

PFU favors continued milk price supports

LOCK HAVEN — The Pennsylvania Farmers Union Dairy Committee under the leadership of William Sturges at their pre-convention meeting in Lock Haven recently made the following recommendations for the delegate body and board of directors to consider concerning the future of the American dairy industry.

They determine that federal milk orders and price supports are still needed to continue to stabilize the dairy industry for the benefit of both farmers and consumers.

If the milk marketing orders and supports were eliminated the fluctuation of price and milk supply would disrupt the entire milk industry and force many farmers and handlers into bankruptcy.

The following changes in marketing orders and price support programs were recommended:

1. More uniform prices nationwide.
2. Eliminate pockets of non-market order areas.
3. Change orders into a base surplus program.
4. Establish national uniform payment dates.
5. Uniformly reduce the length of the payment period, such as establish two 10 day advance payments prior to final settlement.
6. Restrict imports of dairy products that help create American surpluses.
7. Update (increase) zone

differentials to more realistically reflect current transportation costs.

The Pennsylvania Farmers Union Dairy Committee also decided that classified pricing and pooling are still needed and that the milk marketing order price should be the effective floor or minimum price only. The Dairy Committee also recommended that methods to speed up the process of making changes in milk marketing orders be explored.

Sturges noted that Class I differentials are necessary to make the costs of marketing milk uniform across the country and should be maintained and updated. The costs of moving milk from one order to another needs to be

recognized in the pricing system to remove regional inequities in price support programs. The appropriate objective is price stabilization and not income enhancement.

Sturges also pointed out that

price support level goals should be 100% of parity and that parity goals can best be achieved by a base-surplus production plan and not by the present government purchase programs.

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