

PFA Asks PMMB To Help Boost Milk Prices

CAMP HILL (Cumberland Co.) — The Pennsylvania Farmers' Association (PFA) took the first step toward requesting a milk price increase for dairymen coping with the effects of the 1991 drought.

PFA has asked the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board (PMMB) to conduct a hearing in the near future to consider the need to boost milk prices. PFA made the request during PMMB's regularly

scheduled meeting last week at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture headquarters in Harrisburg.

At an informational meeting of the PMMB last August to discuss drought conditions, PFA testified that additional time was necessary before the full impact of the drought on crop and forage harvests was known.

Since then PFA has conducted a survey of a representative sample

of its dairy members to find out how much their purchased feed costs are expected to increase from January through May, 1992 when feed shortages, if any, would most likely develop.

"Now we have a good idea of how hard the drought has hit Pennsylvania dairymen," said PFA dairy specialist Mel Eckhaus. "Our survey shows that although not every dairy farmer has a problem, there are a significant number

of dairymen facing large enough shortages to warrant something being done to help them on a statewide basis."

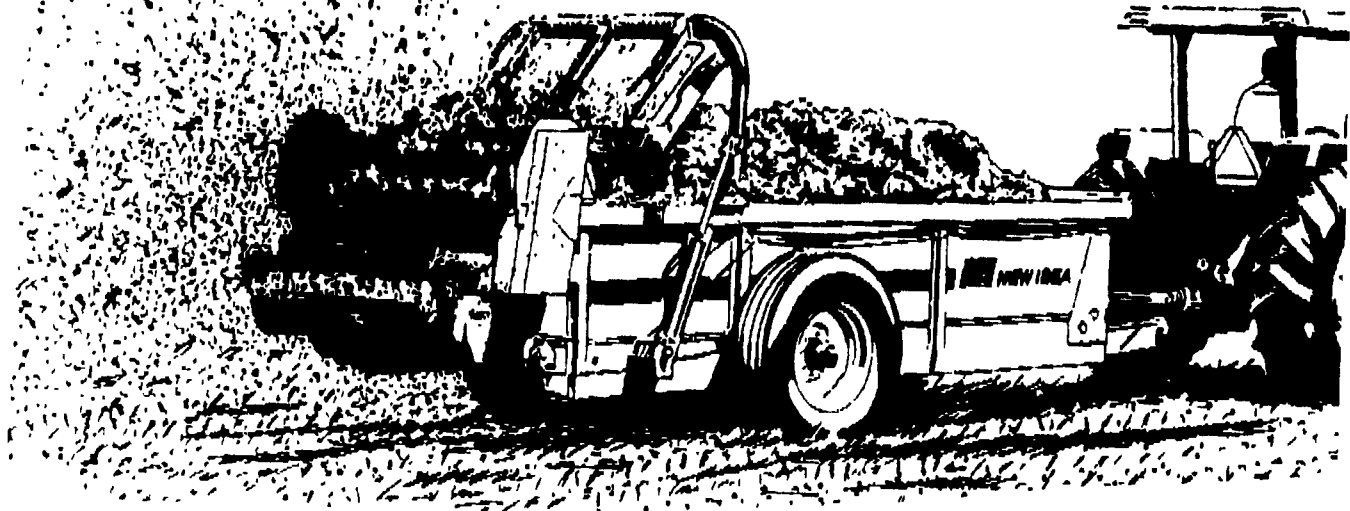
If PFA's request for a hearing is granted, PFA will ask for a milk price increase in addition to the \$1.05/cwt. Class I over-order price currently in place.

"Our survey data is still being analyzed to determine how large an increase will be needed. Market conditions will also need to be

considered," Eckhaus said. "Right now we want to get a hearing scheduled. If our request is approved, we hope to get a hearing date as soon as possible after the first of the year. It's crucial that dairymen get help as soon as possible."

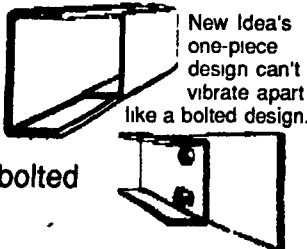
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