

FARM FORUM OUR READERS WRITE

(Continued from Page A10)

passage of legislation which would allow farmers to join together to form agricultural security areas, (Act 43 of 1981). While the act allowed farmers to make a commitment to preserve their farmland, the legislation did not provide funding to purchase the development rights to their land.

PFA along with other farm groups and interested organizations began a major effort to seek funding legislation. By 1984, the seriousness of disappearing farmland caused the Pennsylvania General Assembly to hold hearings. Representatives of states which have a purchase of development rights (PDR) program explained how their programs worked. But again, Pennsylvania was unable to resolve the funding issue.

Since that time, various ways to fund a PDR program in Pennsylvania have been suggested, but none seem to accomplish what was deemed necessary. Now, with a referendum on the November Ballot, voters in Pennsylvania will have the opportunity to give their support to a one-time, \$100 mil-

lion bond issue.

Governor Raymond Shafer appointed a committee in 1969 for the preservation of farmland to review and come up with recommendations for saving farmland. Every Governor and General Assembly since completion of that study have embraced the principles contained in that report for preserving farmland. Significant legislative acts designed to control the conversion of farmland have been passed.

Governor Robert P. Casey's signature on a bill to place the farmland preservation issue before the voting public is an affirmation of his commitment to keep agriculture a viable industry in Pennsylvania.

The Adams County Farmers' Association appreciates your efforts to inform the general public about this important issue, and hopes that you will continue along with us to urge voters to approve the up-coming farmland preservation referendum.

**John Hess, President
Adams Co. Farmers' Assn.**

Editor:

Dairymen, don't be fooled by the misinformation being circulated about RCMA not working, being illegal or that you will not have a market for your milk unless you withdraw from RCMA.

Overorder pricing is in effect due to RCMA and Mid-Atlantic Cooperative Marketing Agency.

In New England (Order Number I) the RCMA signup is very good. They are getting the full benefit of the overorder Class I price of \$14.45 set by RCMA. This amounts to 73 cents on all Class I milk, which will return about 35 cents to dairymen. In Order Number II where RCMA support is not that strong, the premium will be 33 cents on Class I milk and the return to dairymen will be approximately 10 or 12 cents. The overorder money collected is on Class I milk only. The return to dairymen is based on all milk produced by the dairymen. Thus, the difference between the 73 and 35 cents and the 33 and 10 or 12 cents. Order 2 dairymen can help themselves by joining ranks and supporting RCMA to the same extent they are in New England.

RCMA is not just Edward Anna, executive director; Bill Zuber, president; Donald Duncan, Carl

Brown and Cliff Hawbaker, directors, it is each and every dairyman in all 11 states of the northeast. If you want RCMA to work to its fullest potential, the dairymen of Pennsylvania have to get the signup that will make that possible.

Without an effective organization in the northeast to make overorder pricing possible, dairymen are going to feel the full effect of the cut in the support price, which appears to be more obvious every month as reports show the national production getting higher. With the 25 cent cut October 1st, and the anticipated 50 cent cut in January of '88, the price for Order II milk could be down 75 cents in mid summer and approximately \$1.00 by a year from now. Ask yourself if you can produce milk without an overorder price and compete with dairymen in the midwest where their overorder price was 99 cents in September.

Time is running out, as well as the money that cooperatives are willing to spend to get RCMA organized. It has been successful in getting premiums from handlers, the likes of which we have never seen before. If you want to keep RCMA as a permanent organization to negotiate your milk

price in the future, you better join today regardless of what your handler promises, or your premiums could disappear like the melting snow in spring.

Never in the history of marketing here in the northeast have farmers had the opportunity of setting a price for their product as they have today. If you want this to work to the fullest, join ranks with your fellow dairymen in RCMA or MACMA.

Harold Ely
Pennsylvania RCMA Coordinator

Pennsylvania Weekly Summary

Harrisburg, PA
Friday, October 9

Report supplied by PDA
13 Livestock Markets

CATTLE: 5542. Compared with 5557 head last week and 5834 head a year ago. SI. steers and cows mostly steady; heifers unevenly steady; bullocks steady to strong; bulls uneven; steers High Choice & Prime 2-4, 68.50-71.00; Choice 64.00-68.75; Good 58.00-64.00; Standard 54.00-59.00; Good & Choice holsteins 57.00-63.50; Choice heifers 61.00-65.00; Good 55.00-62.00; Standard 51.00-55.50; cows Breaking Utility & Commercial 45.00-49.50; Cutter & Boning 42.00-47.75; Canner & Cutter 37.00-43.00; shells down to 30.00; Choice bullocks 60.00-63.75; Good 57.00-60.00; YG 1, 1000-2100 lb. 53.00-60.00; YG 2, 900-1400 lb. 49.00-53.00.

FEEDER CATTLE: Med. & Large 1, 300-500 lb. steers 71.00-81.50, 500-850 lb. 60.00-73.00; heifers Med. & Large 1, 300-500 lb. 62.00-75.00; 500-800 lb. 55.00-62.50; bulls Med. & Large 1, 300-700 lb. 65.00-85.00.

CALVES: 3773. Compared with 3946 head last week and 3626 head a year ago. Steady to 5.00 higher; few Choice 90.00-107.00; Good 78.00-90.00; 90-120 lb 85.00-93.00; 65-85 lb. 70.00-85.00; Utility 50-95 lb. 50.00-80.00; hol. bulls 90-135 lb. 90.00-140.00, mostly 100.00-130.00; heifers 90-130 lb. 89.00-118.00; beef cross bulls and heifers few 80-110 lb. 82.00-113.00.

HOGS: 4151. Compared with 4651 head last week and 4091 head a year ago. Steady to 1.00 higher; 1-2, 215-245 lb. 52.00-54.50; 1-3, 210-250 lb. 51.00-52.75; 2-3, 220-260 lb. 49.00-51.75; 2-4, 245-285 lb. 47.00-49.00; 1-3, 145-205 lb. 45.00-48.50; sows unevenly steady; 1-3, 300-650 lb. 43.00-49.00; few 2-3, 300-700 lb. 37.00-45.00; boars 39.00-43.00.

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On the Lawrence County, Pa., dairy farm of Tom McConahy Sr. and Jr., Hardy Brand hybrids have been part of the summer landscape for the past 20 years. And the father-son team likes the view.

"It's always nice and green and it stands heavy," Tom Jr. said. "Some people have said, 'My gosh, I never saw corn like that.'"

The McConahys plant their 300 acres of corn exclusively with Hardy Brand, using 301XS and 370XS for ear corn and the new 760XS for silage. They figure their shelled corn yield equivalent at 125 to 140 bushels per acre.

In addition to performing well in the field, Hardy Brand continues to do the job after the harvest, according to Tom Jr. "Hardy corn dries down good," he said. "And one crib of corn was so clean for husking . . . that shows the quality of the crop."

The bottom line for the McConahys is the performance of the 160 cows and 100 head of young stock in the barns.

"If we don't get a good yield from our corn, then they don't eat," Tom Sr. said. "So far, they've been eating well."



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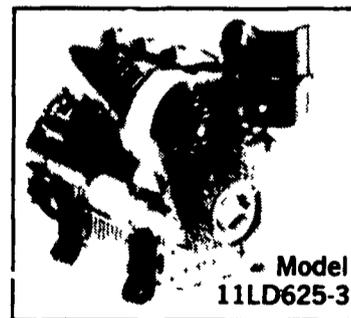
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