

Dairy

(Continued from Page A29)

compiled, a team of Extension specialists at College Park will prepare a set of written recommendations. This team will include expertise in the areas of animal science, veterinary medicine, agricultural engineering and agronomy (crop production). Copies of the recommendations will be sent to appropriate county Extension agents, veterinarians, dairy co-op fieldmen and milking equipment dealers.

At least one member of the Extension specialists team will visit each participating farm, along with a county Extension agent, to discuss the recommendations.

After the recommended changes are made, farm visits will occur every one to three months to fine-tune the changes. Progress in milk production will be monitored via computer print-outs from Dairy Herd Improvement records. Milk will be sampled from individual cows every six months in all participating herds to check progress on mastitis control.

Participating farmers will be asked to visit their county Extension office once a year to review the interpretation of DHI records.

How will the project be financed?

Peters reports that start-up money has been provided by four regional milk marketing cooperative organizations serving Maryland. Remaining costs will come from a direct charge to each participating dairy farmer and through contributions of staff time by the University of Maryland's Cooperative Extension Service.

In addition to a financial obligation, each participating dairy producer must agree to the following stipulations:

—Obtain signatures of your co-op fieldman, veterinarian and equipment dealer pledging their support in carrying out practices recommended by the University of Maryland Extension team;

—Be a member of the Dairy Herd Improvement milk-testing program and enroll in the DHI somatic cell count program.

For more information, interested farmers should contact their county office of the Cooperative Extension Service. Or they may make direct inquiry to Robert R. Peters, 1119 Animal Sciences Building, University of Maryland, College Park, Md. 20742; phone: (301) 454-7830. Deadline for initial inquiry has been extended to Sept. 10.

Loan rate issued

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued a preliminary loan and purchase rate of \$5.02 per bushel for 1984-crop soybeans. This is the minimum permitted by law and is unchanged from 1983. The loan rate is set by law at 75 percent of the

simple average price received by farmers during the past five years, excluding the high and low years, according to Everett Rank, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. That law also requires USDA to issue a preliminary loan and

purchase rate not earlier than 30 days before Sept. 1, the beginning of the soybean marketing year.

All producers of 1984-crop soybeans will be eligible for loans and

purchases since USDA does not require participation in production adjustment programs as a condition of eligibility, he said. Soybeans are ineligible for any reserve program or farm storage payments, Rank said.



2ND ANNUAL PRISON MINISTRY AUCTION

Saturday, September 8, 1984 9:00 A.M.

Helpers - Ear Corn - Hay - Straw - Quilts
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For cattle call Ken Hershey 717-768-8192 or Gene Smucker 717-354-9923

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