

Farm Forum

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their bottom line than the bottom line down at the farm.

If we pull together, we can price our product here in the Northeast, at least for a period, until Washington finishes studying the M-W price series, component pricing, regionalization, and of course BST.

I'm sorry, but I don't think Washington will ever get anything done at the snail's pace that they work. There is nothing on the table at present that even comes close to a price that exceeds the cost of production.

The only thing on paper at present that approaches reality is the "National Dairy Act of 1991." It is time for all farmers to get behind this program and fight for it.

Why is the administration in Washington so opposed to two-tier pricing? Can they come up with a better plan to stabilize the farm economy or do they even want to?

So long as we have farm price regulation, why should we not have regulation at the retail level?

The GAO indicated that the retail sector reaped \$1 billion in excess profits during the first six months of 1991, and so it goes. They put the least into that gallon of milk and get back the most by far and no one seems to care. The old corporate bottom line again.

Now we have the cereal companies announcing a 4-percent increase in prices in anticipation of higher grain prices due to the misfortune of the Midwest grain farmer.

Is there no conscience out there? The old bottom line again.

A strengthened farm economy

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — High quality water is vital to the health and economic well-being of Pennsylvanians. Nearly 40 percent of state residents rely on groundwater for their drinking water.

"Three-quarters of a billion gallons of groundwater are withdrawn in Pennsylvania every day by industrial, agricultural, and domestic users," said Dr. Charles Abdalla, Penn State associate professor of agricultural economics and co-director of the Pennsylvania Groundwater Policy Education Project.

"Existing laws do little to resolve conflicts that arise when homeowner or community groundwater supplies are degraded by activities occurring beyond political or property boundaries," Abdalla said. "To preserve this resource, people must become more informed about groundwater issues and take part in public policy and land-use decisions."

Supported by a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Groundwater Policy Education Project is sponsoring several reg-

would go a long way toward solving many of the general economic problems. Farmers spend their money if they have it.

Why, if there is such a surplus of dairy products, have the school lunch programs been cut back 30 percent on cheese? Far too many of today's children get their primary nutrition at school and cheese is nutritious and now not as available.

Why?
Still tired of being stonewalled,
Ken Dibbell
South New Berlin, N.Y.

ional conferences to help local officials, community groups, and concerned citizens enhance local groundwater management and education. The project is a joint effort of Penn State Cooperative Extension and the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizen Education Fund.

Conferences will be held in Pittsburgh at Penn State's Altoona Campus (October 12); in Carlisle at Dickinson College (October 26); in West Chester at Chester County Hospital School of Nursing (November 2); and at Penn State's Hazleton Campus (November 9).

"One goal of the conferences is to provide information to local officials and planners about the overall effects many of their decisions can have on groundwater quality and quantity," said project co-director Edith Stevens, a water specialist with the League of

Women Voters. "We also hope to inform participants about some of the local management tools available to help protect regional groundwater sources."

The conferences will feature speakers from Horsley Witten Hegemann, Inc., a well-known consulting firm that provides training on well head protection programs for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Experts familiar with local hydrogeology will discuss local groundwater characteristics and present regional examples of community groundwater protection programs.

Other topics of discussion will include contamination sources,

coalition building, working with local governments, and developing leadership skills.

Following the conferences, community groups will be encouraged to join forces to develop local groundwater education projects. As part of its Kellogg grant, the Groundwater Policy Education Project in coming months will fund selected local educational programs that will serve as models for other communities.

For more information, or to register for one of the regional conferences, call the League of Women Voters Citizen Information Center at (800) 692-7281.

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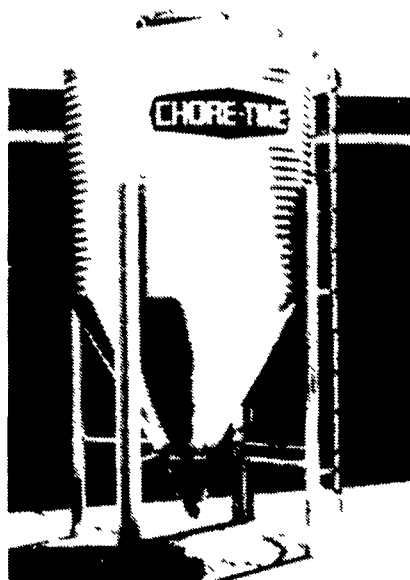
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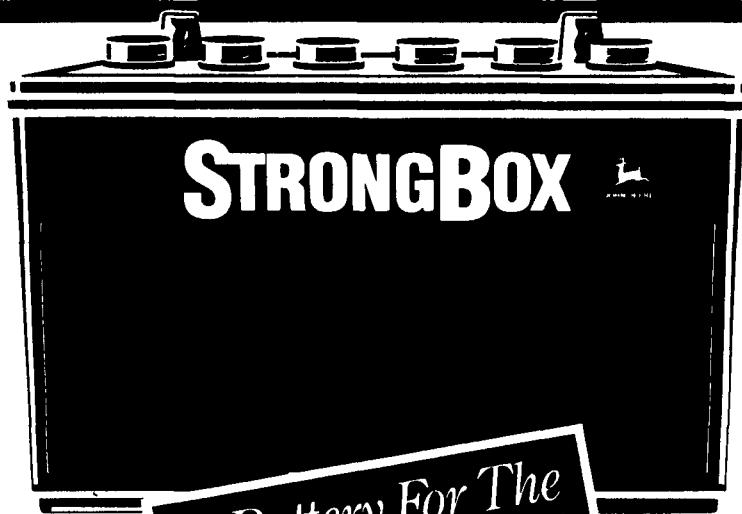
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