

Congress provides supplemental funds for brucellosis indemnity

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Congress has provided supplemental funds to restore brucellosis indemnities to pre-May 1 levels — when shortage necessitated a 20 percent reduction, a U.S. Department of

Agriculture official said. Paul Becton, director of the national brucellosis eradication program for USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said the restoring of full-rate indemnity is retroactive. Sup-

plemental claims are being prepared for the farmers who were paid at the reduced rates. Restoring full-rate indemnity means USDA will pay 88.5 percent of the average cost of replacing reactor animals, less the average

slaughter price or salvage value received, Becton said. For non-registered beef animals, the restored rate will be \$62 per head. Indemnity payments for non-registered dairy animals vary from state to state.

Within maximum limits, indemnity for registered animals is based on 88.5 percent of appraised value less the actual price paid at slaughter. Becton said the Congressional action also allows the resuming of certain other activities halted because of the funding shortage. For instances, veterinary officials in states with low infection and in states with stepped-up eradication programs may again authorize indemnity for entire herds sent to slaughter because of chronic or heavy brucellosis infection.

Also, the additional funds will assure continued use of private veterinarians for testing and calf vaccination in certain areas considered critical because of high infection levels. This includes testing cattle at first points of assembly in the marketing chain—called first-point testing. Such critical supplies as vaccine can also be bought with the sup-

plemental funds. Cattle brucellosis is at a low level nationally, Becton said. Several states are at or near the zero infection level, including: Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Carolina, West Virginia and Vermont.

States with relatively high infection levels include: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas. Of these, Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, and Tennessee have stepped-up programs. All other states have low to moderate levels of infection. Brucellosis, sometimes called Bang's disease or contagious abortion, is an infectious bacterial disease of cattle, swine and other animals that may be transmitted from animals to humans—especially those in contact with infected animals. Raw—unpasteurized—milk is also a source of human infection, often referred to as undulant fever.

Dairy farmers to vote in Order 2

NEW YORK, N.Y. — Dairy farmers will be voting in an upcoming referendum on the amended New York-New Jersey milk marketing orders (Federal Order No. 2). The mail referendum, ending at midnight, Wednesday, July 22, 1981, will be on the amended order issued on June 22, 1981 by the United States Department of Agriculture.

N.K. Garber, Assistant Market Administrator, who was named as referendum agent, said all dairy farmers who delivered milk to pool plants and bulk tank units in February, 1981 will be eligible to vote either collectively through their cooperative or, in the case of non-members, by individual ballots.

He stated that failure to approve the amended order would result in termination of the New York-New Jersey milk marketing orders. A two-thirds yes vote of those casting ballots is necessary for approval.

The proposed amended order changes the transportation differential, applied to Class I and uniform prices, from the current 1.8 cents to 2.2 cents for each 10-mile zone closer than the 201-210 mile zone from New York City.

The transportation differential remains unchanged at 1.5 cents for each 10-mile zone further than the 201-210 mile zone. The present 15-cent direct delivery differential would be changed to a 15-cent fixed differential applied to Class I and uniform prices. The hauling

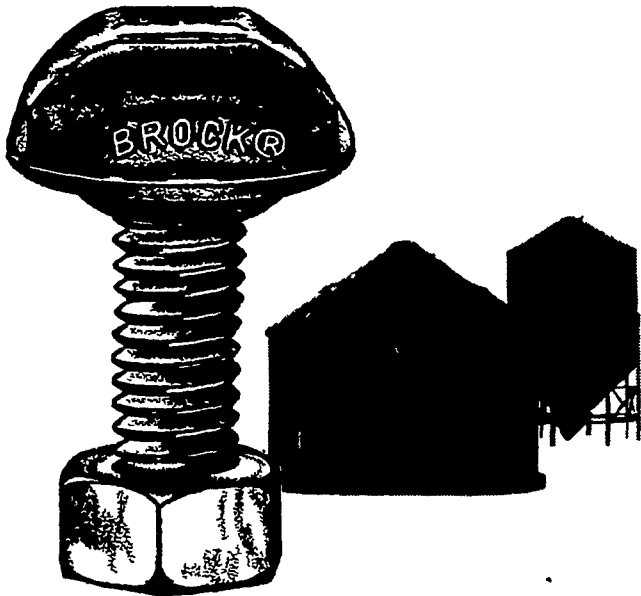
deduction, authorized by the producer, would change from a maximum of 15 cents per hundredweight to the actual cost of farm-to-first plant hauling, less the 15-cent bulk transportation credit, and less any amount that the class use value of the milk at the plant exceeds the class use value at the bulk tank unit.

Ballots and final decisions will be mailed shortly. Garber urged all eligible producers who are not members of a cooperative voting collectively and who do not receive referendum material to write to the Referendum Agent at 208 East 43rd Street, New York, New York 10017

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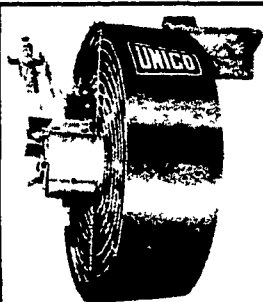
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