OUR READERS WRITE, AND OTHER OPINIONS

Far and wide

I want to express my appreciation for the fine article Sally Bair wrote about Seltzer's Lebanon Bologna in the recent Farm Show edition of Lancaster Farming.

We had a lot of compliments pertaining to your article and also requests for our product from people as far as Cortland, New York, who receive your newspaper in that area.

I must also let you know, my sister who lives in Stepney, Conn., called me about the article, so you know your paper does get around the country.

Thanks again for a well written

Roger A. Carpenter Sales Manager Palmyra Bologna Co., Inc.

Milk production controls

The 50-cent per hundredweight proposed pseudo-tax to be deducted from dairy farmer income is an intolerable imposition to be levied on dairymen at any time, but especially now when net farm returns are at a poverty level. A temporary overproduction problem must not be solved by such extreme measures, which will have long-range effects extending well beyond the present temporary emergency. Once a tax is imposed, it is seldom rescinded.

Apparently all the dairy experts in the country together were unable to come to agreement on a solution acceptable to both legislators and the Administration. The Administration and Secretary Block continue to insist on granting the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to set support levels at zero, if necessary, giving him total discretionary power over the income of every dairyman in the

U.S.; while on his own farm he

continues to market pork and hogs.

The Department has been consistent in demanding the zero support option. Their shallow attempts to get advice and information from the dairy industry have been obviously insincere.

At a dairy industry symposium held in Kansas City on March 22 and 23, the problem was described by a number of USDA officials. A number of solutions were suggested by the various dairy leaders in attendance. Many were in support of National Milk Producers Federation's two-price plan. At the closing, USDA's Chief Economist William Lesher stated: "I want to compliment the industry for the good suggestions the Department came in good faith seeking advice and suggestions. The Administration does not want to decimate the dairy industry."

In spite of all that time and ef-

fort, the Administration has completely ignored all suggestions because none of them agreed with the Administration's proposal.

It seems to be an oversimplification to expect to solve high production levels of dairy products by maneuvering milk prices alone. Our present production levels were created by a number of factors: Low beef prices, relatively low grain prices, unemployment and dairy support levels that may have been high in comparison to those other factors. Lowering prices to dairymen will not solve the unemployment problem, but may in fact add to it; will not solve the cheap grain problem, may even in fact multiply it by switching some dairymen to grain production; won't solve the low beef prices now in affect and might even compound the problem by lowering beef prices even further as dairymen go out of business, thus sending cows to the beef pens.

We don't intend to hide our heads ostrich style; the dairy industry does have a problem. As long as the Administration remains adamant on what it alone thinks is the solution, the problem will continue to escalate as products build up in warehouses and dairymen increase production in their efforts to meet debt payments.

We'd better get on with the job,

come to agreement on a compromise solution acceptable to all parts of the country and get it implemented before we drown in a sea of our own production. In the past, production controls have never been viewed with much

favor by dairymen. Times and conditions change, however. Maybe a new, thoughtful consideration of such a plan would be timely.

Edward McNamara NEDCO president

Farm Calendar



York County Sheep Producers annual banquet, 7 p.m., Blymires Church, Dallastown.

Monday, Jan. 24
Second Annual Keystone Cornucopia, 6:30 p.m., Penn Harris Motor Inn, Camp Hill.

Pa. Vegetable Growers Conference, continues through Wednesday, Hershey Convention Center.

Adams County Goat Producers meeting, 7:30 p.m., Extension Office, Gettysburg.

Chester County Beef Feeders meeting, 7-9:30 p.m., Central Chester Vo-Tech.

Fayette County Farm Finance meeting, 9:15 a.m.-3 p.m., Holiday Inn, Rt. 40W, Uniontown, continues on Jan. 27.

(Turn to Page A32)

Now is the Time

(Continued from Page A10)

The Farmer's Tax Guide is published by the Internal Revenue Service and is a real help to farmers and others who file for agricultural concerns. We have a supply in our office, as do other Extension Offices. They are also available from the Internal Revenue Service. I would highly recommend using the Tax Guide when filing your return. The filing date of March 1 for farmers rolls around rather rapidly.

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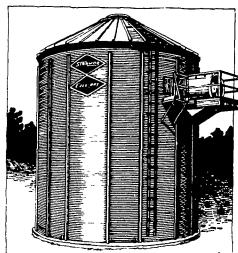
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