

# House dairy bill mark-up

## Ag TV special on Sunday



A documentary on the threat to family farms will be telecast on the ABC network on Sunday from 7 to 8 p.m. It is entitled "Vanishing America." The program will examine the economic plight of today's farmers, principally in South Dakota, Montana and Kansas.

**BY TRISH WILLIAMS**  
 WASHINGTON, D.C. — The House Agriculture Committee met May 24 to mark up a dairy bill. The meeting came six days after the Secretary of Agriculture John Block met with the dairy subcommittees from both Houses of Congress to reach a compromise agreement.

The major provisions of the bill marked up by the House Ag Committee are:  
 -Starting October 1, 1983 the support price for milk will be reduced by 50 cents to \$12.60 per hundredweight.  
 -The bill gives the Secretary of Agriculture authority to reduce the support price by an additional 50 cents starting January 1, 1985 if CCC purchases exceed six billion pounds of milk equivalent.

-On July 1, 1985 if CCC purchases exceed 5 billion pounds of milk equivalent an additional 50 cents will be taken off the support price.

-On July 1, 1985 if CCC purchases are less than 5 billion pounds of milk equivalent the Secretary of Agriculture has the authority to increase the support price by 50 cents.

-Starting October 1, 1983 farmers will be eligible for a 15 month paid diversion program. The diversion program is an incentive to producers to reduce production. Producers under voluntary contract would specify a reduction in production between 5-30 percent of their base. Bases would be established as the average of their 1981-82 marketings. Those under

contract would receive a diversion payment of \$10 per hundredweight for actual reduction in production within the limits of their contract.

-During the 15 month paid diversion program there will be a mandatory 50 cents assessment on all milk marketed per hundredweight used to fund the diversion program.

cents per hundredweight deduction for advertising and sale promotion. Credit of up to 10 cents per hundredweight will be given to current deductions for advertising and sales promotion.

The committee report is expected to come out the beginning of next week. The bill should be on the floor of the full House sometime late in June.



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