

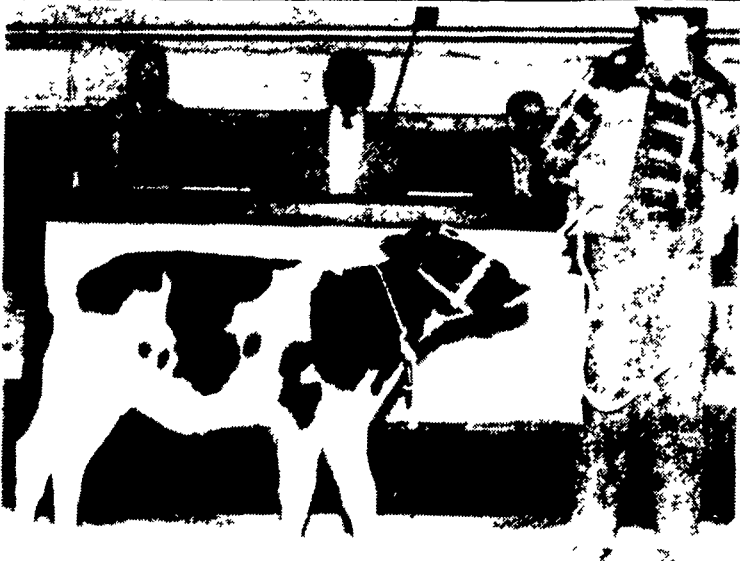
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\$7.50 per year



This Glendell daughter received the top bid of \$3150 at the relief sale.

World Relief Sale raises \$63,000

BY WENDY WEHR

LANCASTER — Through the generosity of many area dairy farmers, a sum of \$63,000 was raised Thursday at the World Relief Heifer Sale. All of the sale proceeds will go to the Mennonite Central Committee for distribution to the hungry and needy around the world.

All of the 74 head of cattle and various other auction items that were sold were donated by area farmers. As the first heifer entered the sale ring, Edgar Stoesz, associate executive secretary of

the Mennonite Central Committee, thanked both donors and buyers for their generosity.

Remarking on the "sad condition of agriculture around the world," Stoesz stated that even American agriculture is now in a state of crisis. "This neglect of agriculture is something we will all regret," he remarked.

To bring home his point, Stoesz quoted from a speech by William Jennings Bryan, given at the Democratic National Convention in 1896. Said Bryan, "Burn down

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Farm Bureau adds its ideas to the Farm Bill debate

Compiled from news reports

WASHINGTON — The American Farm Bureau has injected a long-awaited Farm Bill proposal of its own into the melting pot of arguments and counter-arguments that will determine farm policy for years to come.

The Bureau, the nation's largest general farm organization, has proposed that dairy price supports and commodity loans for major export crops be tied to formulas that depend on market prices rather than arbitrary political numbers.

Officials at the U.S. Department of Agriculture said the department and the Reagan Administration were not prepared to comment on the Farm Bureau proposal at this time.

They did indicate, however, that the Farm Bureau's plan is being studied closely in Washington and parts of it eventually may be accepted into package that ultimately receives Administration backing.

Under the Farm Bureau plan, dairy price supports are tied to a supply-demand "adjuster" reflecting market reality, according to a pamphlet provided by the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association, a Farm Bureau member organization.

Milk would be supported at 90 percent of a three-year average all-milk price, adjusted up or down

according to expected levels of government purchases.

Price support adjustments, not to exceed three percent in any six-month period, could be made by the Secretary of Agriculture, if net purchases are estimated to exceed eight billion pounds of milk equivalent within a year, under the Farm Bureau legislation.

The plan also outlines a "commodity bonus" that allows one-third of excess Commodity Credit Corp. or farmer-owned reserve stocks to be used each year as an export incentive.

The bonus has been designed to meet surplus commodities while also offering a way to retaliate against other nations that have undersold us in world markets through their own form of subsidies.

The plan would also set commodity loans for feed grains, wheat, soybeans and rice at 75 percent of the five-year average market price, excluding the highest and lowest years, with annual adjustments of no more than 10 percent.

Target prices would be frozen at this year's level for 1986, and would

be set at 110 percent of the same average market prices used to set commodity loan rates, beginning in 1987. Prices could not be adjusted more than five percent in a year.

Other features of the plan include:

- Elimination of the farmer-owned grain reserve.
- Establishment of a seven to 15 percent conservation reserve program.
- Reduction of feed-grain acreage when carryover stocks exceed specified levels.

Farm Bureau economists estimate that the plan submitted by the 3.3-million-member organization would cost an average of \$6.8-billion a year.

"American Farm Bureau's farm bill is more flexible and more market responsive than other farm bills which have already been introduced," PFA President Keith Eckel said in releasing the proposal. "The Farm Bill being presented today represents the thinking of over 90 percent of the food and fiber producers in

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Dairy expert says

Cattle sales contracts unfair to dairymen

BY SALLY BAIR

Staff Correspondent

LANCASTER — Dr. Ronald Buffington, Holstein breeder from Ohio, urges Pennsylvania dairymen to promote their cows, their products and their own self-interests.

Speaking around the state last week as part of the Holstein Forums, Buffington made it clear that he feels dairymen are being taken unfair advantage of with the popular "terms" of contracts with high-selling cattle in public sales.

Pointing out that the sellers of many of the highest price cows never collect all the money that is due, he said, "The economics of selling registered Holsteins is not fair to the breeder."

Buffington stated that "there are some people who buy and not pay." He strongly suggested that breeders make contracts "binding enough that we can collect." As owner of Rosebuff Associates, Buffington gained recent experience by selling a high-priced animal in the exclusive "South Fork" sale in Dallas, Texas.

Buffington also took the state and national breed associations to task for offering no support to dairy breeders in contract sales.

The national association, he said, simply wants to register cattle.

To illustrate his point, Buffington took the example of a cow that sells for \$100,000. Terms are often \$25,000 in a year, \$25,000 in the next year, and \$25,000 in the next year. The sales agency takes its 15 percent commission off the first payment, and after advertising and other expenses are deducted the dairyman may be left with \$5,000.

The rest of the money he may never see because of the way the terms are written. The cow may not be treated well and therefore becomes less valuable, or it could die. Sometimes a cow is resold and the original seller has still not been paid.

To make sales more fair to the breeder, Buffington suggests that terms be made 40 percent up front and two more payments of 30 percent each. "We as breeders shouldn't have to absorb everything," he added. Therefore, the sales force should receive their commission in three equal payments.

Buffington advocates asking bankers to stand up and be counted, and having them approve

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"I don't regret that we've gone with this, and we look forward to some answers coming out of it," said Aaron Stauffer while addressing members of local, state and national coordinating committees during a tour of the Stauffer farm's water monitoring facilities.

Nat'l RCWP Committee reviews Rural Clean Water Project here

BY JACK HUBLEY

LANCASTER — U.S. Department of Agriculture and Environmental Protection Agency officials making up the Rural Clean Water Program's National Coordinating Committee came to Lancaster County this week to review the county's RCWP project.

Convening at Lancaster's Conestoga Resort Inn on Wednesday and Thursday, the group included local, state and federal officials, as well as Extension Service personnel.

A pilot program aimed at demonstrating the effectiveness of agricultural Best Management Practices, the Conestoga Headwaters Rural Clean Water Program encompasses 110,000 acres and 1,250 farms in the northeastern corner of Lancaster County and extending into Berks County. Farmers contracting with the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), the agency responsible for administering the program, receive federal cost-share funds to implement a water quality plan drafted by the Soil Conservation Service (SCS).

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