

# Dairy Summit To Address Milk Marketing Policy

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the industry to recommendations to maintain virtually the status quo. In between those extremes are numerous and complex program outlines.

The summit has been called for by a number of people, including U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy, U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., who is chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, and U.S. Sen. Harris Wofford, representative for Pennsylvania, plus the heads of the major dairy interests.

According to Sen. Wofford, the meeting is to be similar to President Bill Clinton's December Arkansas town meeting and the meeting in Washington state over the management of federal forest lands.

"The day on the whole lumber and woods issue in the Northwest was a little different. It was an all-day intense summit that soon is to lead to a proposal from the administration," Wofford said in a telephone interview Wednesday.

"The Little Rock (Ark.) summit showed how you can get people in a room, get a number of points of consensus, and have an impact" on beginning to find solutions to real, existing problems.

"When you take an industry and get attention on it from industry (representatives) and leaders of the nation, it's a good bet that (the York dairy summit) is going to be productive," Wofford said.

By definition, a summit is a gathering of the leaders of the highest levels of human organization, such as governments.

This summit was to consist of two, 15-member panels, with the members openly discussing the marketing and management policies controlling the dairy industry.

In a news release from Sen. Leahy's office dated June 2, Sen. Leahy and Secretary Espy issued a joint announcement of the meeting. However specifics of the meeting were not available until late this week.

Leahy's office has been orga-

nizing practically the entire event, according to all other parties involved.

The selection of the York site was requested by Sen. Wofford, according to Wofford.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture was asked to help with some of the lunch details.

In the meantime, the twin 15-member panel format changed slightly.

According to a draft witness list faxed from Leahy's Washington staff to *Lancaster Farming* Thursday evening, members of a 13-member and a 15-member panel are to sit down to discuss the industry and work toward consensus.

Each panel is to be divided into a group of presenters and discussants.

The first panel is to consist of three presenters and 10 discussants. The second panel is to consist of five presenters and 10 discussants.

A specific agenda has not been created, but discussants include farmers, processors, researchers, cooperative leaders, special interest groups, and government coming from a number of different states — Texas, Minnesota, California, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Kentucky, Kansas, Illinois, Vermont, Alabama, Mississippi.

The summit may be one of the most important events for the dairy industry and while no specific reasons were given for selecting the York site, it may one of the most significant events to take place in York. It is expected to attract national attention, which York hasn't had since the racial problems experienced in recent years.

Sen. Wofford, of Bryn Mawr, said, "I am looking forward to being there. My office and I have been working closely with Espy and Leahy in bringing this about, getting them to come to York, the heart of our Northeast dairy country."

"I'm glad we're on the map for what should be, in (the dairy industry) world, should be an historic occasion. It seeks to get a national

milk marketing strategy, which is a tough task," Wofford said by telephone Wednesday.

A number of news releases from the major dairy industry organizations interested or involved were sent out this past week, helping to announce the Monday event.

However, the first announcement received here was included in the May 31 issue of the National Milk Producers Federation's newsletter, *News for Dairy Cops*.

In that newsletter, it was reported that Leahy and Espy jointly announced the summit and that a senior member of Leahy's staff told the NMPPF reporters that holding the summit will not affect or negate consideration of NMPPF's suggestion, or any of the other many suggestions for policy that have already been submitted under the USDA's normal hearings processes.

The USDA, under the Bush administration, had held numerous hearings on the issue and several times extended deadlines for submitting suggestions for policy changes.

The suggestions the USDA has received over the years are many and varied.

The Pennsylvania State Grange also put out a news release this week announcing that its representatives will be attending the meeting, as well as representatives of the National Grange.

Arden Tewksbury, manager and found of Progressive Agriculture Organization, and formerly associated with other state agricultural organizations, also faxed a news release which strongly urges dairy farmer turnout.

"Some people are predicting a small turnout at the Summit. Possibly these same people are hoping if dairy farmers don't come to the summit, then this could be a strong indication that dairy farmers are either satisfied with present dairy policy or they are leaving any proposed new legislation proposals up to other people," he stated in the release.

Michael Donovan, general manager of Eastern Milk Producers Cooperative announced last week that he had been selected to be one of the presenters during the meeting.

That was prior to the draft list being completed.

