

PFU proposes dairy surplus solution

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Family dairy farmers, consumers and taxpayers all will benefit from enactment of new dairy legislation introduced recently by U.S. Representative James Oberstar of Minnesota, representatives of the Pennsylvania Farmers Union said.

"The Oberstar bill, which embodies the dairy stabilization program drafted by the National Farmers Union Dairy Task Force, will do far more to reduce the cost of the federal government's dairy price support program than the dairy program announced by the Reagan Administration," said M. James Brown, president of the Pennsylvania Farmers Union.

The Commonwealth's family farm organization was represented on the NFU Dairy Task Force by Jack Rynd, a dairy farmer from Crawford County and president of the Farmers Union Milk Producers Association Cooperative of western Pennsylvania.

The Oberstar-NFU Task Force plan guarantees dairy farmers 75 percent of parity on a percentage of their milk production, but heavily penalizes farmers who produce over their production goal assigned to each producer.

After two years — the time during which dairy surpluses will be brought more in line with actual demand — dairy farmers nationwide would be given the opportunity to vote in a referendum whether to continue operations of the Dairy Stabilization program.

"Passage of the Oberstar bill will mean America's family dairy farmers will receive an adequate income to enable them to survive these harsh economic times which are forcing many families out of business," Brown said. The Farmers Union president noted that taxpayers would benefit since the Oberstar-NFU Task Force Bill would reduce the cost of the dairy program by 11 billion annually.

Consumers would also gain through the continued availability of adequate supplies in the future.

The Pennsylvania Farmers Union has been working in conjunction with its sister organizations in other states to develop the Dairy Stabilization Act. During the recent Milk Marketing referendum conducted by the state Department of Agriculture, Pennsylvania Farmers Union pointed its opposition to the generic advertising program stating that the surplus problem was a nationwide dilemma that could not be attacked on a statewide level.

"We were called negative and destructive in our opposition to the milk referendum, but all along we have been working with Washington to come up with a solution to the surplus problem in the form of legislation. Hopefully, our work in Washington will quiet our critics, who say we are opposed to everything," Brown said.

Farmers Union charged that the Reagan Administration's dairy plan would force many dairy farmers into bankruptcy, cost the federal government more tax dollars, and ultimately mean consumers would pay higher prices when supplies of milk products became scarce.

"Consumers and the American taxpaying public will not benefit if dairy legislation is passed that forces family dairy farmers off the farm and onto the nation's unemployment rolls," Brown said.

Main Provisions of the Dairy Stabilization Act are:

Each dairy farmer would be assigned a production base equal to his 1981 production. In the event of breeding or herd problems, an adjustment would be permitted.

The price of milk would be supported at 75 percent of parity. The Secretary of Agriculture would have the authority to adjust the support price after two years, but the price could not be adjusted below 75 percent.

Prior to each marketing year, the secretary will establish a production goal for the coming year. He would set the percentage of each producer base that will be supported at 75 percent of parity by taking into consideration the demand of dairy products.

Milk produced in excess of the production goal, but not in excess of the producer's base, will be subject to a five percent marketing assessment to be deducted at the first point of sale.

Milk produced in excess of the producer's base will be subject to an additional ten percent marketing assessment to be deducted at the first point of sale.

Within two years producers would have the opportunity to vote in a nationwide referendum on whether or not to continue the Dairy Stabilization Program.

Prepare mechanical ventilation for summer

UNIVERSITY PARK — "If you're planning on keeping your cows in the stall barn this summer be sure you have adequate ventilation capacity to keep them comfortable," says Robert Graves, Penn State Extension agricultural engineer. Usually mechanical ventilation systems are designed for fall, winter and spring conditions. Graves says that you may need twice as much fan capacity for summer conditions than spring.

You will need adequate exhaust fans and properly located inlets. You need about 200 square inches

of inlet capacity for every 1000 cubic feet per minute of exhaust fans to get a sufficient amount of air in the barn. If you have about 200 cubic feet per minute per 1000 pound cow with adequate inlets and are still not satisfied with barn conditions you may wish to add some circulating fans.

Circulating fans can be used to direct air on to the cows. Number and location of these fans will be determined by your particular barn. Place the fans so that they are directed at the cows heads (along manger) or over their backs. If more than one fan is used

be sure that all fans are moving air in the same direction and not fighting one another.

A circular air pattern around the barn is most satisfactory according to Graves. In barns with large numbers of doors and windows it may be possible to turn off all exhaust fans and use circulating fans to move air around inside the barn and depend on breezes to move air in and out of the barn. Your individual experience and observations are the best way to determine this.

Be sure that your mechanical ventilation system is in top notch running condition. All fans, housing, motors, inlets and outlets should be clean and free of dust and other foreign matter. Be sure that all automatic louvers are free to open completely and belts are tight.

Also check for items blocking fan discharges and outside inlets such as piles of junk, large machinery, weeds and trees. Be sure that all guards that protect personnel from moving fan blades or belts are in place.





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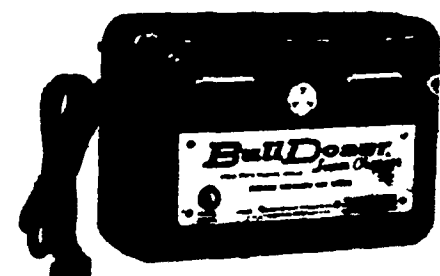




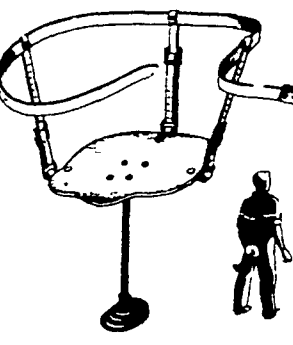
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