

NEDCO to market calcium-fortified milk products

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — NEDCO, the Northeast Dairy Cooperative Federation Inc., of Syracuse, N.Y. has announced that it has successfully developed and will market a new, all-natural, nonfat dry milk powder that meets the needs for extra dietary calcium now recommended by most nutritionists.

According to Dean McCormac, Chief Executive Officer of NEDCO, the new milk product contains no synthetic additives and is made exclusively from Grade A

Milk. Calcium enrichment is achieved, McCormac said, by removing milk fats using standard industry methods and by adding naturally occurring milk minerals isolated by a new process, patents pending, developed by IGI Biotechnology, Inc., Columbia.

"Our purpose," Mr. McCormac said, "was to provide commercial bakers and other food manufacturers with a 100% natural product that can be easily incorporated into breads, cookies, cakes, soups; yogurts, puddings, frozen desserts,

candies, and other food products in order to meet nutritional requirements for increased calcium and to do so without sacrificing the mouthfeel, texture, bulk and palatability characteristics demanded by customers.

Adding gypsum, ground up oyster shells, antacids, bone meal or dolomite, currently popular calcium supplements, might increase the calcium content of food products," McCormac added, "but they certainly don't do very much for their look or taste. Milk

minerals made much more sense to us as a calcium supplement.

Interest in dietary calcium supplements stems from increasing awareness on the part of doctors and public health professionals of the relationship between long-term low calcium intake and a number of age-related conditions, especially in women. These include osteoporosis, a thinning of the bones that results in an increased incidence of fractures and may lead to compression of the spine causing back pain; and

periodontal disease, an inflammation of the tissue surrounding teeth. In addition, a recent study of data from the Health and Nutrition Examination Survey of the National Center for Health Statistics suggests that significant decreases in the consumption of calcium are also importantly related to hypertension of high blood pressure.

Much controversy surrounds the current recommended dietary allowance (RDA) of 800 milligrams of calcium a day from the age of one year through old age and the RDA of 1,200 milligrams a day for adolescents, whose bones are rapidly growing. Most researchers believe, however, that women past 35 or 40 need 1,000 to 1,500 milligrams of calcium daily to maintain a balance between dietary calcium intake and calcium excretion. This requirement is clearly greater than the less than 600 milligrams a day of calcium found by the U.S. Public Health Service to be the average intake of American women after age 35.

One-quarter cup or approximately 28 grams of NEDCO's calcium-enriched milk powder contains slightly more than 800 milligrams of calcium, 600 milligrams of phosphorus and 125 milligrams of magnesium. "That represents," McCormac said, "100% of the current RDA for calcium, 77% of the RDA for phosphorus and 42% of the RDA for magnesium."

"We're clearly not in a position," McCormac said, "to make judgments as to how much calcium-enriched nonfat dry milk should be put into any specific food product. What we have done, quite simply, is to develop a new milk product that is low in calories, low in cholesterol and fats, low in sodium and high in calcium and can be sold at the same price as conventional nonfat dry milk. We think that food manufacturers and homemakers, particularly women, will be very pleased."

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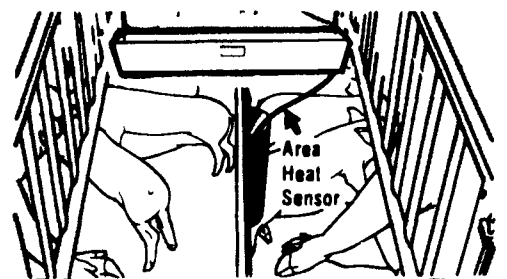
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