USDA prepares recommendations on casein

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Imports of casein, a dairy protein, compete with domestic dairy products in some uses and may affect the cost of the federal dairy price support program, according to a study release today by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

However, it does not appear that invoking import restrictions would substantially reduce the cost of the dairy price support program, said **Assistant Secretary of Agriculture** William Lesher. Restricting casein imports by the maximum allowed under law would cause some domestic users to shift to dairy and non-dairy alternatives, but would not significantly increase the use of domestically-produced skim milk solids, he said.

Trends in casein use suggest the effect of imports on the dairy program could be much greater in the future, he added.

Lesher said the study was begun in May, 1980 to help government policymakers in the debate on whether imported dairy proteins displace domestic skim milk solids, thus increasing the cost of the dairy price support program.

Casein is a dairy protein used in various food, feed and industrial products. Since the late 1960's. there has been no domestic production of casein due at least in part to federal price supports for nonfat dry milk and other processed dairy products that have made casein production noncompetitive, Lesher said.

He said those who favor restricting casein imports have proposed taking action under Section 22 of the Agricultural

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Tilmon, Agricultural Hall,

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allows imposition of a 50 percent tariff or a quota equal to 50 percent of casein imports during a representative period if it is found that imports substantially interfer with the operation of a commodity price support program.

The report, Lesher said, concludes that under a tariff, the use of domestically produced skim milk solids would not increase, while under a quota, many manufacturers would shift to other non-dairy substitues.

Further, because a 50 percent tariff would not increase commercial disappearance of skim milk solids, it would have no impact on government purchases, Lesher said. A 50 percent quota would cause users to substitute an estimated 10 million pounds of nonfat dry milk and would save the government about \$9 million, less than 1 percent of the 1980 dairy price support costs, he said.

Lesher said copies of the report will be given to USDA policy officials and members of Congress for review. But it may be several weeks before any decisions are reached on the casein import

Adjustment Act of 1933. Section 22 question or before USPA is ready to make recommendations.

Major suppliers of casein to the United States in 1980 included New Zealand (50 percent), Australia (12 percent) and European Community countries (28 percent). USDA estimates the United States imported 152 million pounds of casein in 1980, 128 million pounds were used in manufacturing and processing with 24 million pounds added to inventories.

One third of casein imported in 1980 was used in the manufacture of imitation cheese. Other major uses include animal feed and pet food, coffee whitener, industrial uses and bakery goods.

Single copies of the report, "U.S. Casein and Lactalbumin Imports" (report number AGESS 810521) are available by writing the Food and Agricultural Policy Branch, 120 GHI Bldg., ESS/USDA, 500 12th St., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250.

Egg processor fined

FLEMINGTON, N.J. — A New Jersey egg processor was fined \$4,000 in the U.S. District Court in Newark, for violating the Egg Products Inspection Act, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

he pled guilty to processing, selling and transporting 780 pounds of uninspected egg products to a New York City bakery.

and Quality Service, said that Nemeth was fined \$1,000 for each of the four counts brought against him.

Houston said the Act requires continuous government inspection of any plant processing egg The fine was imposed on Leo products. To assure that con-Nemeth, Flemington, N.J., after sumers get only wholesome eggs and egg products, all facilities and sanitary practices in the egg plants must be approved by USDA and operations must be under con-Donald L. Houston, Adtinuous supervision of a licensed ministrator of USDA's Food Safety government inspector.

Rental rates

DE, 19711.

(Continued from Page B3)

The Delaware Cooperative Extension Service has three free publicatons which can help you determine the profitability of land rental arrangements.

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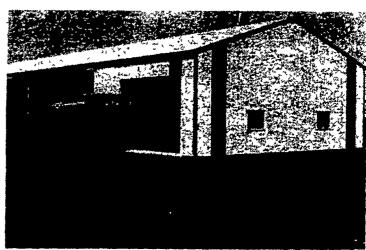


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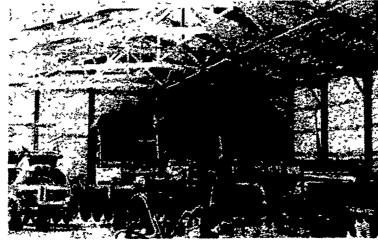
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