

Antibiotics in meat imports

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feed additives that can usually be used for the same purposes although they are probably more expensive and not quite as effective."

According to the Animal Health Institute in Arlington, Virginia, producers purchased \$271 million worth of antibacterial feed additives (which include antibiotics) in 1983, the latest year for which figures are available.

A 1981 study by the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) nails down other numbers involved. It says a cost of \$3.5 billion to consumers in increased meat prices would result from the banning of all animal uses of penicillin and severe restrictions on the use of tetracycline in feeds.

Burbee says another analysis—using new data on drug use and costs of substitute products and production methods—is necessary before a "definitive statement about today's cost impacts can be made."

In fact, Burbee is looking at the

economic impact of proposals to restrict or ban the use of some antibiotics. He says his findings will be released later this year.

Pork Producers More Dependent

Neither cattle feeders nor poultry producers are as dependent on the antibiotics in question as pork producers.

It's estimated that about three-fourths of the slaughter hogs in the United States receive low levels of tetracycline and penicillin in feed. One reason is that modern, cost-efficient swine production requires large numbers to be raised in close confinement—and hogs are very prone to respiratory ailments that restrain growth.

In general, however, antibiotic use may actually be going down. "There's been a flattening-out in antibiotic use because producers are becoming less reliant on these compounds, given the better sanitation and nutrition in the livestock industry and the need to cut out any unnecessary costs," says Burbee.

"The eventual answer may be

NEW YORK — Dairy farmers who supplied milk plants regulated under the New York-New Jersey marketing orders during April 1985 will be paid on the basis of a uniform price of \$12.19 per hundredweight (26.2 cents per quart).

Market Administrator Thomas A. Wilson also stated that the price was \$12.64 in March 1985 and \$12.36 in April 1984. The uniform price is a marketwide weighted average of the value of farm milk used for fluid and manufactured dairy products.

The seasonal incentive plan

found in newer chemical compounds. This could take as few as 5 years, or it may be as far away as 15 years. But certainly before the turn of the century, we'll find newer drugs and chemical compounds that have minimum side-effects or fewer hazards. Biotechnology will certainly provide many new substances that are safer, more effective, and less expensive," Burbee concludes.

Farmers to get \$12.19 for April milk

removed \$.30 per hundredweight from the dairy farmers' uniform price for April, a total of \$3,014,805.57. Deductions will continue through June and will be returned in the August through November uniform price calculations.

A total of 16,570 dairy farmers supplied the New York-New Jersey Milk Marketing Area with 1,004,935,190 pounds of milk during April 1985. This was an increase of 1.1 percent (about 10 million pounds) from last year. The gross value to dairy farmers for milk deliveries was \$125,709,154.40. This included differentials required to be paid to dairy farmers but not voluntary premiums or deductions authorized by the farmer.

Regulated milk dealers (handlers) used 390,212,840 pounds of milk for Class I, 38.8 percent of the total. This milk is used for fluid

milk products such as homogenized, flavored, low test, and skim milks. For April 1985, handlers paid \$14.46 per hundredweight (31.1 cents per quart) for Class I milk compared with \$14.31 a year ago.

The balance (614,722,350 pounds or 61.2 percent) was used to manufacture Class II products including butter, cheese, ice cream, and yogurt. Handlers paid \$11.53 per hundredweight for this milk.

The uniform price is based on milk containing 3.5 percent butyfat. For April 1985, there was a price differential of 16.3 cents for each one-tenth of one percent that the milk tested above or below the 3.5 percent standard.

All prices quoted are for bulk tank milk received within the 201-10 mile zone from New York City.

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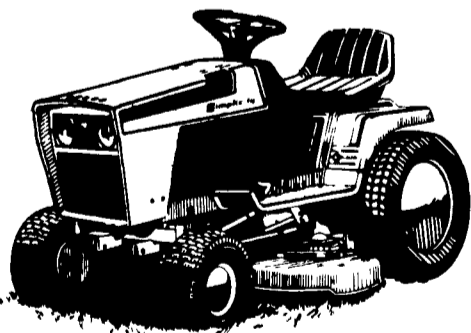
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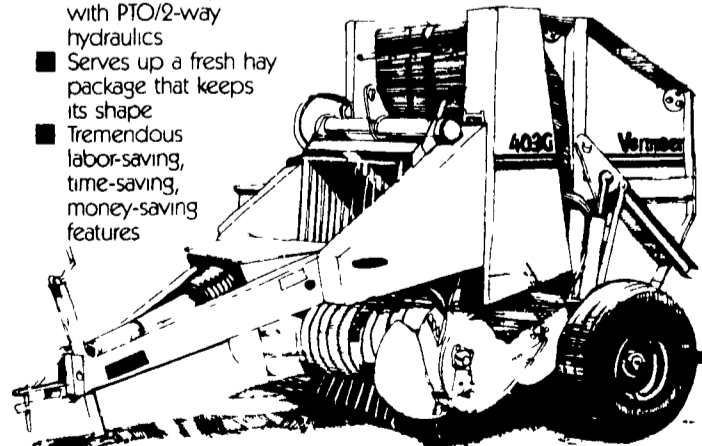
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