

# USDA Recommends Federal Order Component Pricing

JULY, 1987: For the first time in history, the dairy Division of the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service has recommended that a Federal milk mark-

## Contest Winners

The Schuylkill Conservation District sponsored two contests held in conjunction with the Schuylkill County Fair. The Soil & Water Contest exhibit, won by the Blue Mt FFA, portrayed the FFA members planting trees for erosion protection and wildlife needs on a plot of land near Hawk Mt. A \$100 first place award was presented to the Blue Mt FFA. Their advisor is Charles Heim.

The District also conducted a contest at their exhibit in the display tent during the fair. Participants were asked to determine the amount of soil lost in gullies which were shown on a photograph. Suzan Koziol of Zions Grove won the first place Kwanson Flowering Cherry Tree, Alberta Huntzinger of Orwigsburg won the second place Blue Spruce and Norman Brobst, Tamaqua, won the Canadian Hemlock. The amount of soil lost in the gullies was 27,400 lbs.

eting order price milk on the basis of its protein, as well as butterfat, components.

The recommended decision will affect milk in the Great Basin Federal Order which includes all of Utah and parts of Idaho, Nevada and Wyoming. The recommendation follows hearings which took place in March, 1986 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The recommended multiple component pricing plan would basically leave the pricing of Class I (fluid) milk the same as present. Class II and III (manufacturing)

milk would be priced based on both its protein and butterfat content.

For example, a dairyman selling milk with 3.5% butterfat and 3.0% protein in that area today receives \$11.95 per hundred weight (cwt.). A dairyman selling milk with 5.0% butterfat and 4.0% protein receives \$14.35 per cwt.

Under the recommended pricing plan, the 3.5% butterfat and 3.0% protein milk would be worth \$11.18 per cwt. The milk with 5.0% butterfat and 4.0% protein would bring \$15.11 per cwt.

The proposal was first brought forth by Intermountain Milk Producers Association (IMPA), a large, farmer-owned milk marketing cooperative whose members produce the majority of the milk in that marketing area. Testimony supporting the proposal was given by several leading milk marketers and researchers.

In issuing its recommendation, USDA stated that producers should be given an incentive to increase their production of protein relative to water in milk by being paid for protein at a level that

reflects its value in manufactured products. Further, USDA stated that the currently accepted methods of testing for protein content of producer milk can be used to provide fair and equitable results on which payments for producers milk may be made.

During the next 30 days, interested parties may comment on the recommended decision. After USDA reviews all comments and answers any objections, it will issue its final decision. Producers in the area will then vote on the proposal.

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