As of Thursday evening, the proposed list of participants on Panel I included, as presenters, Dr. Andy Novakovic, a dairy econom-

ist at Cornell University; Mr. Ewing H. Row, managing editor for W.D. Hoard & Sons Co.; and Dr. Robert Young, director for the Food and Agriculture Policy Research Institute.

The Panel I Discussants are to be Ms. Norma Hanson, a dairy farmer from Goodridge, Minn.; Ms. Mieke Doelman, dairy farmer from Olympia, Wash.; John Malcolm, dairy farmer from Pawlet, Vermont; Don Whorton, dairy farmer from Wetumpka, Ala.; Buckley Jones, president of Dairymen Inc., of Smithdale, Miss.; Gary Corbett, vice president of governmental and dairy affairs for Dean Foods, of Franklin Park, Ill.; Richard Cotta, general manager of San Joaquin Valley Dairymen, Los Banos, Calif.; Keith Eckel, president of the Pennsylvania Farmers Association, Clarks Summit; Ms. Charlotte Pellegrini, dairy farmer, Mauston, Wis.; Gene Paul, farmer, Mankato, Minn.

The presenters for Panel II are to be Dr. Larry Hamm, chair of the agricultural economics department at Michigan State University; Fred Douma, dairy farmer from Ontario, Calif.; Mike Donovan; Ms. Nancy Danielson, Washington representative for National Farmers Union; and Clyde Rutherford, president of Dairylea Cooperative, Syracuse, N.Y..

The Panel II discussants are to be Charles Beckendorf, president of Associated Milk Producers Inc.,

of Tomball, Texas; Stewart Huber, president of the Farmers Union Milk Marketing Cooperative, Clintonville, Wis.; Robert McSparran, president of Atlantic Dairy Cooperative, Southampton; Robert Giacomini, dairy farmer with Western United Dairymen, Point Reyes Station, Calif.; Ron Morrisette, chairman of the National Family Farm Coalition Dairy Committee, Randolph Center, Vt.; Steve Conerly, CEO of Flav-O-Rich Foods, Louisville, Ky; Dennis Rosen, president of Wisconsin Farmers Union, Chippewa Falls; Ms. Deborah Van Dyk, director of legal affairs for Schreiber Foods, Green Bay, Wis.; Dana Hauck, of Delphos, Kan., who is chairman of the Agricultural Policy Committee of the National Cattlemen's Association; and Douglas Greenway or Mary Kessler, either or whom is to represent the National Association of WIC (Women, Infants and Children, a federal welfare program) Directors, Washington, D.C.

According to Edward Melhorn, vice president of the organization which runs the York Fairgrounds, he was asked to set up the facility's Old Main Building to seat 500 people.

The building is air conditioned he said and the fairgrounds is located along Route 74, south of Route 30. Those using Route 83 to get to York, should take Rt. 30 west and then take the Rt. 74 exit, he said.

## West Virginia Dairy Sales

**MOUNDSVILLE, W.Va.** — Two major dairy sales are to be held in Moundsville, W.Va., on August 28, according to the West Virginia University Extension Service.

Members of the Northern Panhandle Holstein Association met recent to make preliminary plans for the West Virginia State Dairy Sale, and the Dairy Genetics Sales, both to held August 28 at the Marshall County Fairgrounds.

Dennis Remsburg, of Maryland, is to be the auctioneer for the sale, and in the months leading up to the sales, he is to be traveling within the tri-state area seeking consignments.

The sale committee has also approved the admittance of qualified grade animals as consignments.

Welcomed to the sale are registered bred heifers, fresh cows or cows close to freshening, in addi-

tion to qualified grades.

For more information call Remsburg at (301) 473-8214, or (301) 473-7959. Others who are serving as contact persons are Merle Chaplin at (304) 845-3167; Fred Hazlett at (304) 547-5830; Ivan McCombs at (304) 232-4543; Maurice Garrison at (304) 336-9937; Tim Hubbs at (304) 845-6174; or Mary Week at (304) 242-8680.

The Dairy Genetics Sale is a 4-H heifer replacement project for 4-Hers in Ohio and Marshall counties in the Northern Panhandle, and Harrison County in the center of the state.

For the sale, 4-H youth receive 1-week-old heifer calves and raise them until they are bred heifers ready to enter a working dairy herd.

Dick Chichester from Select Sires has been booked for the pedigree reading for both sales.

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