

# Dairy Policy Options

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## Problems, Goals, and Policies for the Future

Due to lower production and higher consumption, USDA net purchases and government costs were lower in 1984 than 1983. Nevertheless both measures of the dairy problem are at high levels. Prospect for 1985 are that net removals will at best stay at the

1984 level. The closer supply-demand balance is clearly an improvement, but it is also clear that current policies have not solved the short-run nor the long-run problems facing the dairy industry.

Any number of policy options are available and several will be seriously advanced during 1985. Some people will support a price

oriented program and suggest refinements to the type of support program that existed prior to 1981. A few will call for sophisticated plans to structure and centralize management of farm supplies. A target price-deficiency payment program similar to that used for grain and other crop programs is endorsed by some people. The total elimination of any support mechanism seems unlikely, but its chances increase as high government costs continue.

In the following leaflets, several dairy policies are discussed. They are different not only in the way they work but, more importantly, in what they seek to accomplish. Policy goals are neither right nor wrong; they are based on individual or shared values and beliefs. Likewise policy options are neither good nor bad unless they are judged by a set of policy goals. The challenge before policy makers in 1985 will be to resist the temptation to legislate another compromise that deals with the

persistent short-run problems, but which fails to face the long-run issues.

Will dairy policy in 1985 seek primarily to preserve and protect dairy farm interests as they exist today, or will it sacrifice a measure of individual protection to promote a greater flexibility and adaptability to the technological and economic changes that will buffet and challenge the dairy industry as it approaches the 21st century?

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## Pseudorabies eradication to be discussed

LANCASTER — Three public meetings have been scheduled for Thursday and Friday to explain a proposed Pseudorabies (PRV) eradication program drafted by members of a special pork industry PRV committee.

The committee, formed several months ago by members of the Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council, hopes to free Pennsylvania swine herds of this dangerous virus that is currently responsible for the quarantine of

some 30 swine units, located primarily in Lancaster County.

Two meetings are scheduled for Thursday, April 11; one at 2 p.m. at the Penryn Firehall along Newport Road, and another at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center at 7 p.m. A third meeting will take place on Friday, April 12, at the Earl Township Building on Huyard Road at 10:30 a.m.

Swine producers, agribusinessmen and all other interested persons are urged to attend.

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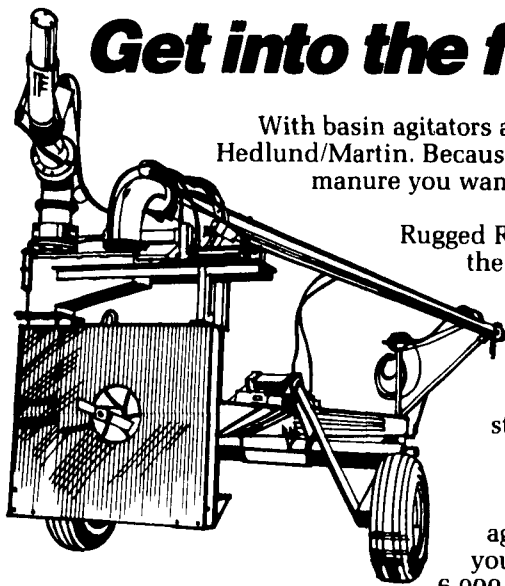
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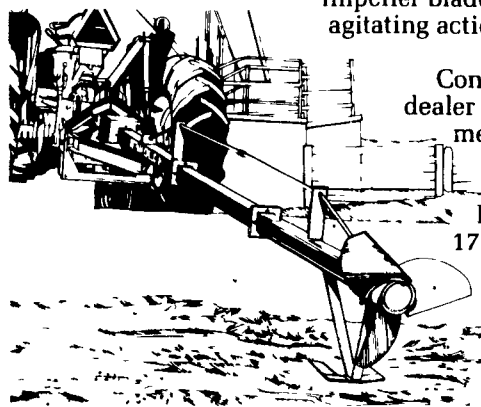
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