

Masstock to Build Georgia Dairy

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response to the senate's restrictions placed on the use of the bonds. The Irish dairy corporation will instead be using corporate funds.

Christine Thompson of Georgia's Department of Agriculture reports that plans have been approved for one dairy. She added that Masstock indicated application for a second dairy would be made before the end of the year.

John Collins of Dairyman Incorporated added that in his talks with Masstock representatives they explained their goal is to open 10 farms with a capacity of 1,000 milking cows per farm. The Irish expect to start milking at the first farm in 1987 with remaining farms starting at a rate of one per year until all 10 are operational.

The Montezuma Chamber of Commerce, located in the town where the first farm is scheduled to be built, reports that Masstock has filed plans for a building large enough to house 1,500 head. A spokesman for the Chamber added the buildings will be located on 240 acres with construction beginning by September 1.

A constant criticism, by dairy farmers and farm organizations, of the Irish dairy has been in regards to the current milk surplus, which the nation has been taxing itself to remedy.

Thompson explained that area

has been a deficit production area. "During the fall, when schools reopen, we are in a position to haul milk in from surrounding states." She added that with 182 farmers from the area in the buyout program, the deficit will increase.

Concerning Masstock's use of tax exempt bonds, Thompson said, "Anyone can use the bonds if approved through local authorities. The federal government establishes the guides of how the funds may be used." The only role states play in the use of the bonds is making sure the amount issued does not exceed the state's allocation, she stated. "Masstock was utilizing the system, not manipulating it," she added.

Reception of the Irish corporation has been mixed, Thompson reports. The local government welcomes the anticipated 800 to 900 jobs the dairy will bring. Those farmers and farm organizations who plan to supply the dairy's needs are also pleased that the large dairy will be built; however, the average farmer is against the construction, Thompson explained.

A farmer from the area offered a different perspective on the entire situation. He preferred to be unnamed, since, as he notes: "It's a hot issue and no one knows the full extent of Masstock's plans."

For the most part the average farmer is against the construction, he affirmed, adding that knowing

the Irish were going to build depressed the attitude of the area's farmers. He speculated 20 percent of the bids in the buyout were due to this depression over Masstock's entry in the Georgia dairy business.

In spite of the large number of farmers who entered the buyout he does not expect the area to be a critical deficit milk production area. He points to spring surpluses as high as 9 percent and notes that he, as well as his neighbors, is

planning to expand his operation, some neighbors plan to triple in size.

On the subject of the tax exempt bonds he said that following in Masstock's lead, several farmers applied for the bonds. However, the well was dry. Masstock had

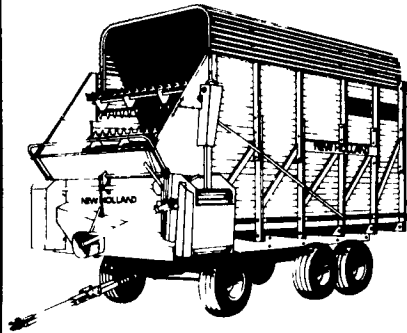
apparently been allocated the balance of the bonds.

He added, "Georgia is a tough state to make milk in. It will show how good managers they are." At last report, the Masstock saga continues and they will try to make milk in Georgia's arid climate.

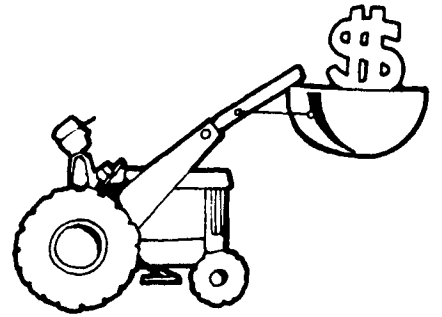
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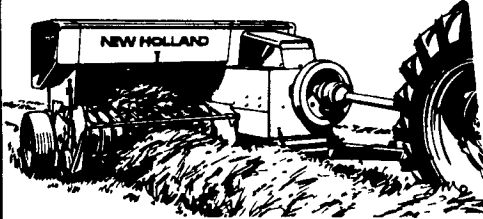
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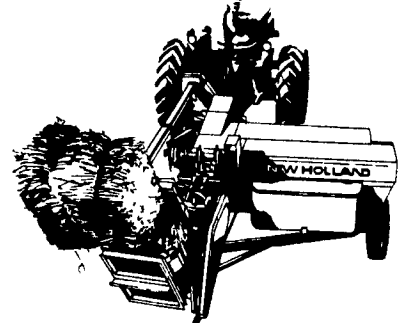
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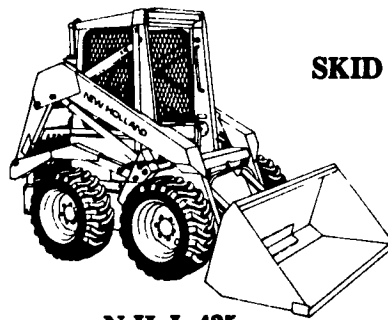
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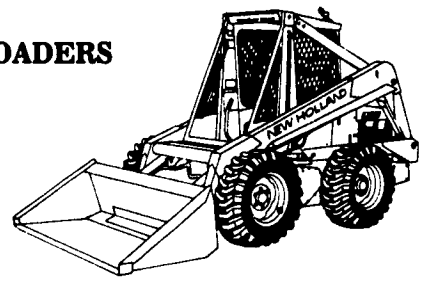
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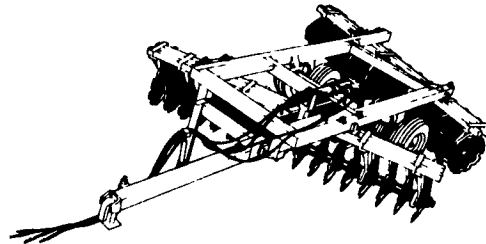
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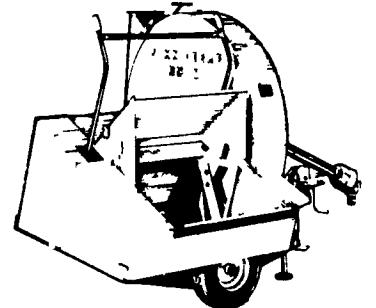
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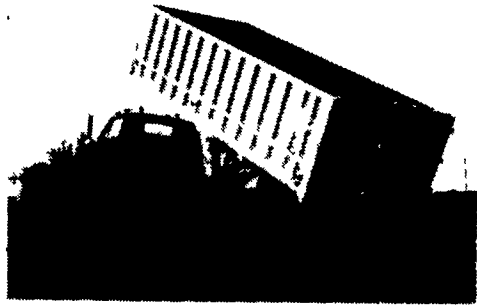
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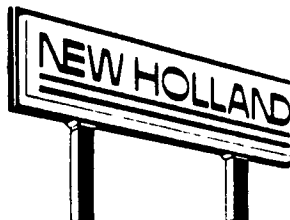
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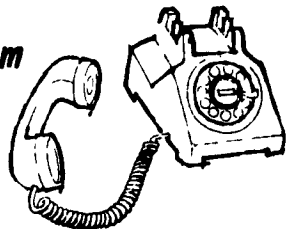
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