

# Farmers Union Urges New Secretary To Help Producers

PHILADELPHIA — The new secretary of agriculture should utilize the discretionary authorities given to him under the 1990 farm law to improve conditions in rural America, according to the National Farmers Union convention.

In a special order of business recently, the farm organization's delegates called upon the new agriculture secretary to raise the farm law's minimum target prices to levels that better approximate the actual average costs of production and also link target prices to changes in the consumer price index.

The convention urged the new secretary to raise the commodity loan rates on wheat and feed grains closer to target price levels and also to increase marketing loan rates on cotton, rice, and oilseeds in efforts to improve farm income and lower government

costs.

The Farmers Union is requesting the new secretary to implement the Targeted Option Payments (TOP) Program and implement the bushel-based pilot program for wheat and feed grains. In addition, the farm convention called for increasing minimal levels of wheat and corn in the nation's farmer-owned reserve, and recommended changes in the deficiency payment system.

The convention delegates said they recongized that whether the farm law was reopened, amended or ignored, additional changes to the structure and operation of the 1990 farm law were "virtually inevitable."

The Farmers Union noted the Bush administration has already proposed budget changes for 1992 that would significantly impact the farm law by imposing additional budget cuts. Congress has

also opened the farm law debate by considering additional authorization for the Export Enhancement Program, the farm convention pointed out.

In making changes to the 1990 farm law, the Farmers Union convention urged Congress to "place the highest priority on providing family farmers with the opportunity to earn a fair return for their commodities from the marketplace."

In addition, the farm group is asking Congress to repeal the deficit reduction taxes imposed on commodities as loan origination fees, and to provide improved assistance through food and nutrition programs.

Petitions containing nearly 40,000 signatures from throughout the nation have been collected in a month's period of time by the farm organization's members. The petitions were delivered recently to Senate and House agriculture committees and the White House.

## Landmark Genetics Acquires Bulls

HUGHSON, Calif. — Two bulls were recently added to the stable of Landmark Genetics young sire proving program, one a Holstein from Pennsylvania, the other a Jersey from Virginia.

WA-Del ISAAC-et, a young Holstein bull bred by Rick Wadel, of Shippensburg, was selected for sampling and his semen has just been released for use in herds on officials Dairy Herd Improvement test throughout the United States.

The goal is to achieve a minimum of 50 daughters milking in 40 herds across the nation for a high repeatability on his first test.

According to Terry Rawn, regional sire analyst for Landmark said the company selected ISAAC because of his bloodline. He is sired by Trifecta, one of Bell's best sons for protein and TPI.

His dam is a Very Good 88 with an Excellent mammary and has produced 25,864 pounds of milk, 4.7 percent of which was fat and 3.4 percent of which was protein, during a lactation started at 3 years, 8 months. Her dam, VG Lime Hollow Mars, had a lifetime

4 percent fat and 3.2 percent protein. The next dam is also a VG.

Semen from ISAAC is to be available for sampling in the "GO" Herd Program for the next 60 to 90 days.

Another bull bred by Waverly Farm, of Clearbrook, Va., is WF Sooner Count-et, a young Jersey bull.

Count is also entering the "GO" program and his semen will be available for the next 60 to 90 days.

Count is sired by Sooner, the sire noted for high production and high rear udders

His dam is Quicksilver Royal, a VG 89 as a 2-year-old. Her full sister was VG 85 percent and made 600 pounds of fat and was the dam of a 1989 National heifer consignment. Their dam is Favorite Saint, an Excellent 94 percent, with three records over 19,000 pounds of milk. Her maternal sister is Bold T, a VG 85 percent with records of 17,000 pounds of milk, 764 pounds fat and 619 pounds protein. Their dam was a daughter of Chocolate Soldier.

## N.Y. Ag Agencies

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I prices at last October's level, which was \$15.64 in Federal Order 2, until September 1992.

The legislation was introduced by Congressman Robin Tallon of South Carolina and Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont. Economists estimated this would add approximately \$1.20 to the blend price in the New York-New Jersey marketing area and \$1.50 to the blend price in New England.

In addition, Sen. Leahy's bill proposes to raise federal solids non-fat standards to match standards in California. This would increase solids non-fat standards in milk products, which would have a two-fold benefit to the dairy industry: It would create a market for powdered milk, because powdered milk would be used to increase solids in milk products, and consumers would receive better testing products.

The proposal would also go a long way toward solving the problems caused by a surplus of milk, because the increased use of powdered milk nationwide would help reduce surpluses.

RCMA's directors are very concerned about finding a long-term solution to dairy prices. At the previous month's meeting, the board voted to support the concept of supply management, and urged the Department of Agriculture to study supply management and a two-tier pricing system. RCMA has not endorsed any of the specific supply management programs currently under discussion.

Membership in RCMA continues to grow. Directors voted to accept the membership applications of 19 individual members and one cooperative, Scenic Mountain Milk Cooperative based in Forksville. The cooperative has 14 members.

### 2nd ANNUAL SHENANDOAH TROTTERS, INC. SPRING CONSIGNMENT SALE

MARCH 23rd, 1991, 9:30 A.M. Woodstock, Va.

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Partial Listing: Machinery: 6806 Deutz Tractor, Six Foot Bush Hog, Box Scraper, 250 Bushel; New Idea Manure Spreader, Brillion Cultipacker; Corn Flail Machine John Deere.

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CONDITIONS BY:  
**K.A. GOSHERT**  
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