

# Farm Forum

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who are sincerely interested in Ag Land Preservation.

Certainly this bill, if enacted into law, could well do more to preserve farmland without the required "up front" money, than the costly \$100 million program now in place in Pennsylvania and could do it in a fairer manner. Under the development rights purchase program in effect, conceivably some could receive more than they paid for the farm while others, equally sincere and deserving, would be turned down for some reason or another not under their control.

Further, it is grossly unfair that a farmer, whose prices are held low by governmental "cheap food" policy programs, could not pass the family farm to the next generation. It is unfair that the farmer, who usually toils long and hard to help support the family, should not have the privilege of inheritance due to confiscatory estate tax laws, while for those of means with investments other than farmland have many means at their disposal to circumvent inheritance taxes legally.

While I mentioned ag land preservation, I would also solicit support for a drastic change in subdivision laws. The present system of large lot requirements is absolutely the most ridiculous laws imaginable. They are diametrically opposed to farmland preservation.

While on the one hand we will spend hundreds of millions to preserve farmland, we will require home builders and buyers to spend equally large sums for large and un-needed building lots which, in many cases, the homeowner will fail to maintain.

All of this makes absolutely no sense to me. We seem to be working at cross purposes.

I feel that I have a better idea and that is legislation on the state level requiring any developer of five or more homes on adjoining lots to install a sewage disposal system in the form of a waste treatment plant. This has been proven to be feasible and I understand the only problem is our DER has objections on the basis that it prefers large central plants rather than scattered small units. Perhaps our legislators should assert them-

selves over the whims of nonelected dreamers.

Thus, instead of building one house on two acres, eight homes could comfortably be built on that same piece of ground. Now this is true ag land preservation at little or no increased cost to anyone!

How about it, folks, can you join me?

**Harold R. Stoudt**  
Hamburg, Pa.

## Open Letter To Fellow Dairyman and Dairy Ladies:

Are you enjoying the milk checks that you have received lately? Is it still a laughing matter or is it starting to get serious for you yet? Just think, with a 25% cut in milk price you are still paying the same expenses plus more this year, but you are working every fourth day for nothing! It is almost funny to watch the politicians scramble around to find a solution to a problem for which they don't want a solution. The government is enjoying their "cheap food" policy at our expense and are in no hurry to change it. About the best compliment my late father-in-law had to say about politicians was that, "They couldn't figure out how to pour yellow liquid out of a boot without cutting the toe off."

We keep hearing about surplus, all kinds of surplus. The latest figures range from 2 to 4 percent depending which expert economist you listen to. We hear this price trend may go lower and be with us for a year or two before it changes, depending on which expert economist you hear it from. When you look at these exact figures, I wonder if they didn't go to the

same school that the weather forecaster went to. With all their fancy gadgets and gauges and instruments, I still find myself spending a nice day in June in the barn trying to stay dry and many a winter day watching the snowplow scraping sparks off the road in a "blizzard". The next day you can listen to how the wind blew the wrong way, so they missed their prediction a little. Sounds like the government doesn't know which way the "wind" blows either.

Now, if we are to solve our income and surplus problem, we should observe how other people do it and I don't mean any government agencies. I feel we should look at another segment of agriculture which has simply and effectively solved their quality and supply problems, the vegetable growers. Go to any roadside stand and you will find quality produce at a good price. The "garbage" producers don't sell their products. Dairy farmers who make "garbage" milk shouldn't either. The bacteria standards should be cut in half or lower of what they are so we can have better quality which will sell for a reasonable price.

And now if I still have your attention, on to the "bigger", the surplus. If the vegetable farmer sees a surplus of lettuce, cabbage, whatever, where the price has dropped so he can't make any money selling it, he leaves it in the field for fertilizer and plows it under. We are going to have to get rid of some milk, but do it in a manner which doesn't upset the marketplace and still provide us with a price we can live with, without any cost to dear Uncle Sam, and it has to be done nationwide!

The Milkmarket Administrator has all our production figures every month from receipts from the dairy plants. He also has all

the usage figures from retail sales, so he knows how much "surplus" there is every month. We dairy producers are paying for this service out of our milk checks at no cost to Uncle Sam, right? The M.A. people are on the road getting milk samples and checking drivers on their pick-up procedures all the time so they could represent the government. The dairy farmer is there to represent himself and the truck driver is there to represent the milk plant. If during any month a producer makes, say, 100,000 pounds of milk and across the nation there is a 2% surplus, at some time during the next month these three people get together, at the M.A.'s discretion, at each producer's farm and dump down the drain or load into a manure pit or spreader 2% or 2,000 pounds of milk and we will eliminate that surplus. If during this month this same producer makes the same amount of milk and the M.A. determines there is a 1% surplus, the following month at some time these three people meet at the farm and dump 1% or 1,000 pounds of milk. "Presto", surplus is gone. We get our price, and the government doesn't have to buy excess for which it has no money for anyway.

We don't need quotas or 10-tier pricing systems which would take a lawyer to figure out and sure would be of no benefit to us. Let each producer make as much milk as he wants. Don't destroy our "free" enterprise system. It sure would be a shame if a father or mother had to tell their children that they couldn't expand because they had a quota and couldn't make anymore milk to pay them, if they want to enter the farming operation. Those who want to stay farming must realize that they have to make a little sacrifice to help everybody. Don't cry over a little spilt milk! If you rationally

consider the benefits to everybody, I don't feel this would be a bad solution to our problem. The government could keep a stockpile in storage for emergencies, say about 5 billion pounds, which they feel anything above this amount is surplus. Each producer can farm comfortably to his ability and capacity. We farmers would have a price for what is sold and used. We farmers could be free from some government restrictions concerning excess production. We farmers could get away from having more money deducted from our milk checks to support a surplus which is not there. The government could get away from support prices and get on with other business that they are intended for. We farmers could pay our bills and maybe buy some new machinery, so the manufacturer could pay his help, so the help could buy our milk so we could buy etc.... This would help stabilize the economy as agriculture is the backbone of this country.

P.T. Barnum once said, "There's a sucker born every minute!" Not all suckers are dairy farmers! Are we dairy farmers all suckers to get more government controls or are we willing to do something about it? I would almost be willing to bet my farm that you won't have to dump much milk before the government backs off, but my banker said I better not. He's not a gambling man!

**George Schmidt**  
Piedmont, NH

Editor:

Ever since the beginning of time wetlands have been incubators of Salmonella E-coli, typhoid fever, yellow fever, malaria, polio, botuli, blue algae (very poisonous that kills all life) and many other deadly bacteria, fungi, germs, some known & unknown. Also

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