

# Dairymen Head For The Hill

**BY JOYCE BUYP**  
York Co. Correspondent  
WASHINGTON, D.C. — Dairy farmers headed for the Hill last week, as Pennmarva Dairymen's Federation hosted a Congressional reception in the Longworth Building.

Some fifty dairy producers representing Pennmarva visited with Congressional representatives and staffers on March 1, discussing key legislative issues related to the dairy industry.

Pennmarva Dairymen's Federation represents more than 6,000 dairy producers in the three milk marketing cooperatives of Federal Order #4. Member cooperatives are Atlantic Dairy Cooperative,

Southampton, Pennsylvania, Middle Atlantic Division of Dairymen, Inc., Sykesville, Maryland, and Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers, Arlington, Virginia.

The reception on the Hill followed the annual reorganization of Pennmarva and an issues update by a National Milk Producers Federation representative.

"No more cuts - dairy farmers have done their share," is the position taken by NMPF on budget proposals to further reduce federal dairy programs.

NMPF cites some \$2.2 billion paid to the federal treasury by the nation's dairy farmers, through production assessment programs.

In the last five years, dairymen's efforts have helped slice federal dairy program costs from \$2.6 billion to \$700 million.

The Federation also opposes an extension of the 1985 Farm Bill, rather supporting on schedule, by 1990, revised legislation to direct the nation's agriculture policies.

Proponents of an extension of the 1985 Farm Bill suggest drawing the current round of GATT talks to a conclusion before setting long-term policy for the U.S. NMPF asserts that domestic policy should be in place to effect the U.S. stance on the GATT negotiations, rather than letting trade agreements set policy for American dairy producers.

Pennmarva Federation recognizes the need to restore a balance between milk supply and commercial demand. Working with NMPF, Pennmarva and other member organizations are seeking methods to develop program revisions to accomplish a supply-demand balance, and reduce government costs.

The Federal Milk Marketing Order Program, under criticism from some government factions, gets continuing Pennmarva support as a tool to maintain stable market conditions. Members take the position that reviews of the Federal Order program should be designed toward its improvement, not discrediting it or causing reduced efficiency.

Positions taken by Pennmarva also include: supporting reinstatement of income averaging and capital gains treatment for assets in the federal tax program; continued support for federally funded and directed nutrition programs at not less than present funding levels; and opposition to trade agreements which allow greater access to U.S. milk and dairy product markets by other nations.

## Fruit Growers Seminar Set

GREENSBURG (Westmoreland) — Penn State Extension is sponsoring a day long educational seminar for western Pennsylvania commercial fruit growers on Wednesday, March 15, at Mountain View Inn, Rt. 30, east of Greensburg. The latest production techniques for both tree fruit and berry production will be addressed by specialists from Penn State's College of Agriculture.


In addition to the educational sessions there will be a trade show featuring agricultural suppliers who serve fruit growers in this part of Pennsylvania.

So if you are involved in commercial fruit growing or seriously considering it, plan to attend the Western Pennsylvania Commercial Fruit Growers Seminar at Mountain View Inn, Greensburg, on Wednesday, March 15, starting at 8:30 a.m. Registration fee is \$12 per person. For more information contact your local Penn State Extension Office.

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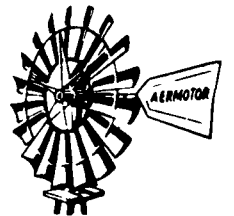
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