

(Continued from Page A1)

hands of dairy producers.

Industry representatives otherwise were mixed on exactly what should be done to improve the dairy industry and how to proceed.

Other somewhat shared views expressed during the meeting included statements to the effect that producer price stability needs to be built, in order to make the long-term investments in dairy farming a sensible option for business; that there is fragmentation in the dairy industry; that producers and processors don't have a trusting relationship; and that Secretary Espy is quickly becoming well-liked by agriculture — he received several standing ovations during the meeting.

The ovations were made following Espy's remarks on the USDA becoming "farmer friendly," meaning that while abuses wouldn't be condoned, the agency would not conduct business in a bureaucratic, heartless manner.

He said his top priority is to improve farmer income.

As an example of his intent to change the USDA, he said that he has implemented a moratorium on foreclosures on loans in farm loans in order to give farmers "the benefit of the doubt."

Espy said that instead of allowing a foreclosure after three reviews, that he has now opened the option to the producer for a fourth review, in Washington D.C., of the loan, the business and the cash flow.

"We can't throw money down a dry hole ... but we want to do everything we can do ... to give the benefit of the doubt," he told the group in his opening remarks.

Espy also said that he knew that for dairy producers, "Your investments are the highest, the hours are the longest and the standards are the highest."

He also gave a plug for dairy producers to vote on whether to keep the National Dairy Board.

"I strongly urge everyone to vote on this issue," he said. "Even if you're a member of a cooperative and block vote, you still have the right, and I think the obligation, to vote as an individual," he said.

The audience applauded loudly.

He said that producers should pick up a ballot at their local USDA Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office, or call 1-800-858-7501 to have one mailed.

The meeting had actually started prior to Espy showing up. He told the group that a fan belt tore in his USDA van in which he was riding from Washington to York Monday morning and was delayed until a repair could be made.

And in his closing remarks, Espy said that one of the farmers with whom he had talked earlier had suggested an analogy to the vehicle problem Espy experienced, and the situation of the dairy industry. He said that the producers may not be the biggest part of the industry, but, like the fan belt, if it goes bad, the vehicle (the dairy industry) can't run.

Other audience approval of Espy was demonstrated after statements from Leahy and other long-time federal politicians that Espy is the first agricultural secretary to take time to listen and talk to representatives of agriculture, outside of Washington, D.C.

Leahy also commented on



From the left, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy, U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy, and Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Boyd Wolf listen to dairy industry representatives from across the nation tell of the condition of the industry during a first every national dairy summit at York.

Espy's devoting of an entire day to coming to York to hold the meeting, which is something that Leahy said the previous agriculture secretaries were not known to do.

Leahy said that when he presented the idea of a public town-hall type of meeting to gather consensus on the direction of the dairy industry, Espy said yes quickly.

The York location was selected because of access, and because it was recommended by several, especially Sen. Harris Wofford, who was unable to attend.

However, of those who did, the majority of testimony requested that some mechanism be used to get more of the consumer dollar to the producer.

Currently, more than 80 percent

of all milk sold in the United States is sold through one of 40 federal milk markets.

Pricing of milk under the federal system has historically been a program basically aimed at ensuring an inexpensive food supply by offering producers a guaranteed price per hundred pounds of milk.

In the past, when the support price was high enough to pay for the cost of production, the program inflated the amount of milk available which ensured an abundance and a low price.

In recent years, the federal support price has not kept up with the price of production in most areas, and especially not in areas with additional overhead expenses, such as those areas where farmland

is sought for use as sites for residential construction.

Because of the federal government's gradual withdrawal from providing support at a cost-of-production level, the fluctuations of demand for milk, competition from other food and beverage industries, and increasingly higher production costs and investments, the cost of production has increased significantly and widely.

Meanwhile, new market development has been slow or diminished, while the size of herds and dairy output per worker has increase several-fold, and many environmental and operational regulations have been added.

