

Dairy legislation

(Continued from Page A1)

assessment fast approaching, with election time nearing, and with "court cases coming out our ears," it was obvious no progress was being made toward a resolution of the dairy surplus problem. The compromise was proposed.

"Essentially it is an amalgamation of three plans," said Kerr.

The first part is taken from the (VIP) Voluntary Incentive Plan. It is a paid diversion whereby farmers sign a contract to reduce production, and it is funded by a 50 cents assessment.

The second part is a cut in the support price. This portion is exactly the same as the Conable amendment and the bill back by the American Farm Bureau. The first price cut goes into effect in October this year. Two additional cuts in January and July of 1985 would be triggered by CCC purchase levels. They will go into effect only if CCC purchases during 1985 will exceed designated levels.

The third part of the compromise is a promotion program. It is a mandatory 15 cents check off, with no ask out. A credit is given of up to 10 cents for contributions to qualified state or regional promotion programs. The

remaining 5 cents will go to a National Dairy Board. The Board will use the money to advertise butter and cheese. Butter and cheese were chosen because they are the two products other than powdered milk that the government buys.

The key, Kerr said, is to keep government purchases below 5 and 6 billion pounds, the levels that trigger a cut in the support price.

"So it will cost dairymen 15 cents to move some milk," said Kerr, "but it will probably save dairymen one-dollar on the support price."

In his final remarks Kerr said that the Secretary of Agriculture, many farmers, senators, and congressmen are not completely satisfied with the compromise plan. "But after two-and-one-half years of debate, there comes a time when you have to bite the bullet, and I think the time is now."

"Speaking from a dairy industry standpoint," said Kerr, "I think it's time to take the money and run. Hunker down for a couple of years, and get ready for the end of next year when Congress sits down to negotiate the next farm bill. (The farm bill) is the real battle, this is the scrimmage. We have to get this surplus behind us, so that we are not in the situation of

negotiating with 30 billion pounds of surplus milk hanging over our heads. Next year when Congress sits down and designs the dairy program as part of the farm bill, it will basically control the price of milk until 1990.

However, it was obvious during the question period that followed, that reaching a consensus would be no easier in the coming month than it has been in the past two-and-one-half years.

Congressman Walker said, "I have some real reservations about

the compromise bill as I do about a couple of the other proposals. The compromise would have to be amended before I would support it." In further comments Walker said he does not favor quota systems or producer bases, and fears that if they are introduced as a temporary measure, that they may become a permanent government program.

Walker stressed, "Dairy farmers must realize that the movement for the future is toward less government involvement, not

more. As long as this administration is in office, the farmer's business decisions will have to be adjusted on the basis that the government is not going to be there to pay the price of maintaining the dairy economy. Ultimately, we have to work ourselves into a position where the farm price is greater than the government price so that the dairy industry is once again based on sales to market, and this administration is attempting to move us in that direction."

New council

member selected

UNIVERSITY PARK — Greg Musser of Elizabethtown has been selected as one of 24 council members of the 1984 Pennsylvania 4-H Leadership Congress. The selection was made at the end of this year's Congress held June 20-23 on Penn State's University Park campus. He will work specifically with the Story Tellers program.

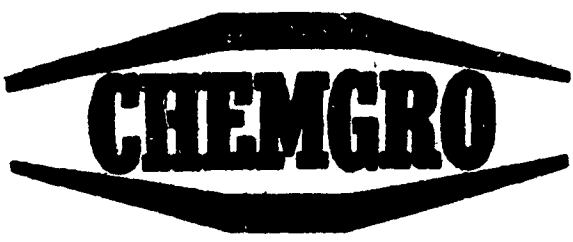
As part of his responsibility, he will be returning to Penn State in early August to evaluate this year's Congress and to do initial planning for 1984.

Leadership Congress provides 4-H'ers with the opportunity to develop leadership skills and to discuss current youth concerns while having fun, making new friends and seeing Penn State's University Park campus. He will work specifically with the Story Tellers program.

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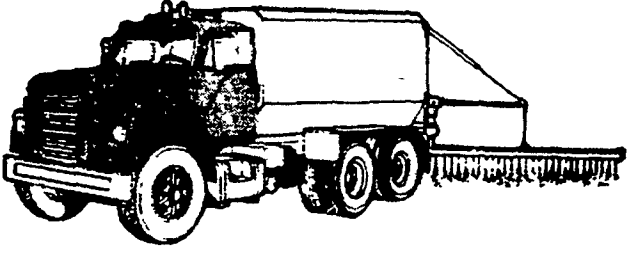
Leadership Congress provides 4-H'ers with the opportunity to develop leadership skills and to discuss current youth concerns while having fun, making new friends and seeing Penn State. In the Story Tellers program, 4-H members sharpen their communication skills by telling the 4-H story in one of four areas: radio,

photo, newswriting, and the production of Teen Leader Beat, the annual newsletter of Leadership Congress.



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