

# Production Controls

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level of government dairy purchases. The support price provides a floor for prices received by milk producers.

The Commission's formula would take into account such factors as technological advancements, changes in feed prices, and shifts in milk supply and demand.

The Secretary of Agriculture would be able to adjust the formula price up or down by 5 percent, with annual price changes capped at 50 cents.

While noting that permanent use of production controls "is not in the best interest of the industry," the Commission did recommend standby production control authority. That way, the panel said, a program would be available if gov-

ernment dairy purchases are projected to be excessive.

If controls are needed, the Commission proposed giving USDA a choice between a dairy herd "buy-out" similar to the program imposed in 1986-87 and a "two-tier" pricing system that would pay producers substantially less for milk produced above a specified amount.

Other key Commission recommendations:

- Authority for import quotas on dairy products should be protected during current international trade talks.

- Casein, a controversial import made from milk and used increasingly in food products, should be reclassified as a dairy product and be subject to import quotas.

- Functions of the dairy industry's two major promotion organizations-- the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board and the United Dairy Industry Association-- should be consolidated this year.

- Dairy programs should benefit farms regardless of size.

- The price support program should not be "regionalized" to protect milk producers in certain areas.

- California should be prohibited from using a "Manufacturing allowance" for milk greater than the federal allowance used in most other areas of the country.

Rutherford noted that several key members of Congress already have said they will use the Commission's recommendations as the

basis for dairy legislation.

"We look forward to our report providing a blueprint for the federal dairy program of the 1990s," he said.

Made up entirely of milk producers, the National Commission on Dairy Policy was created under the 1985 farm bill to study the milk

price support program and the future of the dairy industry.

Additional details concerning the group's report can be obtained by contacting the Commission staff at 1401 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 1100, Washington, D.C. 20005. The telephone number is (202) 638-6222.

## Dairy Of Distinction

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Pennsylvania is divided into ten districts and each district may make awards of up to ten new additional farms each year. The number of new entries and awards will diminish each year as more and more farmers qualify and become part of the program. Yet because of the yearly re-evaluation, the incentive remains for Dairy of Distinction winners to maintain the beauty of their farms.

Winners in each district receive a metal sign to install at the end of their farm lane and a certificate of recognition. In addition, the state committee has plans to present the 11x14 color farm portraits supplied by Lancaster Farming Newspaper to the new winners at Ag Progress Days in August in State College. All winners from both years will be invited to participate in a fraternal-type event that

brings together Dairy of Distinction farm friends from all across Pennsylvania.

(AN APPLICATION IS PRINTED ON PAGE D3 OF THIS ISSUE)

There is no cost to the individual winners. The program is supported by various milk promotion funds and agribusinesses across the state.

To enter your farm in this year's program, send an application post-marked no later than April 15 to your area secretary. An application is printed on page D-3 of this issue of Lancaster Farming. The area secretaries are: Pennsylvania area, Paul Nichols, ADADC, 1853 East Third St., Williamsport, PA 17701; New Jersey area, August Knispel, RD#1, Box 325, Pittstown, NY 18867; New York area, Evelyn Lightfoote, 3053 Depew Rd., Stanley, NY 14561.



The 400-cow herd at Coldsprings Farms is reviewed by Lancaster Dairymen.

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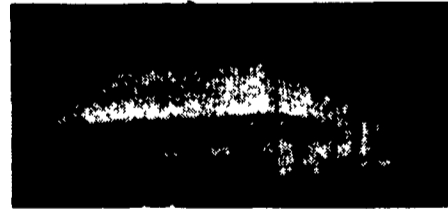
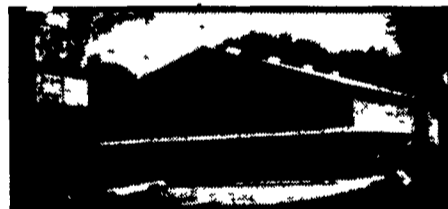
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