Applied technology has also

(Turn to Page A33)

## PENN STATE CROP EXPO '93

### BRADFORD COUNTY

TOM CHAMPLUVIER FARM, LACEYVILLE July 7th  
(East of Laceyville on Rt. 6 follow Crop Expo signs)

### LYCOMING COUNTY

LESTER POUST FARM, HUGHESVILLE July 9th  
(East of Hughesville on Rt. 118; turn right on S.P. 2061 follow Crop Expo signs)

9:00 A.M. to Dusk both days

This Year's Crop Expo Includes:

☑ Comparisons of Alfalfa, Corn, Sorghum, Sudangrass, Cool and Warm Season Grasses

☑ Presentations and Demonstrations:

Multiflora Rose Control Weed Control in Corn  
Intensive Silage Production Pasture Renovation  
Nitrogen Quick Test in Corn and Fertility

☑ Equipment Demonstrations:

Round Balers Round Bale Wrappers and Systems  
Silage Baggers Pasture Watering Systems  
Fencing Systems

☑ Crop Expo '93 Exhibitors:

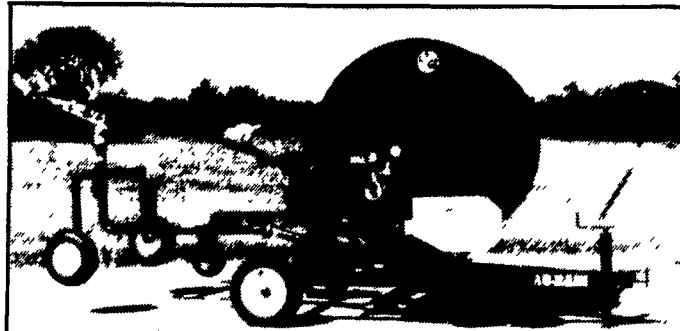
- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| • CIBA                 | • Muncy Chief Hybrid  |
| • Powers/Parys         | • Central             |
| • Farm Equipment       | • Petroleum Co.       |
| • Robson Seed Corp.    | • Seedway, Inc. Seeds |
| • Mid Atlantic         | • Cornell             |
| • Agri Systems         | • Manufacturing       |
| • Hoffman Seeds        | • Doebler Hybrids     |
| • Hamilton Equipment   | • Agway Inc.          |
| • Gannon Associates    | • Pioneer Hybrid      |
| • Jacques Seed Co.     | • Seeds               |
| • Curtis Brown Welding | • Beachley Hardy      |
| • SPE Inc.             | • Seed                |
| • Pioneer Seeds        | • Bradford Cty.       |
| • Bill Beebe           | • Conservation        |
| • Forage Equipment     | • District            |
|                        | • PA Ag Lime Comm.    |

Specialists from Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences will answer questions.

Admission is free, food can be purchased on the site. The Penn State Crop Expo '93 is supported by the Pennsylvania Forage and Grasslands Council.

For further information contact your County Extension Office.

Penn State is an affirmative action, equal opportunity university.



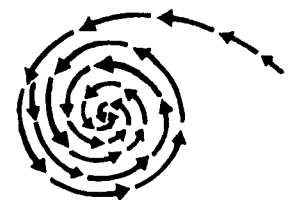
- \* Travelling Guns
- \* Solid Set Sprinklers
- \* P.T.O. Pumps
- \* Engine Mount Pumps
- \* Electric Motor Pumps
- \* Gaskets
- \* All Kinds Irrigation Parts
- \* Underground Mains, Risers, etc.
- \* Design & Engineering
- \* Irrigation Pipe, All Sizes In Stock
- \* Pipe Press To Make Any Size Or Kind Of Irrigation, Pipe And Parts You Need

## ZIMMERMAN IRRIGATION INC.

RD #3, Millifinburg, PA 17844

(717) 966-9700

# BioD™



## A BIOLOGICAL COMPLEX FOR USE AS LIVESTOCK PIT DIGESTER - LIQUIFIER - DEODORIZER

- Liquifies Manure And Prevents Solids Build-Up
- Reduces Malodors
- Helps In Nitrogen Retention
- Reduces Agitation
- Greatly Increases Uniformity
- Increases biological & nutrient value

Proven Biological Products For Livestock, Poultry, Soil & Crops

# Ag-Pak

2401 East King Street  
Lebanon, PA 17042

(717) 272-8985

Fax (717) 272-2422