

NFU to focus on better profit at national convention

SPOKANE — Immediate help for financially stressed producers and long-term increases in agriculture's profitability through the marketplace are at the top of the list of concerns to be addressed by delegates to the 84th annual National Farmers Union convention March 2 through 5 at the Sheraton Spokane Hotel.

Delegates will write the organization's policy statement containing legislative, educational and cooperative goals for the next year. In addition, an impressive list of policy leaders, international producer representatives, and rural life experts will address the crowd.

The U.S. Senate's leader in the drive to write the best possible 1985 Farm Bill will open the convention March 2. Sen. John Melcher, D-Mont., received national recognition for his role in preventing farm prices from dropping to even more disastrous levels. He is expected to discuss details of the Farm Bill, explain why it doesn't offer more hope to family farmers, and assess efforts to improve the bill.

Issues of importance to farmers and ranchers but not limited directly to the agriculture committee will be addressed by

Congressman James Oberstar, D-Minn. Oberstar is a member of the House Public Works Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Committee on Merchant Marines and Fisheries. These issues, along with his work for progressive dairy legislation, will be topics for his speech March 3.

Innovative farm marketing to obtain the best possible price will be discussed that same day by a panel of experts, including Congressman Dan Glickman, D-Kan. A member of the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Domestic Marketing, Consumer Relations and Nutrition, Glickman is an outspoken advocate of strengthening the role of the producer in the marketplace. Others on the panel include Dr. John Goodwin, vice president for agriculture at the University of Arkansas, and Walter Hackney, livestock division director for the National Farmers Organization. NFO President DeVon Woodland, whose organization is devoted to farmer collective bargaining, will moderate the session.

Farm unity will be evidenced by Woodland's participation, along with greetings to be extended by Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE) President

Naioma Benson and The National Grange Master Edward Anderson. Both will speak on March 3. Addresses by NFU Vice President Stanley Moore and NFU President Cy Carpenter will be given that evening.

Iwao Yamaguchi, senior executive director of the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives in Tokyo, Japan, and Allan J. Macpherson, president of the Alberta (Canada) Wheat Pool, will lend an international flavor to

the convention. Yamaguchi will speak March 3 and Macpherson will speak March 4. A U.S. cooperative leader, Farmers Union Central Exchange President Darrell Moseson, will address the convention March 4.

Former Presidential candidate and U.S. Sen. George McGovern will round out the program. McGovern will discuss his dreams for the future of agriculture and family farmers as he leads a tribute to former NFU President James Patton. McGovern was the first director of the Food for Peace Program, and Patton was an ar-

chitect of the plan. Over the years the two men found much in common in their interest in the United Nations, the cause of organized labor, justice for farmers, equality and equity for Americans.

Gregory Cusack, executive director of National Catholic Rural Life Conference, will close the convention with his banquet address. Cusack, a nationally recognized speaker, will address solutions to the farm crisis and also speak about the need for church involvement and moral improvement in public agricultural policies.

PA egg output up 11% in '85

HARRISBURG — Annual egg production for the year ending November 30, 1985 in Pennsylvania totaled 4.77 billion eggs, 11 percent more than were produced in 1984, according to the Pennsylvania Crop and Livestock Reporting Service. The average number of layers during 1985 was 18.2 million, 12 percent more than the 16.3 million in 1984. The increase was due primarily to the repopulation of layers after cleanup of the Avian Influenza. The annual average production per layer was 262 eggs compared to 263 for 1984.

The inventory number for all chickens in the Commonwealth (excluding broilers) on December 1 was 22.1 million, down two percent from the 22.5 million on hand December 1, 1984. Of this total, 18.4 million were layers, 1.7 million were pullets three months old and older not yet of laying age,

1.8 million were pullets under three months of age, and the remaining 180,000 were other chickens. The average value per head was \$1.65.

U.S. egg production during the year ending November 30 totaled 68.4 billion eggs, up fractionally from the 68.2 billion produced in 1984. Layer numbers during 1985 averaged 277 million compared with 278 million during 1984. The annual average production per layer on hand in 1985 was 247 eggs compared with 245 eggs in 1984.

The U.S. inventory for chickens (excluding broilers) December 1, 1985 totaled 22.1 million, down two percent from 22.5 million on December 1, 1984. Of this total, 18.4 million were layers, 1.7 million were pullets three months old and older not yet of laying age, 44 million were pullets under three months of age and the remaining seven million were other chickens. The average value per head was \$1.90.



Dairy building update

(Continued from Page A28)

placed close together for convenience and preferably on the north side of the barn to allow more light into the barn.

Some aspects he likes to consider are a treatment area of a veterinarian work area. He adds often with open feeding areas there is a problem with birds and he says good construction planning will not give the birds a place to perch.

Moore also says there should be no contact between the cow and metal building materials.

He also believes skid grooving in concrete is essential but can be overdone. "If the surface is too rough, cows will get sore feet. If it's too slick, they won't show heat by mounting each other."

Find out what the farmer wants, Moore urges. "If 40 percent of the farmers really have problems with their facilities, let's give him his money's worth."

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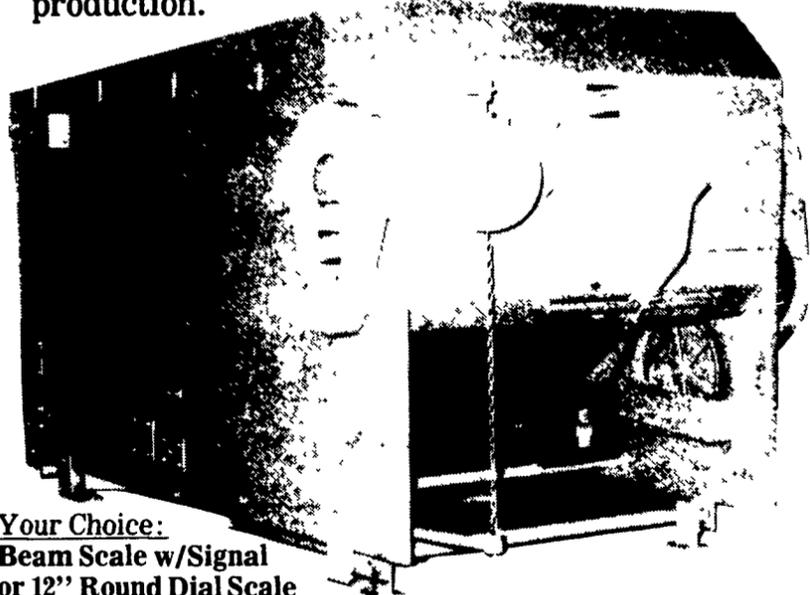
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Approx # Cows (TMR) Mix Twice Daily	36	45	55	62	82	100
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