## USDA seeks public comment on 1985 grain program

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture is seeking public comment on some aspects of the 1965 feed grain program prior to making a decision on the program, a USDA official said recently.

Everett Rank, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, said USDA will study the public's recommendations along with current data on U.S. and world crop conditions and crop supply and demand before announcing the 1985 program.

Specifically, Rank said, USDA would like to receive comments

- the loan and purchase level;
- the established target price;
- the national program acreage;
- whether there should be a voluntary reduction percentage and, if so, what percentage;
- whether there should be an acreage reduction program and, if so, what percentage and how to establish the acreage bases for the acreage reduction program;
- whether a set-aside requirement is necessary and, if so, what percentage;
- whether there should be a

land diversion program and, if so, the extent of such diversion and the level of payment;

- whether barley should be eligible for payment purposes
- under the feed grain program;
   whether malting barley should be exempt from any acreage reduction program;
- if an acreage reduction or setaside program is necessary, whether to allow haying and grazing of acreage conservation reserve acreage;
- provisions of the farmerowned reserve:
- whether to require offsetting compliance if an acreage reduction program is established;
- whether non-recourse loans and purchases should be made available to producers who cut their corn crop for silage; and
- whether contracts that producers sign to participate in the program should be binding after the signup period. Rank said current law stipulates

that if USDA estimates the quantity of corn on hand in the United States on Sept. 30, 1985, will exceed 1.1 billion bushels, a cash land diversion program of not less than 5 percent must be provided and an acreage reduction program may be provided.

If a combination cash land diversion and acreage reduction program is offered, the total reduction may not exceed 20 percent, Rank said.

Any required reduction in excess of 15 percent must be equally

apportioned between a cash land diversion program and an acreage reduction program.

The payment rate for any cash land diversion for corn cannot be less than \$1.50 per bushel.

Comments should be sent to director Analysis Division, room 3741-S, ASCS-USDA P.O. Box 2415. Washington, D.C. 20013. The comments, which must be received no later than Aug. 6, will be available for public inspection in that room during regular business hours.

## USDA celebrates Dairy Month

was the first cow to attend classes at the Van Ness Elementary School here.

The 1,000-pound Holstein was there as a teacher. Her subject, of course, was milk - from its source to the many nutritious and tasty products made from it.

The occasion - an event in a nationwide celebration of "June is Dairy Month" - brought to the school as special guests, the 36 members of the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board and top officials of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Sharing the spotlight with Angie were Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block, his wife Sue, and Essex Finney, acting associate area director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's research center at Beltsville, MD., where

Harris welcomed and introduced the guests, Finney introduced Angie to the 300 students, their faculty and guests. He explained some details of Angie's life style. talked about the dairy industry and displayed an array of dairy products.

The students received ice cream from the Ice Cream Manufacturers Association and gifts from the Mid-Atlantic Milk Marketing Area.

Mrs. Block described many delicious dairy products and distributed samples to the students.

After signing a declaration officially making June "Dairy Month," Block shared some of his experiences growing up on a farm,

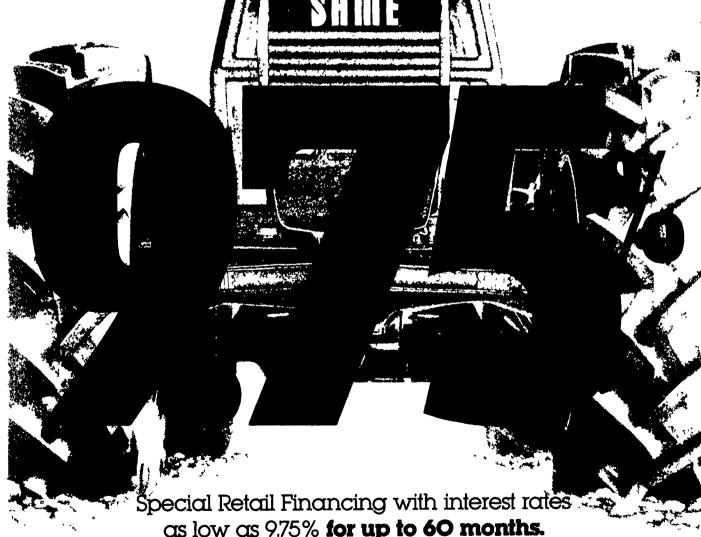
WASHINGTON, D.C. — Angie and Angie is one of the research herd as the first cow to attend classes to the Van Ness Elementary

Angie is one of the research herd chores. He stressed the importance of the dairy industry in everyone's life, and invited the students to share in his appreciation of dairy farmers for their hard work and dedication in providing wholesome, nutritious

> Angie, who waited patiently through all the speeches, became the center of attention as student volunteers, with a demonstration and instructions from Block, tried their hand at milking.

> Van Ness Elementary, site of the USDA-sponsored event, was "adopted" by USDA under the national partnership-in-education program announced last year by President Reagan. Through this volunteer program, the private sector and federal agencies cooperate to promote and improve education in local communities.

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