

## Pa. milk pricing

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provide for discontinuance of setting minimum milk prices, but amend the Milk Marketing Law to protect against below-cost sales in possible price wars.

Pennsylvania is only one of four states that sets milk prices at both the wholesale and retail levels. And, it is the only one of the top ten milk producing states in the country in which the state government controls the price of milk.

The Staff report goes on to say that it doesn't believe that ending the minimum pricing regulations will cause such problems as higher prices of milk, shortages in certain areas of the state or hardships on

small dairies particularly if below-cost sales are prohibited.

Concerning the State Farm Products Show Commission, the staff report urged that membership include non-ag representatives — one of which would particularly represent the interests of consumers.

The Commission provides for a wide variety of input from the agricultural, educational and governmental communities, which contributes to the success of the Farm Show, the staff report says.

But while continuing this representation, a fourth group should also be represented — the non-ag public.

The audit of the Commission and

Farm Show points out that for the past three years an annual amount of \$1 million has come from the Pa. General Fund to cover losses of the State Farm Products Show Fund.

"Representation on the Commission by members who do not represent agriculture would appear to be in the public interest, the report said.

The Commission is composed of the governor, the secretary of agriculture and one other department officer, an officer of the Department of Public Instruction, Dean of Penn State's Ag School, the Dean of Ag Extension and three members appointed by the governor. All of the appointees were recommended by and came out of the State Farm Show Committee.

In other recommendations

concerning the Farm Products Show Commission, the staff report cited:

—The large Show Fund balances that existed at the end of the past two fiscal years in the neighborhood of \$900,000

—Whether it is appropriate that two-thirds of the salary of the PDA's Chief of the Show Management Division be paid out of monies that the Pa. Livestock Association and the Pa. Dairy and Allied Industries Association receives out of the General Fund for KILE and the All-American Dairy Show.

—The need for a master plan of capital improvements to the Farm

Show Complex, including a safer way to get livestock from stalls to judging areas even if it means reducing stall space to construct an aisle only for animals.

Concerning membership on the Pa. Milk Marketing Board, the staff report explained that a member is not required by law to be a bona fide resident of the Commonwealth and does not have to be knowledgeable about the dairy industry.

Also, the staff report suggested that the consumer member of the board be required to have a background that is similar to that required for public members of licensing boards.

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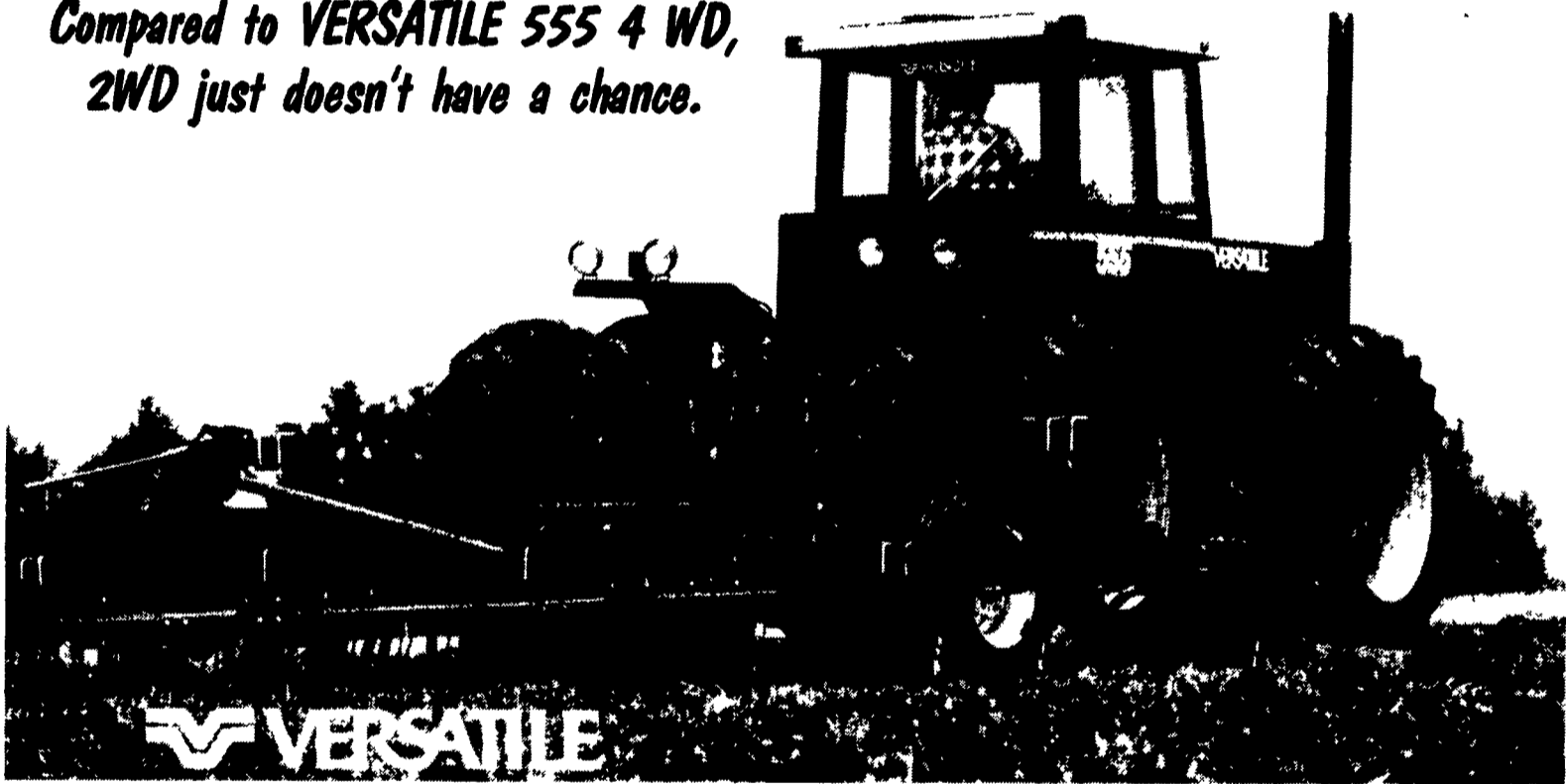
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