

# Milk diversion program

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50 but less than 100 farmers have established bases. Only a handful of farmers have signed contracts to participate."

Brubaker called the meeting that drew an estimated crowd of 100, to clear up questions on the

final regulations that came out last week. The final regulations are available from county ASCS offices in an appendix to form CCC-150, the Milk Diversion Program contract form.

"A lot of the questions farmers have can be answered by asking

themselves this simple question," said Brubaker "Will the action reduce the overall supply of milk "

Brubaker summarized the major provisions of the bill and made a special note of final regulations that changed from what was originally anticipated

Dairymen who have registered cattle and a history of merchandising registered cattle, under contract of the program will be prohibited from selling registered cattle for dairy purposes unless sold to another program participant. This is contrary to what dairymen were first told.

Any cow or heifer born before April 1, 1983 may not be sold after Nov. 8, 1983 except for slaughter, export to a foreign country or to another producer in the program, stressed Brubaker.

All sale of cattle must be reported by producers under contract Brubaker said he could not assure dairymen who sold cattle to a dealer with the intent of the cow being sent to slaughter, that they would not be held liable if the dealer sold the cow for dairy purposes.

"Producers who are within three percent of their contracted

quarterly production are eligible for quarterly payments," he said. "To receive quarterly payments, the producer must bring in milk check stubs for that quarter. The milk check stub is your ticket for payment."

Glenn Shirk, Lancaster County dairy Extension agent, addressed the question of who may benefit by participating in the program. Shirk listed producers who stand to gain from the program as:

- producers thinking about selling out;
- persons who want to slow down and reduce their herd;
- those producers hit hard by the drought and short of feed;
- producers who have already experienced a reduction since 1981 and 1982;
- someone who wants to cull their herd hard and upgrade it; and,

- those producers with low fixed cost but high variable costs, such as someone who rents his farm and equipment.

Shirk listed those who may not benefit from the program as:

- the purebred breeder who wants to merchandize cows during the next 15 months
- producers trying to expand, especially young farmers with high overhead that must maintain a certain cashflow to meet many payments.

Producers were reminded that the Secretary of Agriculture has the discretion to reduce the contracted percentage up to five percent if there would be an excessive reduction in the level of milk production or there has been a substantial hardship to producers of beef cattle, dairy cattle, hogs, or poultry sold for slaughter.



Lancaster ASCS Director, Ray Brubaker, right, answers a farmer's question on the regulations of the new dairy legislation at a meeting Tuesday night at the Farm and Home Center.

# Pseudorabies

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in eight months. But this time schedule is now being put back a bit due to the two new outbreaks and it is hoped that the eradication can be completed by next summer

It has now been just about four years since the first outbreak. The disease has largely been concentrated in Lancaster County, particularly the northeastern section

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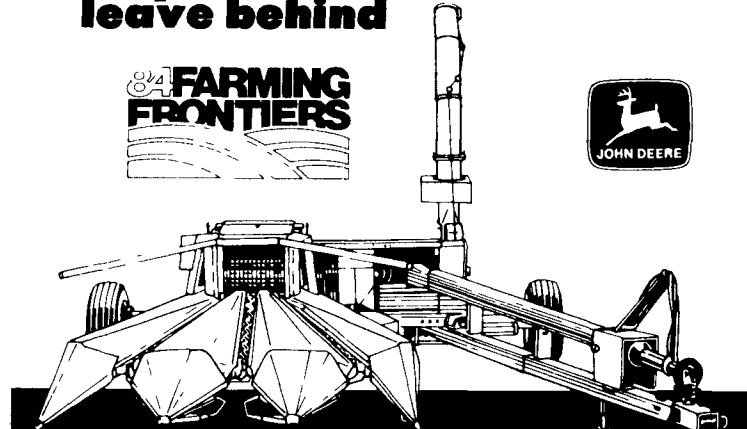


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