

# Dairy Farmers Seek Support For Price Stabilization Campaign

ARLINGTON, VA--June 6, 1988 — Dairy farmers across the country are asking their friends, neighbors and suppliers to support

the milk producers' drive to end a series of price cuts that are eroding farm stability.

Dairy farmers will collect 150,000 signatures on petitions that will demonstrate public support. Petitions will be delivered to Agriculture Secretary Richard E. Lyng with copies going to Members of Congress. Signatures will be collected during June, a month during which the dairy industry's contributions to the economy are highlighted.

Milk producers want Lyng to use the authority provided in the 1985 Farm Bill to initiate another whole herd buyout or diversion program to balance milk supply and demand. Dairy farmers are expected to experience a 37 percent drop in net cash farm income if another cut is made next January. Higher production costs and numerous price cuts will squeeze dairy farmer income.

NMPF, the organization that

represents dairy farmer-owned cooperatives to the Federal government, says that a whole herd buyout would actually save the government money. The buyout program, or dairy termination program as it is also known, would prevent a farm income loss of about \$900 million each year.

The government would reap savings of about \$50 million in 1989 and 1990, even after incentive payments to farmers who exit the business because USDA would buy less dairy surplus.

"The petition signing campaign is necessary to show Secretary Lyng that the industry is serious about preventing further erosion to farm income," noted NMPF's Chief Executive Officer Jim Barr. "Another price cut will force our nation's dairy farmer to live in 1989 at 1979 income. No other industry is asked to make such a sacrifice in the name of district reduction," Barr stressed.

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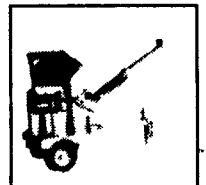
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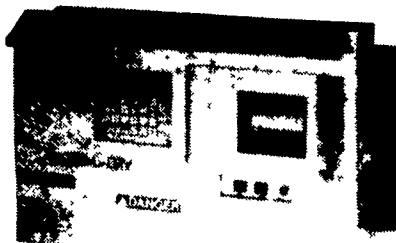
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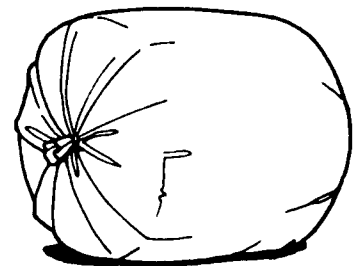
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