be interchangeable in many food products, if prices were comparable.

Continued violation of Section 22 results in increased treasury expenditures which bring severe criticism of price stabilization programs. It also reduces income to U.S. dairy farm families and could bring eventual dependence on unreliable foreign sources of food priced at the whim of foreign governments.

Ardath DeWall, Judy Erb
Representing American Agri-
Women

Wishful Cornucopia

The Cornucopia Project report published by Robert Rodale on Pennsylvania's food system is one-man's wishful thinking disguised as an analytical report.

It's not so much a report as a promotion for organic farming.

Rodale's report tells everybody we're in trouble because we have a nationally integrated food system. We're able to buy oranges, peanuts, potatoes and beef produced in other states just as

people elsewhere able to buy milk, apples, mushrooms and eggs produced here.

What the report ignores is that we have that interdependence because people want it and because of economic factors, soil conditions, climate and other realities. It's simply cheaper and easier to produce a nationwide supply of vegetables in California's spacious Imperial Valley, for example, than in the rolling hills

and valleys of Pennsylvania.

From time to time bad weather or a transportation breakdown forces a temporary inconvenience on consumers, but that's no reason to undertake the massive changes recommended by the Rodale report which would, in effect turn back the clock hundreds of years.

Following the Rodale report's recommendations for so-called self-sufficiency would result in a major disruption of long-established national markets for our dairy products, California's vegetables and Florida's citrus. And what would happen to consumers in the area of a local drought if they can't depend on farmers elsewhere.

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In short, what the Rodale report is really interested in is changing our eating habits. It wants us to cut our red meat consumption 80 percent and eat a lot more vegetables. It also suggests replacing fertilizer with manure while at the same time telling us to do away with our livestock. It's senseless. I think it's an attempt to create a market for organic farms.

While farmland preservation and soil and energy conservation are serious concerns of the agricultural community, we don't think decisions in these complicated areas should be based solely on their effect on our country's integrated food delivery

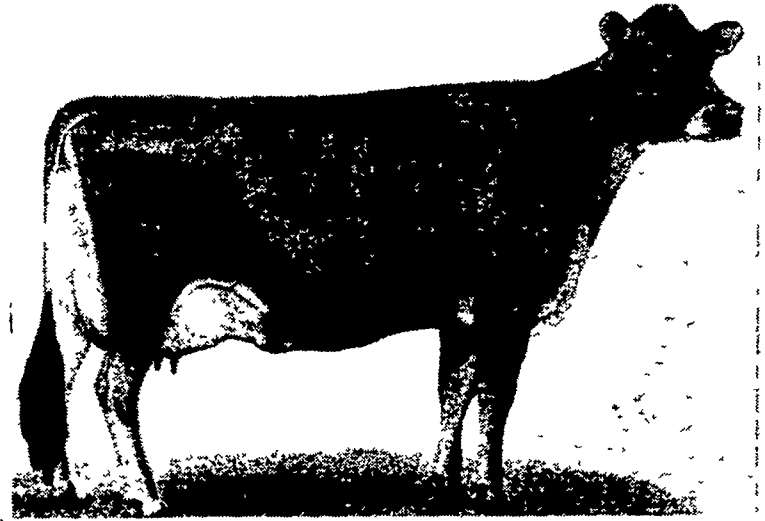
system as the Rodale report suggests.

We believe the Rodale report's scattershot recommendations for state action are in some cases not new, in some cases not worth the time and expense and would ultimately lead to more govern-

ment regulations and interference in our free market system. It would lead to costlier food and a lot less variety.

Eugene Gayman,
Vice President
Pennsylvania Farmer's Assoc.

Picture perfect Jersey



I've noticed that Lancaster Farming will again, quite properly, be saluting June, the Dairy Month.

Being numbered among those in the dairy industry, I appreciate and applaud your fine promotion of the great product, milk. UNLESS...

One year ago, May 31, 1980, in section A of Lancaster Farming, page 46, there was a page of pictures—Looking Forward to Dairy Month. It included pictures of the five major dairy breeds. Among those was a picture of an animal, allegedly, a Jersey cow. That one set the breed back at least 50 years or more.

Maybe this year your photographer would visit one of the Jersey farms in Lancaster County or a surrounding one and get a picture that better promotes the Jersey.

The "queen" of protein and cheese deserves better billing than she received last year.

In case you don't have or get a better picture, I've enclosed an artist's picture of the ideal Jersey. Feel free to use it. Please, just don't rerun your 1980 model. Thanks.

