

Congressman Jeffords

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and ag audience on a bit of a tour of how agriculture got into its present depressed state and then outlined an optimistic outlook of how to get back out of it.

As a dairyman and a dairy legislative leader in Washington, Jeffords concentrated on the dairy situation, which he describes as the Number One farm problem for the survival of agriculture in the Northeast.

In a news conference prior to the banquet, Jeffords said:

"I talked to Secretary Block as of 2 p.m. (Thursday) and he said the price support reduction will be implemented as scheduled on December 1," Jeffords said.

"I'm not sure if it will come out of December or January milk checks."

Congressman Jeffords gave a lengthy explanation of what he believes is the top ag problem for the Northeast.

"Out biggest problem here in the Northeast is related to the grain situation," he said.

"With little capital expense many farmers in the West are putting their grain through cows and selling it out the other end to the government."

"We could lose 10 to 40 percent of the farms in New England in the next few years if things don't change."

Jeffords strongly defended the dairy industry.

"We shouldn't have this guilt complex," he said.

"It's the part of the ag industry we should be the most proud of."

He mildly criticized the Administration for its singling out of the dairyman concerning the problems of surpluses.

"We can all play games with figures," he said.

"After all, only 16 percent of the problem of surplus government commodities is dairy."

"And there are 2.4 billion pounds of dairy surplus and 240 billion pounds of surplus grain."

He said that food should only be used as the "ultimate" weapon to prevent the Soviets from pushing the button.

Jeffords said the U.S. has to quit being the good guy in world trade.

"I'm tired of our so-called friends continuing to take advantage of us in world trade," he said.

In regards to the future to get the dairy industry out of the doldrums, along with all of ag, he called for continuing the policy of more loans into operating areas rather than farm purchasing, more promotion by the government and at least half of the 50-cent or possible eventual \$1.00 reduction in supports to go for promotion.

"The future of farming is tremendous," he said.

"But, we got to get over these present difficult times."

"And, get the State Department out of ag policy."

Jeffords was introduced by State Ag Secretary Penrose Hallowell.

Also participating in the program were Master of Ceremonies Darvin Boyd; John Barley, who will be stepping down as ag committee chairman to hand the reins over to Extension Director Jay Irwin; and Richard E. Blouse Jr., Chamber president.

The honored farm families included:

—Clair K. and Jane Brenneman, Jr. and Paul K. and Elizabeth L. Brenneman, R6 Lancaster, 265 years.

—J. Fred and Frances K. Shenk, R2 New Providence, 262 years.

—Harry G. and Kathryn Herr, 2125 South View Road, Lancaster, 242 years.
—Donald and Joan Witmer, R1

Washington Boro, 106 years.
—M. Isabel Ferree, R1 Kirkwood, 102 years.

—John F. and Lorraine Cassel, R2 Marlinton, 141 years.
See their stories inside.



State Ag Secretary Penrose Hallowell chats with Joan Witmer, R1 Washington Boro; and M. Isabel Ferree, R1 Kirkwood; two of the Century Farms family members.



Dairy legislative leader James Jeffords, of Vermont, and Penrose Hallowell, Pa. Ag Secretary, discuss current dairy situation.



Congressman James Jeffords, of Vermont, talks with Kathryn Herr, who with husband, Harry G., had 242-year-old farm honored.

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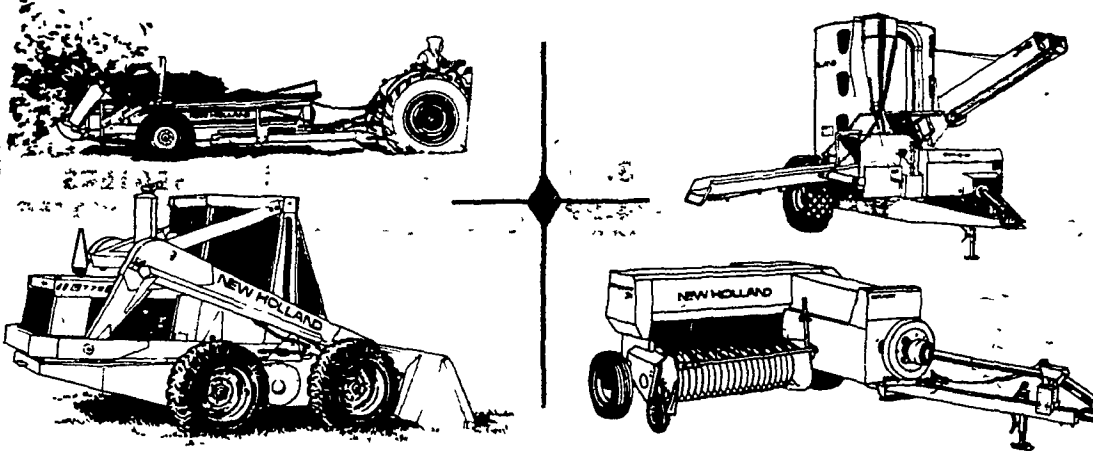
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