

NFO Proposes Changes In Farm Bill To Save Dairy Farms

CORNING, Iowa — Because of the severe financial pressure facing dairy farmers, the National Farmers Organization has called for two immediate changes in the present dairy legislation under the 1985 Farm Bill.

NFO delegates, at the Northeast Cooperative Members Join Bargaining Cooperative

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Members of Middlebury Cooperative Milk Producers Association of Middlebury Center, Pennsylvania have recently reorganized and have joined United Dairy Cooperative Services division of NEDCO for assistance in improved marketing of their milk and market wide services. Several of their members will be shipping to Dietrich's Milk Products, Inc. plant in Middlebury Center. United has been able to increase the producer pay price above the minimum allowed by the Federal Milk Market Order, the price usually paid to dairy farmers.

Producer premiums, bonus

organization's 31st annual convention in Nashville, Tenn., proposed the following changes to improve prices for dairy farmers nationwide. Immediate discontinuation of the assessment on dairy producers to fund the dairy

termination program; and elimination of the scheduled drop in price supports, which is scheduled to begin Jan. 1, 1987. The organization strongly opposes the first 25-cent cut as well as any additional cuts which may be made during the year.

"Pending new and more desirable legislation, immediate changes are necessary in present dairy legislation," NFO Dairy Director Al Scott emphasized. "More dairy farmers have sold out because of financial difficulties than the total number who sold out during the dairy termination program.

"With reduction in supply of milk far above expected levels, the affects of further price cuts would only be harmful to farmers, the dairy industry and to consumers," he concluded.

Given these circumstances in the dairy industry and the severe financial stress facing dairy farmers, NFO has proposed these immediate changes as well as the implementation of a three-prong payment schedule to dairy producers in Minnesota and Wisconsin beginning in February. As of Feb. 1, 1987, the organization will pay its dairy producers in these states three times per month

instead of the traditional two times per month established by the dairy industry. The payment schedule is expected to be expanded to other states in upcoming months.

"We are certain that if enough dairy producers participate with us, we can effect a permanent change in the dairy payment schedule," Scott asserted. "We ask all dairy producers to consider our efforts to raise prices and to ship with us to make this necessary change in the dairy industry. We also ask producers to write or call their dairy plants and legislators supporting these changes to improve price levels for all farmers."

program for maintaining constant year round production, and most favorable hauling rates and programs initiated by United to improve dairy farmer's income.

United's President James G. Patsos stated that we are pleased with the confidence exhibited by Middlebury Cooperative members in joining our growing organization. United Dairy Cooperative Services is a bargaining cooperative whose main interest is to provide the best opportunities available for marketing their member's milk without being burdened with plants and equipment that may prove costly to their members.



Cold Weather Procedures For AI

BY MICHAEL L. O'CONNOR

Cold weather is finally with us and it is time to provide some extra care when preparing semen for insemination. After semen is thawed, precautions should be taken to prevent thermal damage.

Cold shock is the permanent injury to sperm caused by a sudden decrease in semen temperature after thawing. This can occur during preparation of the inseminating device or during travel to the cow. Consider the following precautions.

- Make sure the animal to be bred is restrained before thawing the semen.

- If cattle are restrained and inseminated outside or in an open environment during the warmer months then it may be advisable to provide a protected and possibly a heated area for AI work. If you are uncomfortable as an inseminator the chances of making an insemination error will increase.

- Check the temperature of the thaw water immediately before removing the straw from the bank.

- Warm the insemination rod and sheath to body temperature (do not use water for this purpose).

- Handle the thawed semen and prepare the rod in a warm environment.

- Wrap the assembled rod in a clean, dry paper towel and tuck it within your protective clothing for transport to the cow.

Poor semen handling procedures in the colder months may result in a repeat breeding problem in the spring.

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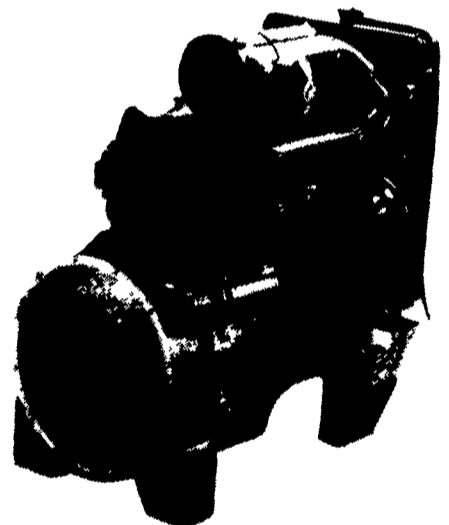
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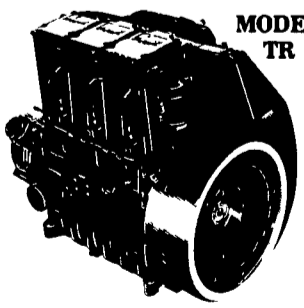
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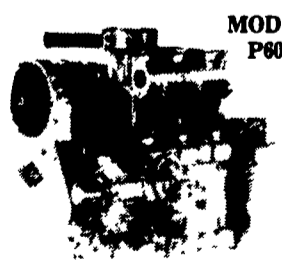


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