

# NFU calls for dairy diversion extension

WASHINGTON, D. C. — An extension of at least nine months will be needed when USDA's dairy diversion program expires next March 31, and the administration should announce its intentions to seek that extension as early as possible, according to the chief of the National Farmers Union. Farmers are planning now for the next dairy marketing year, and an immediate announcement of the administration's intentions would allow for orderly planning.

NFU President Cy Carpenter wrote in a letter to Agriculture Secretary John Block today that the administration should seek an extension of the program as a first order of business when Congress reconvenes in January.

The program began Jan. 1 when USDA contracted with participating farmers to reduce their milk marketings by between 5 and 30 percent of an established base amount. Participating farmers

receive \$10 per hundredweight for the reduction from Jan. 1 through March 31, 1985. To finance the incentive payments, all dairy farmers are assessed 50 cents per hundredweight on all milk they market. In addition, milk support prices were dropped by 50 cents on Dec. 31, 1983 and by an additional \$1 per hundredweight this summer.

The program, plus a 3.5 percent increase in domestic dairy product consumption, is credited with projections showing that USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation will purchase 50 percent less surplus dairy product during the 1984-85 marketing year.

Extending the program by at least nine months could continue the program's record of bringing dairy supplies more in line with demand by decreasing milk marketings, and could help strengthen dairy prices farmers receive," Carpenter said.

"In order to continue the progress we have made so far, we believe the diversion program should be extended for at least another nine months. Dairy farmers are now making their management decisions for the next year," he said. Some dairy farmers already have replacement heifers waiting to go into production as soon as the diversion program ends.

"A program extension would continue to reduce the cost of the dairy price support program to the treasury," he said.

"The program is working. Milk production is down, CCC removals are down, the cost of the program is down and the price for milk paid

to farmers is beginning to improve." Carpenter wrote to Block. Carpenter expressed hope that

continued declines in milk production would allow for a better price for dairy farmers.

## Grinder-mixer data cited

NEWARK, Del. — A fact sheet on owning and using a portable grinder-mixer is now available from the Delaware Cooperative Extension Service. Prepared by extension livestock specialist Kenneth B. Kephart, the four-page publication covers the advantages and disadvantages of this equipment for livestock producers and tells how to use it effectively.

A section on making quality feed

with a grinder-mixer discusses farm mixing options, gives mixing tips, and tells how to measure ingredients. Other sections offer advice on maintenance and tell how to check the accuracy of feed formulations.

Copies of the publication are available from county extension offices in Newark (451-2506), Dover (736-1448) and Georgetown (856-5250).



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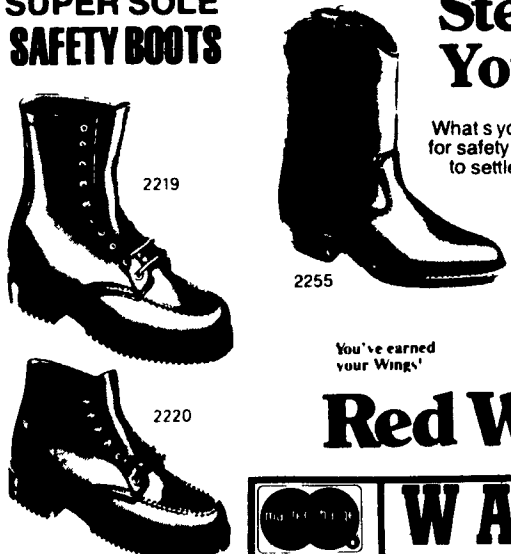
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