Sincerely,
Elaine Sollenberger
Ralaine Jerseys
Everett, PA

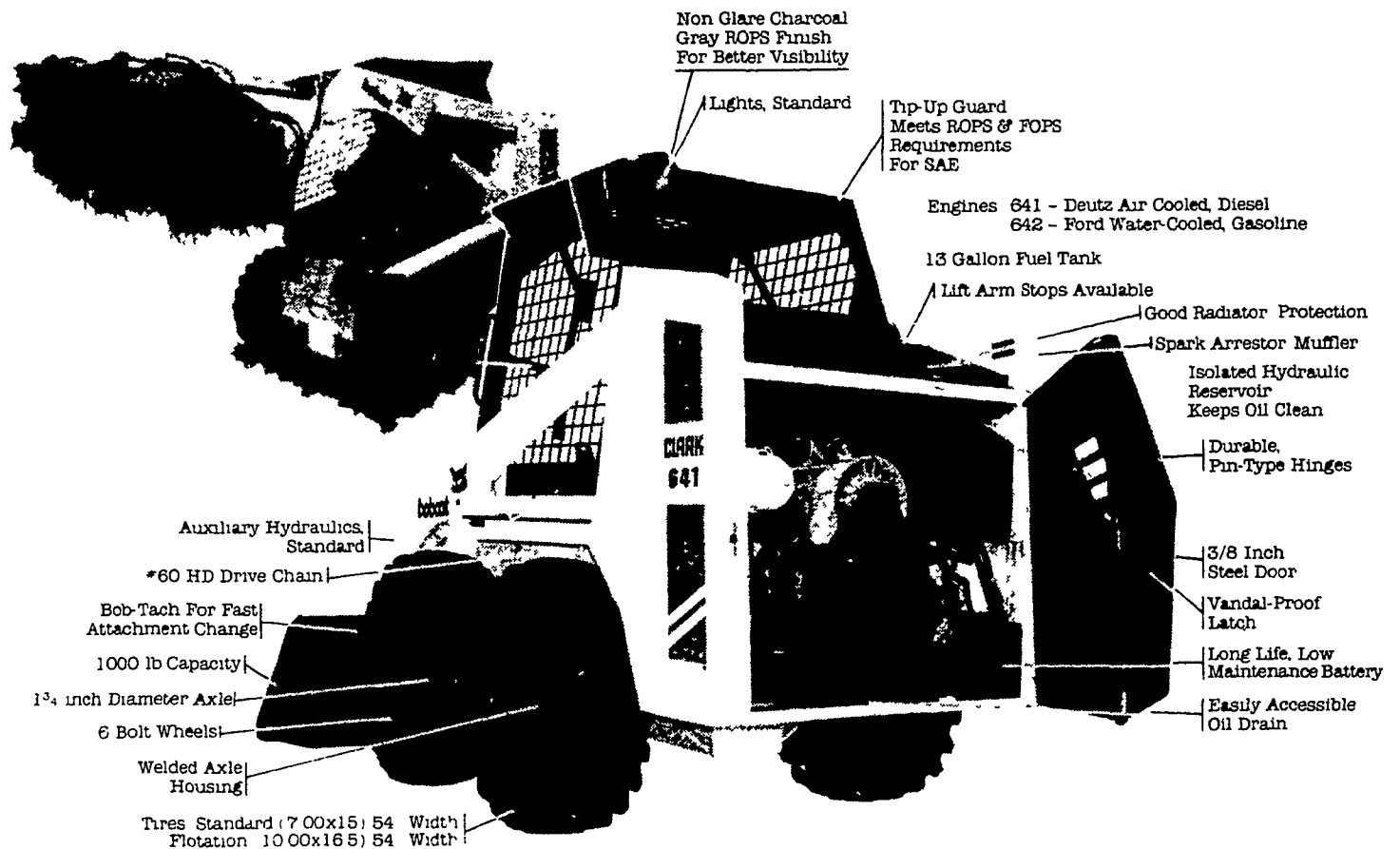
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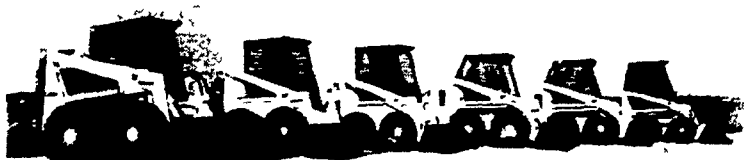
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