

Helm asks for papers on 1985 Farm Bill trade policy

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Senator Jesse Helms, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, said he has asked a wide range of farm organizations and farm policy specialists for policy papers on the role of agricultural exports in overall farm policy. The papers will be published as a Committee print, and is the second in a series of three.

Helms said response to the first print, entitled "Farm Policy Perspectives: Setting the Stage for 1985 Agricultural Legislation," was excellent. Letters soliciting papers were sent out in May, 1983, and the print was published in April. (Copies are available for \$6.50 from the Superintendent of Documents, stock number 052-070-05924-9). The first print deals with U.S. farm structure and the impact of domestic farm programs in the agricultural economy.

Helms said he is asking for the second print because of the importance of exports to agricultural prosperity. He explained that domestic farm programs do not always work to enhance our vital export interests, rendering both our domestic and international programs less effective than they could be in improving farm income.

"Contemporary American agriculture and agricultural marketing has changed dramatically over the last 50 years," said Helms. "One major change has been a growing dependence upon international markets for farm profits. Yet Federal farm programs are based on concepts developed in the 1930's for a very different kind of agriculture."

Chairman Helms indicated that the third print in the series would deal with the impact of technology in agriculture on farm policy.

Helms said the purpose of these committee prints is to form the foundation of initiatives that will be written into next year's farm bill.

"I hope this information will form the basis of a comprehensive, forward-looking review of farm policy," Helms said. "Current programs are a patchwork of complicated, sometimes mutually conflicting legislative quick-fixes. Farm policy should be more than simply the sum of next year's government program for one commodity plus another and another. We should develop coherent, comprehensive long-term policy, and the 1985 farm bill provides that opportunity."

Helms said farmers, agribusinesses, those with expertise in international finance and trade, the academic community, farm groups and public interest groups have been asked for papers on the following topics:

Export Prospects—What are the realistic prospects for market growth in the years ahead? What share of the world market can the U.S. reasonably hope for, both in raw products and value-added products?

Domestic policies—How can domestic programs be tailored to encourage U.S. exports? Are limited government funds best spent on export promotion or domestic payments?

Competitiveness—How competitive is the U.S. in the production of food and fiber? How can we become more competitive? What policies are appropriate in

areas where we are not price competitive?

Export credit—In light of the world debt problems, what should be the role of government credit programs?

Strong dollar and other impediments to U.S. trade—How do currency exchange rates affect U.S. trade? If the relative weakness in foreign currencies continues, how can U.S. exports best remain competitive?

Unfair trade practices—What impact do export subsidies and nontariff trade barriers of other countries have on U.S. agricultural

exports? At what point should countermeasures be used?

Export controls—In light of the 1980 grain embargo and the resulting contract sanctity legislation, what must be done to ensure the U.S. will remain a reliable supplier?

GATT negotiations—Should the U.S. enter into another round of negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade? If so, what should be our objectives?

Export legislation—Should the 1985 farm bill contain a separate

export title? What is the government's role in expanding exports?

Food aid assistance and markets in developing countries—Are U.S. food aid assistance programs, such as P.L. 480, working effectively to help third world nations build real economic growth and develop markets for U.S. products? How can assistance programs be used to build future markets?

Helms said that the print should be available by early fall. The third print on agricultural technology and innovation is expected later in the year.

Farmers to receive \$12.26 for May milk

NEW YORK, N.Y. — Dairy farmers who supplied milk plants regulated under the New York-New Jersey marketing orders during May 1984 will be paid on the basis of a uniform price of \$12.26 per hundredweight (26.4 cents per quart).

Market Administrator Thomas A. Wilson also stated that the price was \$12.36 in April 1984 and \$12.64 in May 1983. The uniform price is a marketwide weighted average of the value of farm milk used for fluid and manufactured dairy products.

The seasonal incentive fund removed \$.40 per hundredweight from the dairy farmers' uniform price for May, a total of \$4,191,112.14. Deductions will continue through June and will be returned in the August through November uniform price calculations.

A total of 16,912 dairy farmers supplied the New York-New Jersey Milk Marketing Area with 1,047,778,034 pounds of milk during

May 1984. This was a decrease of 2.5 percent (about 27 million pounds) from last year. The gross value to dairy farmers for milk deliveries was \$131,456,368.16. This included differentials required to be paid to dairy farmers but not voluntary premiums or deductions authorized by the farmer.

Regulated milk dealers (handlers) used 383,636,370 pounds of milk for Class I, 36.6 percent of the total. This milk is used for fluid milk products such as homogenized, flavored, low test and skim milks. For May 1984, handlers paid \$14.33 per hundredweight (30.8 cents per quart)

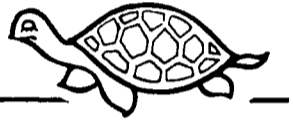
for Class I milk compared with \$14.78 a year ago.

The balance (664,141,664 pounds of 63.4 percent) was used to manufacture Class II products including butter, cheese, ice cream and yogurt. Handlers paid \$11.96 per hundredweight for this milk.

The uniform price is based on milk containing 3.5 percent butterfat. For May 1984, there was a price differential of 16.4 cents for each one-tenth of one percent that the milk tested above or below the 3.5 percent standard.

All prices quoted are for bulk tank milk received within the 201-210 mile zone from New York City.

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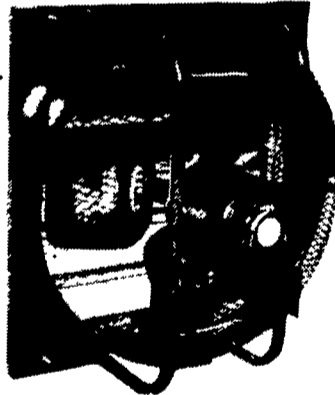
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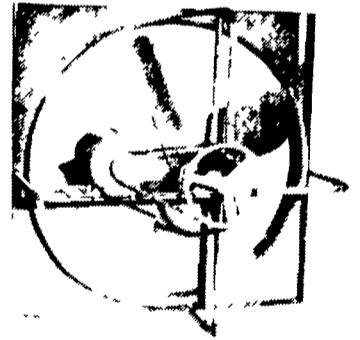
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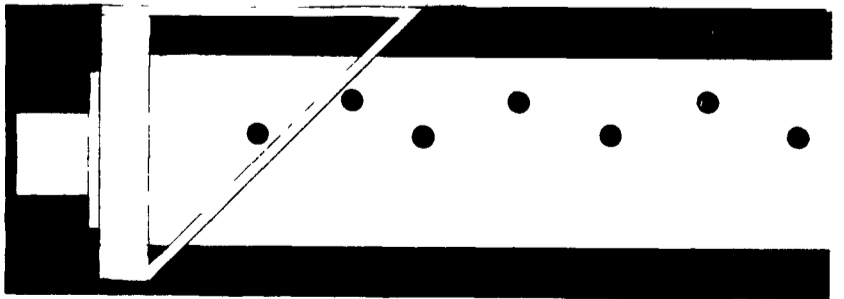
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