

## PFU Holds Strategy Conference On Dairy Bill

**HARRISBURG** (Dauphin Co.) — A Nationwide conference call was held by National Farmers Union President Lee Swenson, on July 10, to discuss national legislative efforts.

The participants in the conference were state presidents and concerned dairy farmers with information and updates provided by Mike Dunn and Cheryl Cook of the Washington, DC, NFU office.

Those in Pennsylvania participating were Allen Deiter, Sandy Reagle and Robert Junk.

Cheryl Cook updated members and participants on the status of the Dairy Bill, which is House Bill 2387. It is presently being debated in Congress. Cook told of what was being offered in amendments to the bill.

House Bill 2387 would offer a support price of \$12.60 the first year with a decrease to \$12.10 the second year, and \$11.60 the third year, she said.

After discussions of many different amendments the position taken was to support the Volkmer amendment which holds the highest support price without a reduction.

Allen Deiter said that Pennsylvania Farmers Union is opposed to the provision in the bill which would eliminate the state's right to issue over-order premiums.

Mike Dunn said that many issues about the Dairy Bill surrounded representatives worrying about the impact on the WIC program.

"This is not so," said Dunn, "If the two-tier program is adopted, this will ensure that the concerns of the WIC funding will be negated.

It's only a smoke screen to harm the bill."

Lee Swenson closed the call by offering a challenge to all members of the Farmers Union to:

- Advocate solidly for a two-tier dairy program.

- Hold out for the highest support price, and advocate for the Volkmer amendment. (NFU and PFU are currently asking for a support price of \$13.60, which is the actual cost of production for dairy farmers.)

- All members and concerned dairy farmers to contact members of the House and Senate agriculture committees to support the Dairy Bill, with the Volkmer amendment.

"It is imperative that we use this opportunity to fully explain the plight of dairy farmers, and the timing is now. Another point to address is the fact that the Milk Producers Board be controlled by producers!" Swenson said.

Jack Rynd, of the Pennsylvania Farmers Union Milk Producers

Association said, "We are losing dairymen right and left. This is the worst crisis we have ever had, and we must make calls to our representatives to gain their support."

The position of the Pennsylvania Farmers Union is to continue to work hard to re-open the 1990 Farm Bill, in order to address inequities which harm family farmers nationwide.

For more information, call the Pennsylvania Farmers Union at 1-800-234-1269.

## PSU Offer Course In Basic Goat Raising

**UNIVERSITY PARK** (Centre Co.)— The demand for goats and goat products is greater than it has been in decades. People are moving back to rural areas and "homesteading" and they now have a stronger desire for home-produced food versus items bought in the store.

In some heavily populated countries, one or two goats are a staple for the family's food production. Goats don't require an expensive stable, a large farming area, or large amounts of hay, sil-

age, or grain usually needed to maintain dairy cows.

"Dairy Goats," a non-credit, nine-lesson course offered through Penn State's Department of Independent Learning, discusses the finer points of raising dairy goats and their milk production.

Dr. Donald L. Ace, a professor emeritus and extension specialist in dairy science, discusses how to select the best goat for your family's needs.

When buying a goat specifically for milk, you should observe

the animal for certain distinctive characteristics.

The animal should be sleek and alert, not fat or sluggish.

The barrel or body cavity should be long and deep with the ribs well sprung and open.

The legs must be straight and strong with good bones.

The udder must show evidence of having the capacity to produce milk, since all the milk that you withdraw is present in the udder.

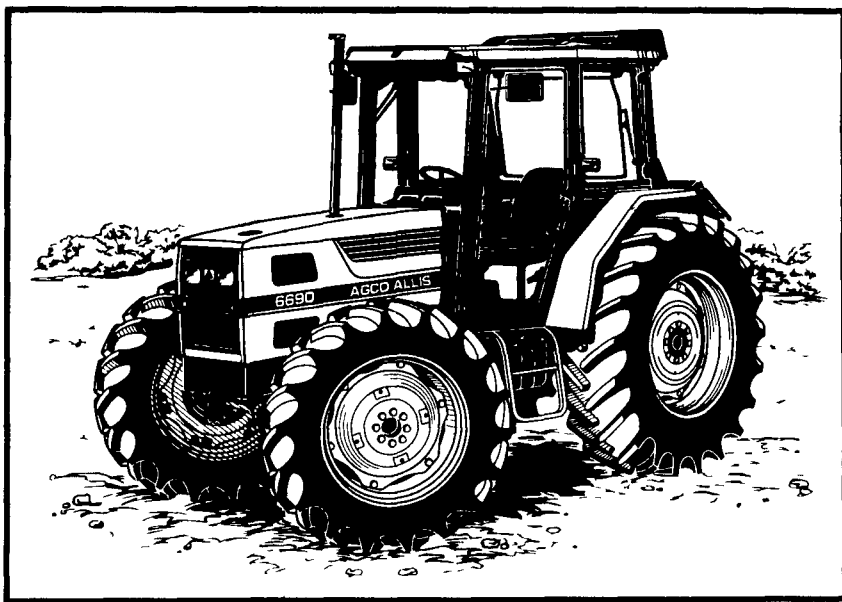
"Dairy Goats" also gives some guidelines for the feeding of your dairy goats. Dr. Ace said that although goats eat most clean

foods, they should not be purchased with the intention of feeding them leftovers and weeds.

Goats need a well-balanced diet in order to produce milk effectively. They may eat tender shoots of weeds and coarse grasses, and fruit and vegetable scraps from the table, but pastures, top-quality hay, and silage should provide their basic diet.

When fed properly, your goats will produce milk that can be used for such things as: fluid milk for table use, manufacturing processes that condense or evaporate milk for making cheeses, ice cream, butter, or goat's milk fudge.

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## MILK CHECK

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### MIMA Moving

Dairy provisions of the 1991 farm bill now called the Milk Inventory Management Act (MIMA) moved out of the House agriculture sub committee on June 25 and is now being considered by the full House agriculture committee. Write up is expected this week and hopefully a committee report before the summer recess starts August 5.

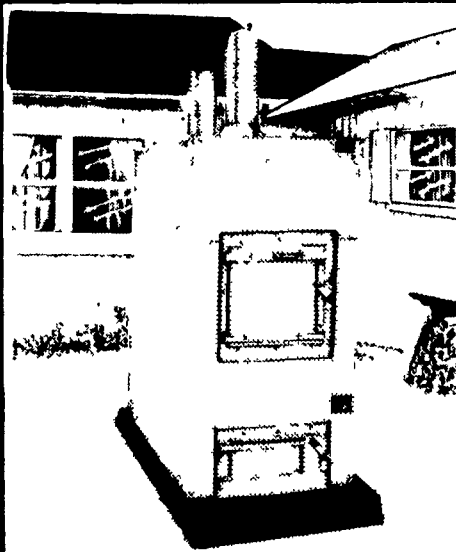
If you are interested in learning how to raise dairy goats, how to select the best goat for your family's needs, and how to produce goat's milk products, please send \$19 to: "Dairy Goats," Agriculture Course #5122, 128 Ag-Mitchell Bldg., University Park, PA 16802. Make checks payable to "Pennsylvania State University."

For More Information Contact:

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