

Tewksbury Opinion On Dairy Farm Bill

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)
 — After making several trips to Washington D.C. this spring in an attempt to convince members of Congress of the dire need for them to pass a realistic 1990 Farm Bill, I am now starting to sympathize with our legislators as they try to sift through all of the recommendations being presented to them by various organizations and the present administration.

I have been working with members of Congress since 1960 in an effort to improve economic conditions on our family farm. Many times during those years we have seen various degrees of diversified opinions among farm groups, but I can honestly say I have never before seen so many unrealistic, screwy ideas being presented to Congress as we are witnessing at the present time.

We have heard representatives of Land-O-Lakes say a milk support price of \$10.10 per cwt. is sufficient. Many members of Congress have told us that Farm Bureau and the Pennsylvania Farmers Association had just been in town and were reporting to the legislators that conditions in the country were pretty good and they advised several members of Congress only to make minor changes in the 1985 Farm Bill.

Many other undesirable remarks have been made, but to me the real clincher was when I read the remarks made by the president of one of the larger milk co-ops located in the Northeast. His remark was that in the future, milk prices paid to dairy farmers will not be tied to the parity formula or to the cost of producing milk, but dairy farmers prices will reflect market conditions.

If area dairy farmers want language in the 1990 Farm Bill that will enable them to cover the average cost of production plus a reasonable profit, then you as a dairy farmer must act now and act vigorously. You must immediately bombard members of Congress with a barrage of phone calls and DEMAND the 1990 Farm Bill completely stays away from further price cuts. You must tell Congress that you want a two-tier pricing program UP FRONT, a program that will cover the average cost of production plus a reasonable profit. YOU must make those calls TODAY.

The full House Agriculture Committee will probably consider the dairy provisions of the Farm Bill starting the week of May 14th.

Remember, there are many people in Washington and out in the country that feel farm milk prices must go LOWER.

Mr. Dairy Farmer, you are the only one that can prevent the undesirable dairy policy that dairy farmers will be saddled with for the next five years. You must let your Congressman know immediately that you need a dairy policy which will return to you a price that you received during the end of 1989 and early 1990.

We have been saying for years that the marketplace would sustain higher milk prices for dairy farmers. Finally, this argument was proven true during the last half of 1989 and early 1990. I really believe the majority of consumers will buy milk at \$2.60 per gallon if they know dairy farmers are receiving the price increase.

Our problem is to develop a program that will return prices to

dairy farms comparable to the prices of 1989-90. I feel such a program is available and I feel the majority of dairy farmers support this program.

Farmers Union has been working with several farm organizations and many members of Congress and this is the program that will return to dairy farmers an equitable price for their efforts.

One thing is certain in Washington today. Any farm bill must meet the restraints of the Federal budget. While we feel the U.S. Agricultural budget is receiving a disproportionate reduction compared to other Federal programs: The inevitable is-- we will probably have to learn to live with the cuts.

Probably the best deal we have in town is the \$725 million allotment for the dairy programs being

proposed by the Senate for each of the next five years.

There are still many other unknowns. Some people are proposing the Government be responsible for the first Seven Billion pounds of reserve milk. After seven billion pounds is purchased, then milk purchased after those pounds would be charged to producers. However, at this point we have to plan our programs with the knowns.

This means a milk support price set at \$13.60 per cwt. could be accomplished and still meet the restraints of the budget.

If the support price was set at \$13.10 per cwt. instead of \$13.60 then the cost of the program would be \$40 million dollars less with a total cost of \$680 million dollars.

Some people will argue a support price in the \$13.00 bracket is

too high. Remember during the last part of 1989 and January of 1990 milk processors were paying much more than \$13.00 per cwt. for manufactured milk. Only the government was buying the products at a lower cost via the support price program.

The decision will be made by you dairy farmers. If you contact your Congressman today you can help prevent further losses to dairy farmers. Failing to act will only give ammunition to the people who are willing to lower the support price to \$8.60 by 1993.

Do you want to produce for the needs of the market and receive a realistic price, (\$15.50-\$16.00) or, do you want wide open production with one guarantee - further price cuts.

The decision is yours-- Arden Tewksbury, PA Farmers Union.

Bucks Co. Still Seeks Dairy Princess Candidates

SOUTHAMPTON (Bucks Co.)
 — The Bucks County Dairy Promotion Committee is still seeking candidates to compete for the title of 1990 Bucks County Dairy Princess.

Any single young woman, between 16 and 24 years of age, whose parents or guardians are or have been engaged in dairy farming within the last five years is eligible to compete.

A young woman is also eligible if she herself owns at least two dairy animals in a bona fide 4-H or FFA program, or is a dairy farm employee, or is a daughter of a dairy industry employee.

The Bucks County Dairy Prin-

cess Pageant is scheduled for June 23 at Delaware Valley College in Doylestown.

The winner of the contest will devote a year to promoting the dairy industry in the county. She also will be eligible to compete for the title of Pennsylvania Dairy Princess during the state pageant in September.

To acquaint current candidates with the opportunities of being a dairy princess, the promotion committee sponsored a social on May 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the Bucks County Extension Office, located at the intersection of Route 611

and Alms House Road in Doylestown.

Committee members and former dairy princesses explained what the program entails and the benefits involved. Among these are appearances at schools, malls, county fairs and grocery stores and the opportunity to speak to civic clubs, senior citizen groups, and farm and non-farm audiences.

Young women interested in learning more about the contest should contact Laura England, Bucks County Dairy Promotion Committee chairman, at (215) 322-0200.

Polypay Sheep Assn. Celebration

SIDNEY, MT. — The American Polypay Sheep Association was formed May 3, 1980 and is celebrating its 10th birthday. The APSA currently has 420 members and 60,000 head of Polypays on record. This Association is putting all sheep records on a new computer program which will print out a new registration certificate with a four-generation pedigree, production & performance records. They now have 20,000 on the computer and are adding to it daily.

The 7th National Polypay Sheep Sale is on May 26, 1990 at 1 p.m. in Des Moines, Ia. at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. There are 226 registered/certified polypay rams & ewes consigned by members from all over the USA.

Dr. Clarence Hulet (Jornada Experiment Range, NM.) will be the guest speaker at the banquet on Friday evening May 25.

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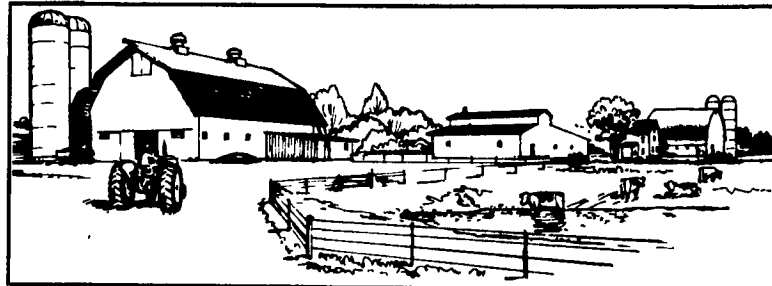
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