

Buyout: dairymen eye an uncertain future

(Continued from Page A1)

But they cannot rent out their barn, or allow their facilities to be used in dairying — even if they sell their property. And participants who lease dairy facilities must make sure that the owner does not intend to lease the property to another dairyman, within the five-year contract period.

They can sell their property — not only their equipment but also their land and buildings. The equipment, like milk tanks, milkers and so on, can be used by another dairyman on another facility. The buildings, however, may not house dairy animals.

"The intent," Shirk added, "is to remove the facilities from production . . . and to discourage reentry.

A 4-H member in the family may retain one animal, but it must be a calf, not a bred heifer or cow. And both Shirk and Brubaker said their interpretation is that a participant

may not retain interest in a bull syndicate, since that could be construed as participation in dairying.

They admitted, however, that they were not sure about the bull ownership, and were even less sure about embryo and other reproduction-genetic holdings.

Asked if a participant could keep a cow for his own use, Brubaker quipped, "I don't see why not . . . as long as he uses the meat and not the milk."

Participants may use the facilities for virtually any other livestock of their choosing, including dairy goats. But they admitted that beef cattle were the most likely choice, with lambs also feasible, if proposed slaughter facilities in Virginia are as successful as projections might indicate.

Admitting that the regulations



Ray Brubaker

were tough, Shirk said he's not sure how successful the new program will be.

"I'm concerned that the herd buyout will not accomplish what it sets out to do," he said. "It will not prevent milk being 'terminated' from being replaced."

Shirk also said many dairymen that he talked to felt the program was unfair to the vast majority of successful farmers, who want to remain in the industry.

"Many are concerned because they are being assessed to pay people to get out of business who should get out on their own," he

said. And that includes some relatively wealthy people who are just waiting for an opportunity to make a graceful exit — funded by producers.

And though many dairymen were interested in finding out what the experts think is a realistic bid figure, they received little guidance from Shirk and Brubaker.

"Even to suggest a range would be a disservice," Shirk said. But he did say that extension agents will help producers review all the relevant statistics and prepare their bid.

Buyout worksheets

LANCASTER — Deciding whether or not to participate in the Dairy Herd Buyout program, and what bids to submit, can be a complicated decision. Many factors should be taken into consideration.

For many families, it is a big decision, one that not only affects the future of their business, but the future of their family as well. It is a decision that needs to be made carefully, after a lot of pencil pushing.

Worksheets have been developed to help farmers arrive at appropriate break-even bids and to help guide them through the decisions that need to be made. These worksheets are available from Extension Offices throughout the State.

To help farmers fill out and interpret the worksheet, the Lancaster County Extension Service has scheduled a training session 7:30 p.m. Friday,

February 21, at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center.

Computer Analyses are also available from your local Extension Agent. They also are designed to help farmers arrive at appropriate bid prices. The Lancaster County Extension Service has scheduled two training sessions on the computer analyses.

The first session will help farmers complete the data collection sheet. It will be held 1:00 p.m. Monday, February 17 at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center.

The second session is designed to help farmers interpret the results of their computer printout. It will be held 1:00 p.m. Monday, February 24 at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center. Anyone interested in attending this session must acquire a data collection form, have it filled in completely and correctly, and submitted to the Lancaster Extension Office no later than February 18.

Weather summary to be offered

NEWARK, DE — A summary of weather data for Sussex County, Del. is now being offered through the University of Delaware department of agricultural engineering. This information, which is collected at the university's Agriculture Research and Education Center near Georgetown, is useful for businessmen, building contractors and farmers. It can be useful as an aid to crop management.

Livestock and poultry growers will also find it helpful in energy scheduling. The data is presented in tabular form. It consists of hourly averages of temperature, relative humidity, barometric pressure, wind speed and direction, maximum wind gusts, rainfall, soil temperature at various depths, total solar radiation and net solar radiation during the growing season.

The tables also report in-

stantaneous high and low temperatures and the time they occurred during the day, as well as total daily rainfall and total solar radiation.

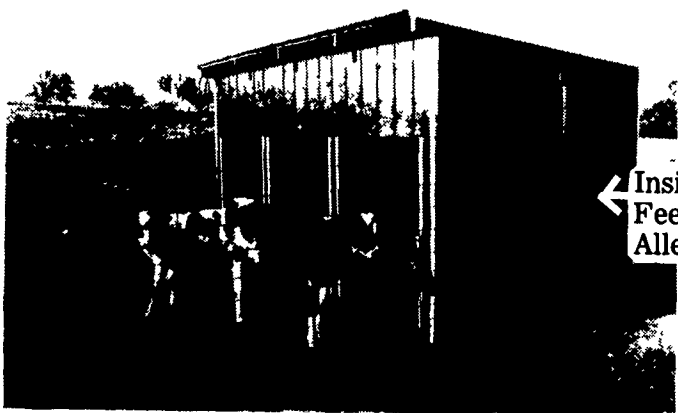
Though the data reported comes from Sussex County, it also has value for lower Kent County, Del., users as well as people who live in adjoining counties in Maryland.

The weekly 7-page reports are available on a yearly subscription basis at a cost of \$35 to cover postage and handling. To subscribe, write: Extension Agricultural Engineer, Weather Subscription, 058 Townsend Hall, Newark, DE 19717-1303. Please make checks payable to University of Delaware.



Glenn Shirk

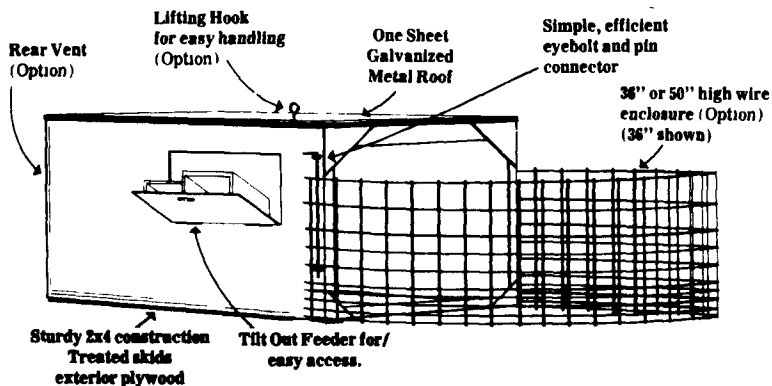
CALF KENNELS



← Inside Feeding Alley

Same Advantages As Hutches, w/Inside Feeding

Compare the Stoltzfus Woodwork Calf Hutch



ALSO AVAILABLE: TRACK FOR FASTENING CALVES' CHAIN TO CEILING OF HUTCH

MFD. BY: **STOLTZFUS WOODWORK**
Rt. 897 North — Gap, PA 17527
717-442-8972

For top corn yields this year!

UNIPEL[®]

21-7-14

fertilizer!!

It meets the changing needs of most soils and supplies the ratio of Nitrogen, Phosphate and Potash...to maintain a favorable plant-nutrient balance for top grain and forage production.

Pelleted UNIPEL 21-7-14 is an ideal fertilizer for the grower who wants a Uniform Single Application of a complete fertilizer on corn in Spring or Fall. It's especially good for programming high yield corn for grain, or for silage, and for corn/soybean rotations.



ORTHO
FERTILIZERS

Helping the World Grow Better

Let's talk about it. Come in and see us soon.

Other Analysis Available: 20-10-10, 24-8-8, 10-20-20, 15-15-15, 13-34-10

P. L. ROHRER & BRO., INC.

SMOKETOWN, PA

PH: 717-299-2571