

Farm Policy Council Formed By Ag Groups

Dairy Cooperatives and farm organizations collectively representing thousands of farmers in the Northeast have joined together in a new organization to "address the key issues facing dairy farmers."

The announcement was made by Clyde E. Rutherford of Otego, NY, elected chairman of the newly formed "Northeastern Farm Policy Council" by representatives of 13 organizations attending the initial meeting of the group May 2

in Syracuse. William Zuber of Churchville, NY was elected vice chairman.

The Council is an outgrowth of the 1985 Northeast Farm Bill Committee which was active for two years prior to the passage of the 1985 Food Security Act. Members of Congress have credited the Committee with exerting persuasive effort to get included in the law provisions which deal fairly and humanely

with the problems of dairy farmers.

"It is the desire of the cooperatives and general farm organizations of the Northeast that we continue this dialogue and policy review," said Rutherford.

Organizations represented at the organization meeting of the Council were: Agri-Mark, Agway, Allied Federated Cooperatives, Dairylea Cooperative, Eastern Milk Producers Cooperative, Eastern A.I.C., Erie County Milk

Producers Cooperative, Lehigh Valley Farmers, New York Farm Bureau, New York State Holstein Association, Pennsylvania Farmers Union, Pennsylvania State Grange, and Upstate Milk Producers Cooperative.

USDA To Assist

Fuel Ethanol Industry

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of Agriculture will assist financially distressed fuel ethanol plants that would otherwise close and jeopardize the commercial grain market, Secretary of Agriculture Richard E. Lyng said today.

The temporary assistance program began May 10 and will end Sept. 30. The assistance will be in the form of Commodity Credit Corporation commodity certificates, which, said Lyng, "will lower feedstock costs and permit the industry to survive until new crop grain becomes available."

Lyng said the alcohol fuel industry petitioned USDA to take this action, which is authorized under the Food Security Act of 1985. The act permits CCC commodities to be made available free, or at reduced cost, to encourage their purchase for fuel production

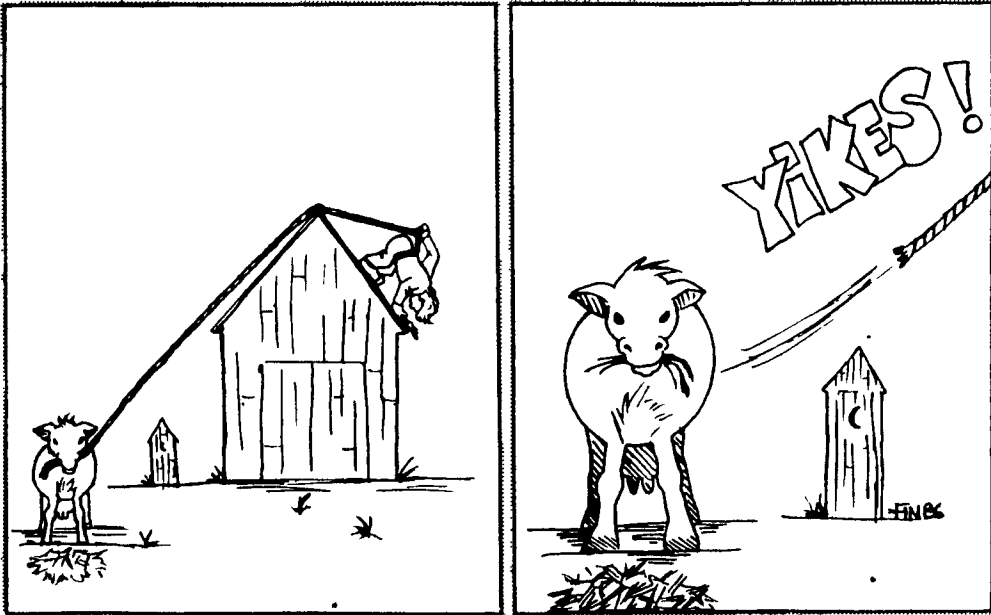
in a manner that will not displace normal commercial purchases.

"In 1986 energy prices dropped by more than half, yet grain feedstock prices held relatively stable because of government commodity programs," said Lyng. "The alcohol fuels industry has no prospects for relief until grain prices fall as commodity programs change with the new crops in September."

Eligible ethanol producers will earn CCC commodity certificates by furnishing proof to the corporation that grain was removed from the market and processed into ethanol by Sept. 30. For every 2-1/2 bushels of grain removed from the market, producers will earn the market value of 1 bushel of CCC-owned grain.

According to Lyng, the industry provided a market for about 250 million bushels of grain in 1985.

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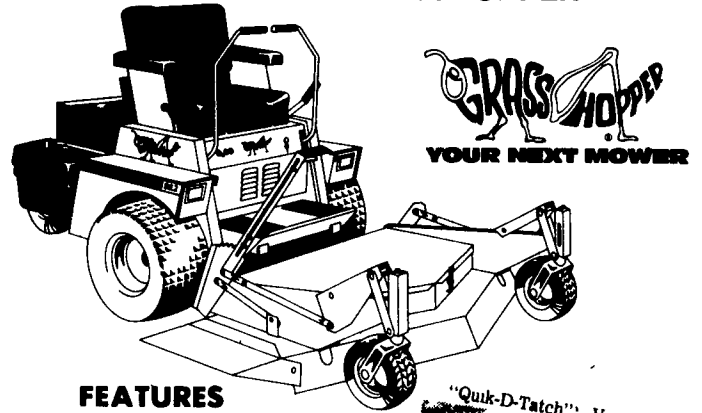
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