

Buyout program to clank into gear February 10

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statute gives the Secretary the authority to accept or reject any or all bids.

The twelve billion pound reduction goal will be allocated among all states according to their 1985 total production. The goal of the program is not to eliminate the dairy industry from any state, rather it is designed to reduce it proportionally.

All milk production in which a producer had an interest up to January 1, 1986 must be combined under one contract.

After the contract holder signs his bid and submits it to the county ASCS office, it is sent to Kansas City. All bids from across the country are compiled here and sent to Washington by March 19. The Secretary will send notification to the state and county office of accepted bids on March 27.

The following day the county offices will send the completed contracts to the principle producers for signing.

The first bid disposals are scheduled to be carried out during the period from April 1 to August 31, 1986. The producers under contract for the first disposal period must choose a payment option by April 18.

These options have been decreased to two from the original three. The first choice is to receive no payments the first year, equal and annual payment thereafter, or up to 85 percent in year two with the remainder being equally divided among the rest of the

contract.

The second option is to receive up to 80 percent the first year with the remaining amount being paid in equal annual installments.

The next bid disposal will occur from September 1, 1986 through February 28, 1987. The contract holder for the first bid disposal period must submit evidence of the slaughter or export of his animals by September 30, 1986.

The final disposal is slated for March 1, 1987 to August 31, 1987. By March 30, 1987 evidence must be submitted of the slaughter or export of animals contracted for the second period. The date for this report for the third disposal period is September 30, 1987.

Anyone entering into this program must terminate all milk production and sell for slaughter or export all dairy cattle females, cows, heifers, and calves that they have interest in. This interest could be in the form of full ownership, part ownership, or leased animals.

Upon acceptance of the bid the producer is required to stay out of dairying and not allow the use of his facilities for milk production or raising of dairy females for five years commencing with the day of the sale of animals. These facilities could be used for producing dairy beef, or any of the other livestock not associated with the production of milk.

When the bid is submitted the producer must be actively producing and marketing milk. The bid must also be accompanied by evidence of the size and composition of the dairy herd as of



Dr. Lew S. Mix

January 1, 1985 and January 1, 1986.

The objective of the buyout program is to reduce CCC purchases by 12 billion pounds of milk equivalent over an 18 month period

between April 1, 1986 and September 30, 1987.

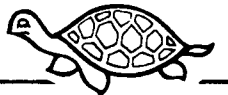
"Due to the large number of cows and favorable feeding ratios, the program probably cannot achieve the targeted five billion pound purchase level in 1986," Dr. Mix said. "Consequently the support price is likely to drop by 25 cents on January 1, 1987 and again by 25 cents on October 1, 1987."

All producers will be assessed 40 cents per hundredweight from April 1 through December 31, 1986, to help pay for the cost of the program. This assessment will be

decreased to 25 cents on January 1, 1987 and will end on September 30, 1987. Dr. Mix estimated that approximately half of the cost of the program would be paid by the assessment. All these prices are subject to change pending the outcome of the Gramm-Rudman law.

Reflecting on the total outlook Mix estimated that, "Those with \$2500 or more debt per cow will find it especially challenging. High output per cow and per worker, and good cost control are more important than ever."

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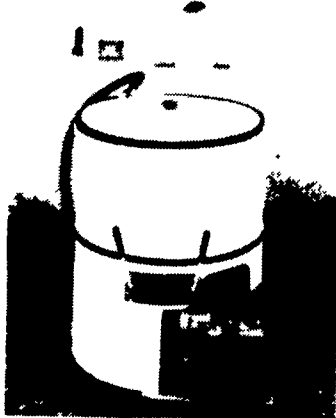
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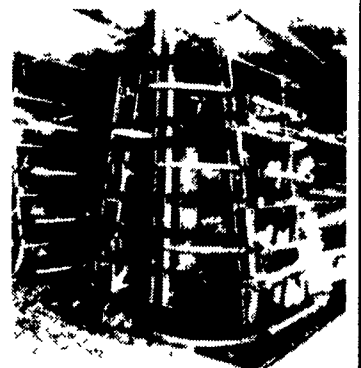
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