

NFO launches 'Price Lift' milk prices to increase

CORNING, IA — "The continuing decline in milk prices must stop now!" National Farmers Organization President DeVon Woodland declared in announcing the organization's new Price Lift Commitment program to dairy producers.

"Experts are predicting \$9/cwt. as the base price for manufacturing grade milk in two years; some say sooner," Woodland emphasized. "We must take action now to raise milk prices throughout the country if dairy producers are to cash flow their

dairy operations."

The National Farmers Organization, he said, has a program in place — its Price Lift Commitment Program — to raise milk prices nationwide if four simple steps are followed by producers. Producers must, first, familiarize themselves with the program; second, commit their production; third, enroll their neighbors; and fourth, prepare themselves to receive the cost of production.

Through NFO's Price Lift program, producers will block their production together with their neighbors' to attain a certain, specified block of production. As this volume of milk is enrolled,

NFO will begin negotiations to demand \$13.50/cwt. for manufacturing grade milk and a corresponding price for Grade A milk.

"We have made this \$13.50 base price our initial goal in raising milk prices for producers nationwide," Woodland said. "We are also making every effort possible, through the Price Lift campaign, to pass the assessment which dairy farmers must start paying April 1 on to the buyer through higher milk prices."

Woodland said more details of NFO's Price Lift Commitment Program will be presented at the organization's Cash Flow Phase II meetings being held throughout the Midwest in the next few weeks.

He invited producers to attend these meetings and join with NFO in driving up milk prices.

Woodland also challenged producers whose bids will be accepted for USDA's whole herd buy-out program to market those cows and heifers through NFO's bargaining program. "Dairymen will participate in a bargaining action rather than a dumping action by joining with their neighbors to maximize their bargaining power," he emphasized.

Dairy producers who are part of the buy-out should contact their local NFO collection point or call NFO's slaughter cattle/cull cow division at (515)322-3131 for bargaining arrangements.

"We are encouraging other farm groups and cooperatives to cooperate in our bargaining efforts by joining with us in actions similar to the Minnesota Farmers Union-NFO livestock marketing agreement," Woodland added. "Farm groups and cooperatives involved in milk marketing must start cooperating with one another in order to get prices up and move cattle to the marketplace in an orderly fashion. We are inviting them to use our facilities and NFO's bargaining power to raise prices for all dairy farmers."

Woodland also encouraged all dairymen and producer associations to support all effective supply management programs in this Price Lift effort.

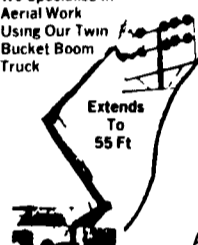
Lancaster 4-H Holstein Club

The Lancaster County 4-H Holstein Club will meet 7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 3rd at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center. Any young person between the ages of 8 and 18 as of January 1, who is interested in owning and caring for a dairy heifer or cow is invited to attend.

The evening program will focus on feeding and pedigrees.

The 4-H Club program in Lancaster County is conducted by the Penn State Cooperative Extension Service.

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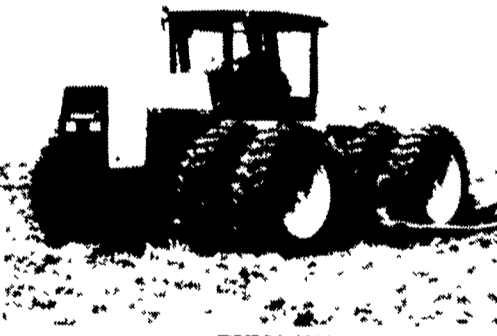
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