## Dairylea Cooperative Supports School Nutrition

SYRACUSE, NY — It is critically important to improve the nutritional intake of school children, said Ellen LaBerge, corporate counsel for Dairylea Cooperative Inc., in support of government-funded school nutrition programs.

Testifying March 13 before the New York State Assembly Standing Committee on Education and the Task Force on Food, Farm and Nutrition Policy, LaBerge said that Dairylea is a strong proponent of measures aimed at bettering nutrition for school children, a segment of society shown to be digesting too many "empty calories" and not enough foods from the primary food groups of dairy, meat, grains, and fruits and vegetables.

The Cooperative supports New York Assembly Bill A.9113,

which would expand the school "There is still disagreement at the breakfast program to all schools with a lunch program. LaBerge noted that studies have shown nutrition can affect an individual's capacity to think, reason, remember and attend to information, and that skipping breakfast weakens the problem-solving performance of even well-nourished children.

LaBerge said Dairylea also supports continuing nutrition education in schools, beginning at the earliest grades. "Even if children have access to nutritious foods. they must be educated about the importance of choosing those foods over less nutritious items," said LaBerge.

Although Dairylea supports the intent of the proposed legislation, the cooperative cautions against establishing, by statute, guidelines for reducing fat and cholesterol.

national and state levels as to what acceptable, or even realistic, standards are or shoull be. The enactment of piecemeal legislation only fuels this disagreement," said LaBerge.

Dairylea's corporate council also stressed that each child's inherent uniqueness affects his appropriate nutritional standards. "If guidelines are to be adopted,

they should be developed voluntarily by the association of school boards or school dieticians and should not be the product of legislation that may become inflexible," LaBerge said.

Dairylea is an active member and participates in the policymaking of several organizations that also have recently reaffirmed their support for governmentfunded nutrition programs such as the National Milk Producers Federation, the Food Research and Action Center, the New York Farm Bureau, and the Northeast Farm Policy Council.

In addition, Dairylea President Clyde Rutherford chaired the National Commission on Dairy Policy, which recommended to Congress that feeding and nutrition programs be continued.

#### Poster Contest Set For Earth Day

CHAMBERSBURG (Franklin Co.)— This year's theme for the 1990 Poster Contest sponsored by the Franklin County Conservation District is "Earth Day, Every Day -- You Can Make The Difference.'

The Education and Youth Committee of the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation District Directors, Inc. established a policy

to utilize the annual theme of National Wildlife Week (April 22-28, 1990) as the theme for state and local poster contests.

Deadline for submitting posters is Friday, April 27, 1990, before 3:30 p.m.

"In the past years, a lot of interest and participation by county schools has helped to make our poster contest a great success,"

said Donna W. Hays, secretarytreasurer. "We would like to emphasize that, even if a particular school chooses not to participate, interested students may submit posters to us on their own. The same rules would apply for both schools and individual students. There are five categories this year."

Contact the district at 264-8074.





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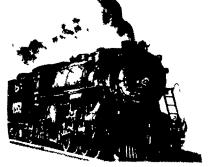
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