

Dairymen propose

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- United States imports of dairy products would be limited to the current level (less than 3 percent.)
- All dairy farmers would be assigned a monthly production base. The monthly production base would be the average monthly production for the 12 months preceding implementation of the PMMP. The monthly base would be recalculated yearly. New producers would be assigned a monthly base of 40,000 pounds.
- Monthly production bases cannot be bought, sold or assigned to any other producer. Bases could be transferred within the immediate family.
- Juggers would be exempt from the program for the milk produced and sold on their farm. Excess production sold to a dairy processor would be considered the same as milk produced over-monthly production base milk and subject to those regulations.
- Milk prices received by the farmers would be subject to a three-tier pricing structure based on the percent of utilization. This would be — 1. fluid milk parity price, 2. manufacturing parity price, and 3. over-monthly production base milk price. The parity price for both fluid and manufacturing milk would range between 60 and 80 percent parity with manufacturing parity price the lower of the two. Parity prices would be handled in the same manner as federal orders are now. Minimal health standards would

still be enforced and butterfat differentials would still be in effect. Individual processors have the option to pay differentials for total solids, protein, etc. A more thorough and fairer price parity system could be achieved by regionalization of parity (no more than 10 regions) and computation of milk parity price specific to the cost within each region.

- Processors whose fluid milk sales exceed its producers base production may, upon certification of sales, pay fluid milk parity price for over-monthly production base milk for that processor's use only.

- Each month that the cumulative CCC purchases of surplus milk for the preceding 12 months is over 4 billion pounds, the CCC purchase price would be at the current world market price and it would remain there until CCC purchases fell below 2.5 billion pounds for the preceding 12 months. Each month that the cumulative CCC purchases of surplus milk was 2.5 billion pounds or less for the preceding 12 months, the CCC purchase price (support price) would shift to the current manufacturing parity price and would remain there until surplus purchases were above 4 billion pounds for the preceding 12 months.

- The producer's over-monthly production base milk would be priced as follows: 1. For each month the cumulative CCC purchases of surplus milk for the preceding 12 months were in ex-

cess of 4 billion pounds, the over-monthly production base milk price would drop \$2 per hundredweight per month; 2. Each month that the cumulative CCC purchases of surplus milk for preceding 12 months is below 2.5 billion pounds, the over-monthly production base price would increase \$2 per hundredweight. 3. When CCC purchases of surplus milk are between 2.5 and 4.0 billion pounds, the price would remain at

the previous month's level, 4. At program initiation over-monthly production base milk price would be zero per hundredweight, 5. The ceiling and floor for the over-monthly production base milk price would be limited to plus or minus the current manufacturing parity price.

- Revenues generated by over-monthly production base milk would be remitted to CCC to offset operation costs.

The group encourages interest. They maintain "here is a better idea. It doesn't change our system very much." The PMMP plan will enable farmers to increase their base in times of surplus at a sacrificing cost to themselves and reward farmers with higher prices when milk is needed.

Farmers with questions and comments can write or call the spokesman at The Better Idea, P.O. Box 157, Womelsdorf, PA 19567. Phone is 215-589-5720

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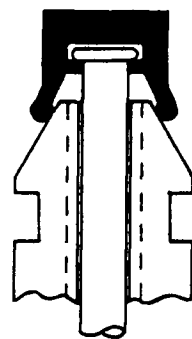
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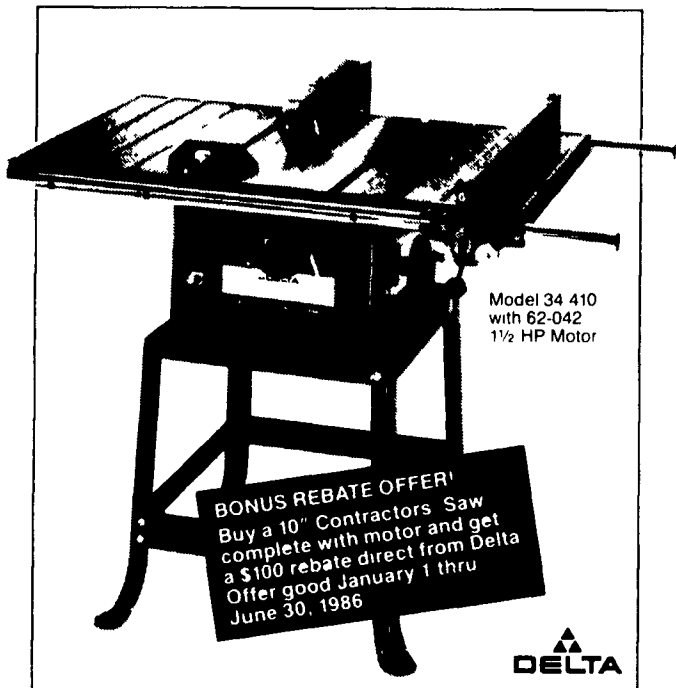
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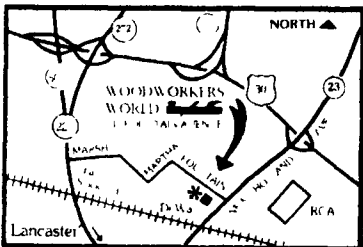
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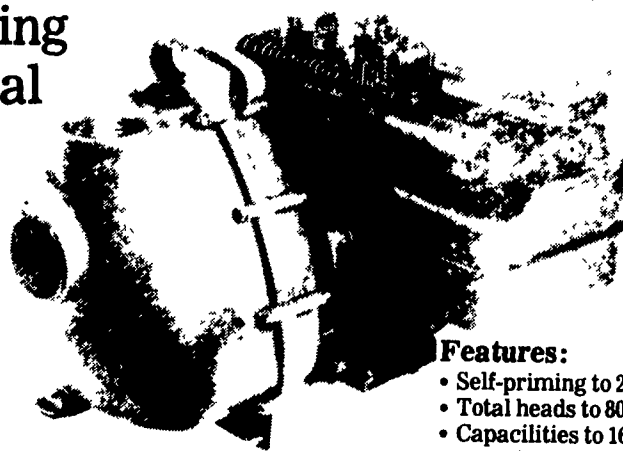
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