

Block announces dairy deduction collection steps

WASHINGTON, DC — Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block has announced the procedures the U.S. Department of Agriculture will use to collect the 50 cent per hundredweight from the proceeds of milk marketed by the nation's dairy farmers after Dec. 1.

In fulfilling the intent of Congress expressed in the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1982, this money will go to the Commodity Credit Corporation to offset part of the cost of dairy product purchases CCC makes under the dairy support program.

Block said the procedures, which will be administered by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, are:

—Those who pay the dairy farmers for their milk — in most cases milk handlers and dairy cooperative associations — will make the deductions and pay the

CCC. Dairy farmers who sell their milk directly to consumers will be responsible for making their own payments to the CCC.

—Payments are due on the date final payment is made to the dairy farmer. The first deductions will apply to milk marketed in December and payments to USDA on the milk volumes for which they have made deductions.

—Those responsible for making payments will be required to file a brief report to USDA on the milk volumes for which they have made deductions.

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1982 is designed to reduce the cost of the dairy program which has exceeded \$2 billion each year for the last two years. Under the Act, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to collect 50 cents per hundredweight of milk marketed if

CCC dairy surplus purchases are expected to be above 5 billion pounds milk equivalent for the marketing year. Since purchases are expected to be well above this level, the Secretary implemented the first phase of this program Wednesday.

The law also provides for a second phase of this program, Block said. It could go into effect April 1, 1983 — the earliest date authorized by Congress — if estimated CCC purchases are at least 7.5 billion pounds milk equivalent during the marketing year. This phase provides for deducting an additional 50 cents

per hundredweight from dairy farmers' proceeds but calls for a refund to dairy farmers who have reduced their milk marketings by a specified amount, Block said.

No decision has been made concerning the second phase of the plan, but USDA currently anticipates CCC purchases will exceed 7.5 billion pounds.

Block said that while he offered a completely different, simpler and effective solution to the dairy surplus problem for the last two years, Congress and the dairy leadership have refused to accept his proposal and Congress has instead adopted the current

program.

Block said while he strongly prefers another approach, he feels he must act responsibly and administer this program to fulfill the spirit and intent of Congress.

Payment procedure regulations for the first phase were published in the Nov. 30 Federal Register. Copies are available from: Dairy Division, AMS, USDA, Washington, D. C. 20250.

USDA officials are sending a copy of the regulations, a letter explaining the plan, a sample report form and instructions on completing it to the people who will be making the deductions.

Bulls on test number 80 in N.Y.

ITHACA, N.Y. — A total of 80 registered bull calves have "made the grade" and are beginning their stay at college as they participate in the New York State Bull Test at the Cornell University Livestock Teaching and Research Center.

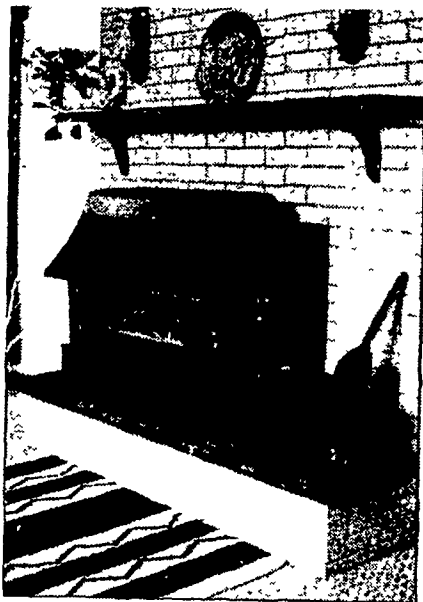
The young bulls have been consigned by 47 beef cattle breeders in New York, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Connecticut. The current "Class of '83" includes 35 Angus, 18 Poiled Herefords, 11 Simmentals, nine Charolais, three Red Angus, three Shorthorns and one Salers.

The bulls will be weighed every 28 days and results will be sent to their owners. Those bulls that meet certification standards at the

conclusion of the 140-day performance testing program will be offered for sale May 6.

The New York Bull Test is jointly sponsored by the New York Beef Cattlemen's Association, Cooperative Extension, the State Department of Agriculture and Markets, and the animal science department at Cornell. The program gives breeders an opportunity to have young bulls tested under uniform, unbiased conditions and evaluated for genetic and economical traits. The program also gives cattle producers an opportunity to select herd sires that will improve herds and add pounds of weaning weight to calf crops.

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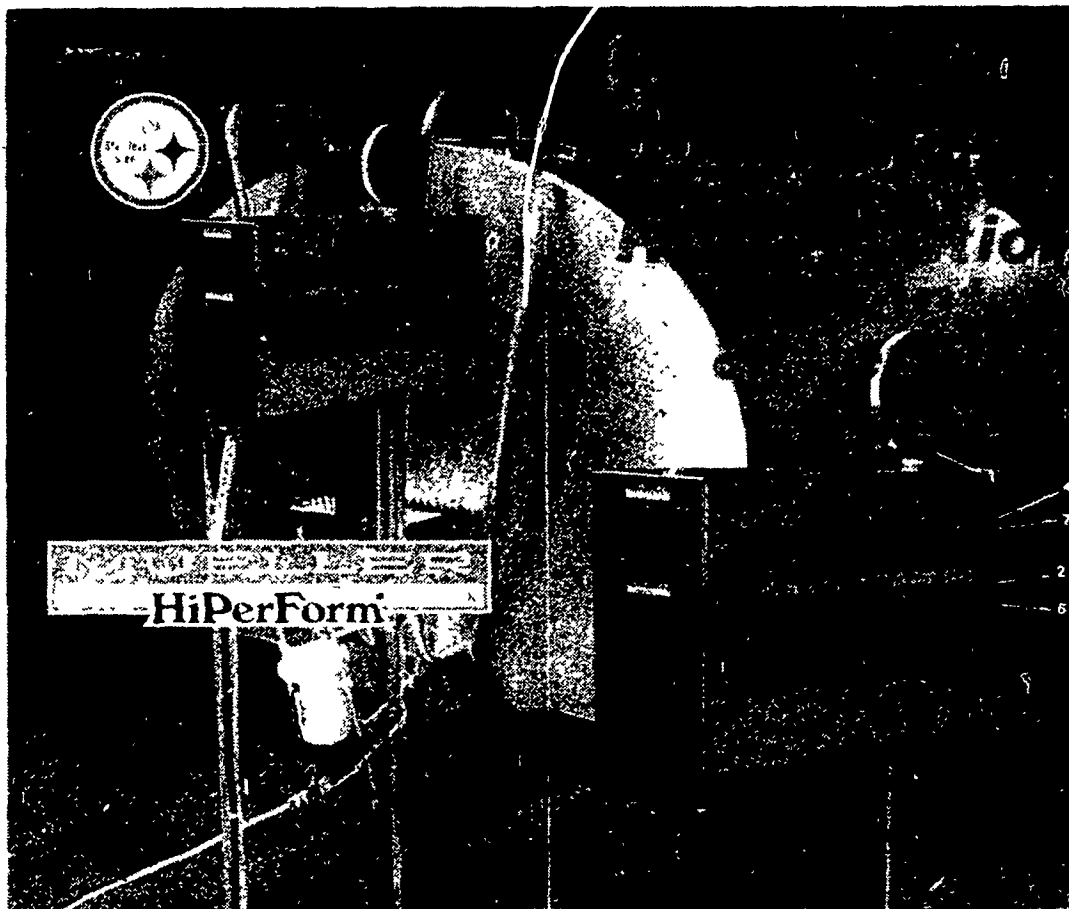
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