

# USDA Reduces Milk Support Price

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Effective Oct. 1, the support price for milk will be \$11.10 per hundredweight, a reduction of 25 cents, Secretary of Agriculture Richard E. Lyng announced today.

Lyng also said the 25-cent-per-hundred-weight assessment on dairy producers for milk they market for commercial use will no longer be imposed after Sept. 30. The producer assessment has helped to partially fund the Dairy Termination Program.

The new support price could remain in effect until Jan. 1, 1990. However, it may be increased or decreased 50-cents-per-hundred-weight from that in effect on Jan. 1, 1988, 1989 and/or 1990 on the basis of the Department of Agriculture's estimates of net surplus purchases of dairy products under the milk price support program for the respective calendar years 1988, 1989 and 1990.

These actions are mandated by the Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended by the Food Security Act of 1985, Lyng said.

The 15-cent-per-hundredweight assessment for promotion and research efforts approved by producers in a recent referendum will continue.

The \$11.10 support price is for milk with a milkfat content of 3.67 percent - the national average - and compares with \$10.82-per-hundredweight for milk with a milkfat content of 3.5 percent.

The price support program for milk is carried out through Commodity Credit Corporation purchases of butter, cheese and nonfat dry milk. As a result of the reduction in the support price for milk, purchase prices of both butter and nonfat dry milk will be reduced 2 cents per pound and purchase prices of cheese will be reduced 2½ cents per pound. The new purchase prices, per pound, will be \$1.3575 for butter, \$0.7675 for nonfat dry milk, \$1.20 for block Cheddar cheese and \$1.1575 for barrel cheese.



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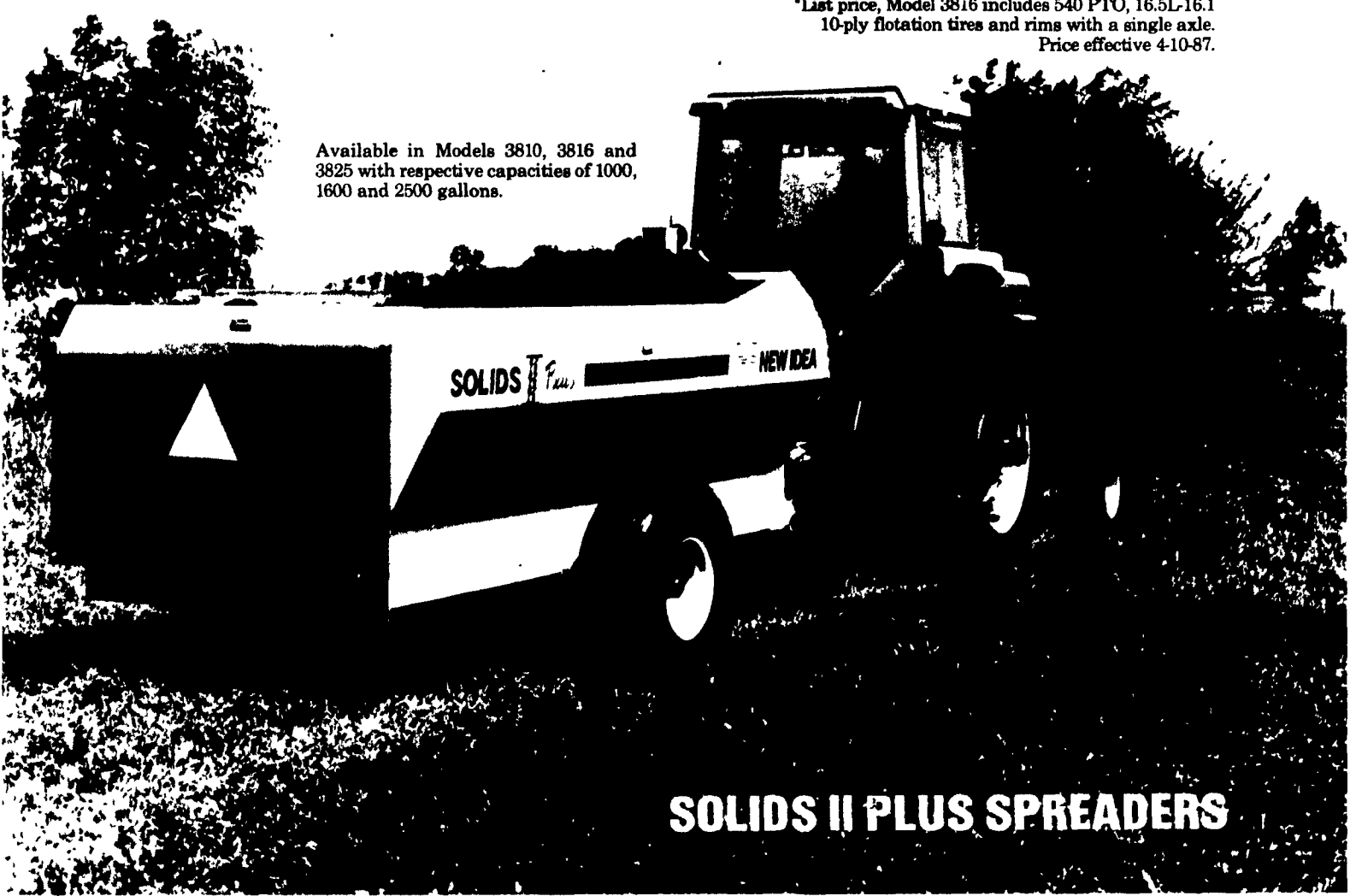
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