

Farm Bill

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Expressing strong disappointment, a spokeswoman for Inter-State said the Senate's action has the potential of producing big shock waves in the dairy industry.

Reacting to the Senate's action, the NMPF, which represents more than 60 co-ops, has already hand-delivered letters to every senator in an effort to make them aware of how this would impact on the dairy industry.

"We still hold to our original proposal," Dondero said.

The NMPF supports a four-year bill that calls for 75 to 90 percent parity level with semi-annual adjustments. The executive-committee-approved proposal will accept a minimum of 70 percent parity for the first year of the bill, providing the remaining three years are set at a minimum of 75 percent parity.

"We certainly don't want it to go any lower," Dondero emphasized.

In the letters, the NMPF called the current legislation "totally unacceptable and unless the dairy

and grain provisions are reconsidered the bill should not be passed."

In order for the Farm Bill to become law, it must first pass the Senate and then the House of Representatives has to approve the bill, followed by the President's signature.

Dairy's Snow expressed concern over the "meat-axe" approach to an orderly withdrawal of the support program.

"The end result," he said, "is an absolute increase in the consumer price of milk."

Snow explained that for years the government was a stabilizing factor for the dairy industry, which is one of the top sources of jobs in commerce. Past government support allowed for farmers who couldn't survive financially to pull out of the dairy business.

Now, current price squeezing will cause a domino exodus — knocking out any farmers who don't fit the government's pattern for an ideal dairy operation.

PRV vaccine depends on timing

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The effectiveness of vaccinating gilts against reproductive failure caused by porcine parvovirus depends on the time of vaccination as much as on the quality of the vaccine.

Pigs get antibodies during the first few days of their life by ingesting colostrum and milk from mother sows that are immune. These passively acquired antibodies may persist for several months and interfere with the development of active immunity after the pigs are vaccinated.

Prem S. Paul and William L.

Mengeling, Agriculture Research Service veterinary medical officers, found that passively acquired antibodies for porcine parvovirus lasted as long as 6½ months when large amounts were absorbed from colostrum.

Since most gilts are initially bred when they are 7 to 9 months of age, the scientists recommend that the vaccine not be administered until about 2 weeks before breeding, to allow time for active immunity to develop before conception.

Dr. Paul and Dr. Mengeling are located at the National Animal Disease Center, P.O. Box 70, Ames, IA 50010.

Snow described the government's action as "interceding the wisdom of politicians on the law of economics."

Some politicians, however, escaped severe criticism.

Inter-State spokeswoman Kathy Gill said her co-op was pleased that Pennsylvania senators Heinz and Specter supported a softened version of the bill which would

have kept the semi-annual adjustments. This proposal was introduced by Minnesota Senator Boschwitz. Gill explained that now dairy farmers will have to forgo an approximate 50 cents a hundredweight increase which would have been guaranteed by an October 1 adjustment at 75 percent parity.

At press time, the Senate con-

tinues work on other agricultural commodities of the Farm Bill. For now discussion of the support program, which still may change in the final vote, has ended.

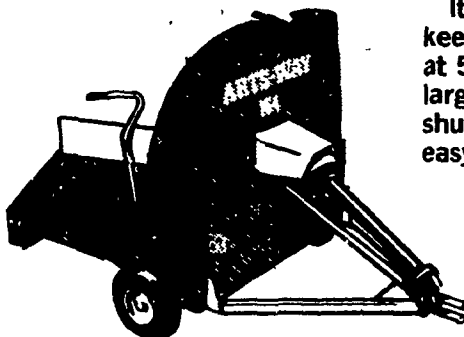
Said Gill of the Senate's decision to act on the dairy issue first:

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