

Penmarva proposal gets hearing

BALTIMORE — A Pennmarva Dairymen's Federation proposal to extend Federal Order 4 into 12 Northeastern counties will be discussed at a public hearing July 19, according to President Ivo V. Otto, Jr.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture called a hearing in Allentown, Pa., to discuss the Penmarva proposal as well as others, Otto said.

Pennmarva requested a hearing because unstable market conditions exist in Federal Order 4 and the area proposed for extension. Processed milk is moving freely between the two areas, but dealers are paying different prices for their raw milk.

If the Penmarva proposal is enacted, it would ensure that dealers pay the same price for

milk used in the same manner, according to Otto, a Cumberland County, Pa., dairy farmer.

"Penmarva's proposal upholds one of the key tenets of the federal order systems, that of classified pricing," Otto said. "Dealers who compete with each other will be treated equally," he continued.

Otto pointed out that this Penmarva proposal is not an attempt to injure any party. He estimates that 15 handlers would become fully regulated should the proposal be adopted.

"The bottom line for region dairy farmers is market stability," Otto said. "In addition, the Federal Order 4 blend price would increase because farmers would equitably share the benefits of fluid sales and the cost of balancing the market with reserve milk."

Pennmarva began petitioning the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1982, with one member — Lehigh Valley Farmers — dissenting. The Federation's six cooperative members represent about 80 percent of the dairy farmers in Federal Order 4.

The 12 counties proposed for inclusion in Federal Order 4 are Berks, Carbon, Columbia, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Montour, Northampton, Northumberland, Schuylkill, Snyder and Union.

Pennmarva Dairymen's Federation is composed of Capitol

Milk Producers Cooperative, Inter-State Milk Producers' Cooperative, Lehigh Valley Farmers, Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers Association, the Middle Atlantic Division of Dairymen, Inc., and Valley of Virginia Cooperative.



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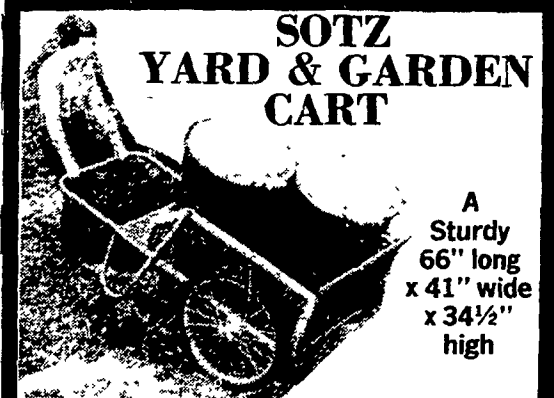


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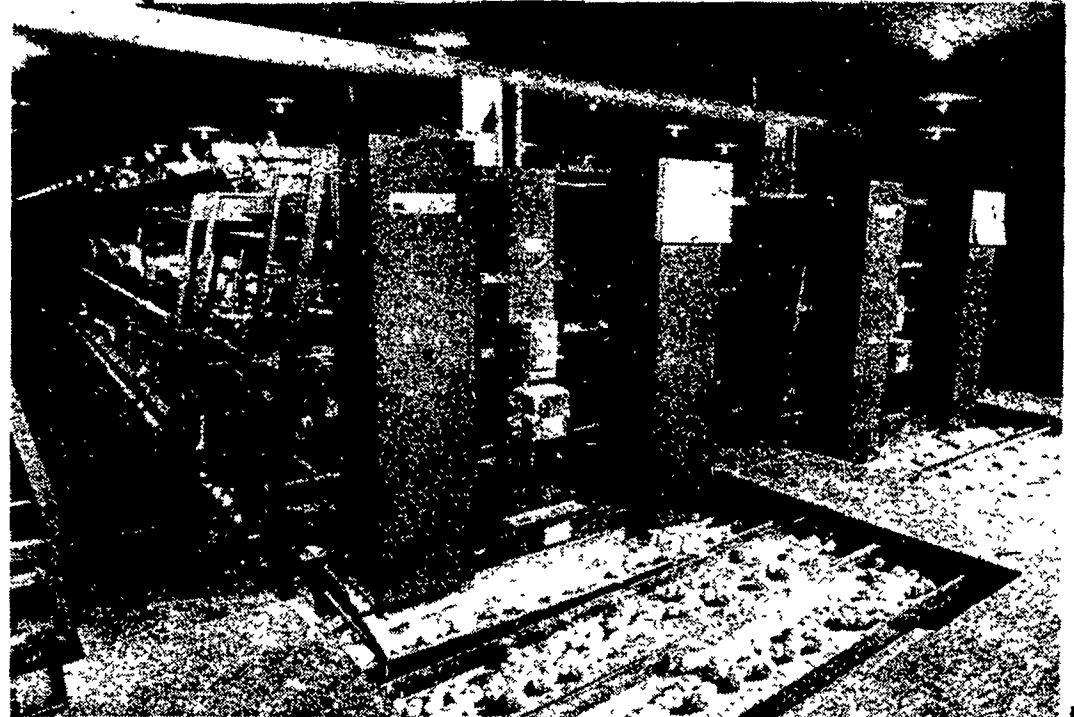


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