

# RCMA Supports Efforts To Keep Dairy Farmers In Business

NEW YORK — Representatives of the Regional Cooperative Marketing Agency, Inc. (RCMA), a dairy farmers bargaining cooperative representing nearly 22,000 farmers in 11 northeastern states, urged the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board (PMMB) to take action to help maintain PA dairy farmer income in the coming year.

At the hearing held in Harrisburg, PA on August 9, 1989, Donald Duncan, Robesonia, PA, a member of the RCMA Executive Committee, and Arthur Little, RCMA Administrative Assistant, presented testimony in support of extending the \$1.05 PMMB Class I Differential which expires on

August 31, 1989, for another 12-months through August 31, 1990.

Facts supporting this request cited in their statements, pointed out the poor crop-conditions experienced this spring and summer, declining milk production in the state and increasing costs of production.

"If PA consumers are going to have an adequate supply of locally produced high quality milk, continuation of this \$1.05 Class I Differential for another 12-months is absolutely essential" according to Duncan.

Little pointed out that without this Differential, producer prices would not keep pace with increasing production costs and many

dairy farmers would be forced out of business. He went on to say that, "if local supplies were inadequate to meet consumer needs, milk brought into PA from other areas would be expensive and increase consumer prices over and above those currently existing".

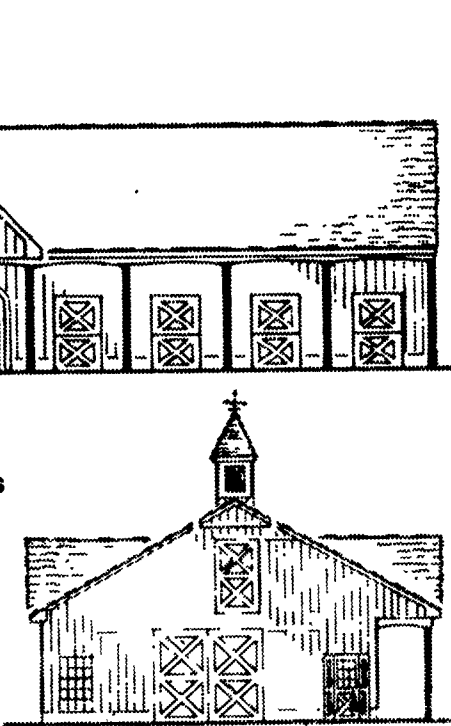
RCMA represents nearly 3,000 dairy farmers in Pennsylvania most of which sell their milk to processors in the New York/New Jersey market. Those that sell to Pennsylvania processors will be covered by the PMMB decision and RCMA supports the effort to assure those farmers a fair price while maintaining an adequate supply of local milk for consumers.

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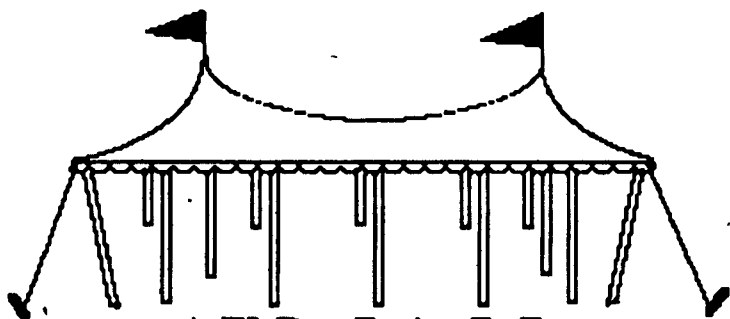
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## Making Hay During Ag Progress



Photos by Lisa Risser

Farmers examined the hay bales, both round and square, that were made during Ag Progress.

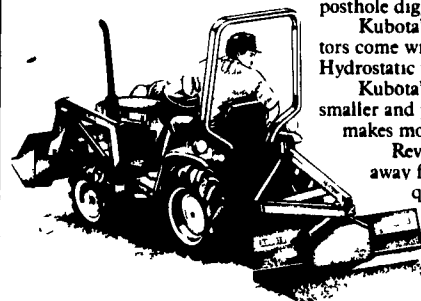


Manufacturers demonstrated their hay baling products during Ag Progress.

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