

## GLENN'S UDDERINGS

(Continued from Page A22)

breedings. The pregnant cows averaged 1.9 services per pregnancy. These were the easy breeders and cows that conceived successfully. They should have very low services per conception, possibly around 1.5. The services per pregnancy for all cows includes services for the problem breeders plus other normal cows which have not yet been confirmed or assumed pregnant.

Missed heats can also cause days open to increase. According to table 1, only 11 cows had normal intervals of 18-24 days between heats or services. Seven had longer intervals of 3-4 missed heats (36-48 days); some of these could have been embryonic deaths or early-term abortions. Another 19 cows had intervals of less than 18 days or more than 48 days. Some or most of these could be cows that received shots to be short cycled intentionally. It could also include cows with mis-diagnosed heats.

The last section of table 1 looks at services over the past 12 months by number of services. First service conception rate was only 48 percent. This low figure could be caused by several factors, some of which are: cows too thin to conceive, infections in the reproduc-

## USDA Seeks Comment On Milk Marketing Proposal

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service is seeking public comment on a proposed change in rules for marketing milk in the Middle Atlantic Marketing Area, according to an announcement made this week.

Those wishing to comment have until July 27, and should send two copies of the comments to USDA/AMS/Dairy Division, Order Formulation Branch, Room 2968,

tive tract not yet cleared up, attempting to get cows bred too soon after calving, etc. The goal should be 60 percent or greater. As the number of services increases conception rates generally decrease due to problem breeders.

It is a good practice to use the most expensive semen where the chances for conception rates generally decrease due to problem breeders.

It is a good practice to use the most expensive semen where the chances for conception are greatest. Generally, this will be the first service. In table 1, we can see a slight tendency to use the best bulls on the first and second services. Study your DHIA reports carefully. They contain a lot of valuable information that can help you manage your herd more effectively.

South Building, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456:

The proposal for change has been made at the request of cooperatives in the Middle Atlantic area who seek to have rules better reflect actual commercial winter milk demand and usage.

According to the notice, a proposal is to, from September 1993 to February 1994, drop the current requirement that 40 percent of the milk sold out of pool distributing plants be sold for Class I, or fluid milk use.

The proposal instead seeks the minimum be lower to 30-percent of the milk sold being mandated for fluid use.

Obtensibly, the reason for setting minimum use is to ensure that producers get a better price for their milk. If the bulk of milk is sold for uses other than fluid consumption, the price received by the producer is lower, than if a certain percentage is used for fluid use, which brings a higher price to the farmer.

The USDA notice stated that, "The suspension (of the 40 percent requirement) was requested by several cooperatives that represent producers who supply a large portion of the milk for the market.

"Proponents contend that the action is necessary to assure that producer milk, which has been his-

torically associated with the market, will continue to be pooled under the order."

In effect, the notice implied that the USDA does not consider the change in rule to have a negative impact on the program.

Additional information supplied by the notice was, "This proposed rule has been reviewed by the Department (sic) ... and has been determined to be a 'non-major' rule."

Also, in the notice from L.P. Massaro, acting administrator of the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, he stated that the agency "has certified that this action would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

"Such action would lessen the regulatory impact of the order on certain milk handlers and would tend to ensure that dairy farmers would continue to have their milk priced under the order and thereby receive the benefits that accrue from such pricing."

If changed, the new regulation would not be retroactive, nor would it supercede state or local laws, unless there is an "irreconcilable conflict" with the rule change.

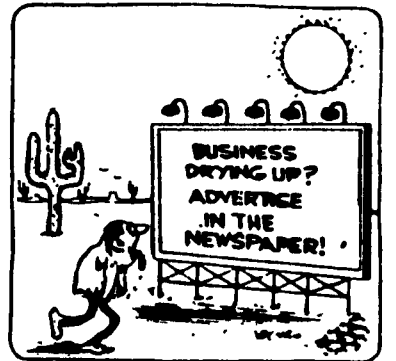
The request had been made because of the fluid market use of the milk has decreased significantly — in February 1990,

52 percent was sold for Class I, in February 1993, 45 percent was sold for fluid use.

Also, those who requested and support the proposal have stated that two former large-volume buyers of diverted milk within Order 4 are now handled under the New York-New Jersey marketing order.

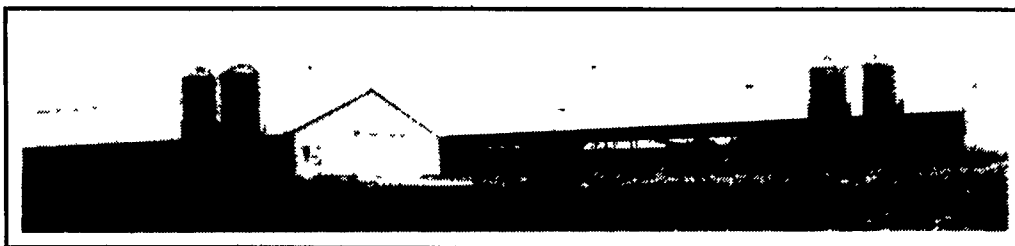
According to Massaro, "The cooperatives claim that they are experiencing difficulty associating all of their diverted producer milk with the remaining distributing plants now regulated under the Middle Atlantic order without affecting the pool status of the milk and/or the plants.

"Thus, it may be appropriate to suspend the higher Class I utilization standard which applies to fluid milk plants under the Middle Atlantic order in the months of September 1993 through February 1994."

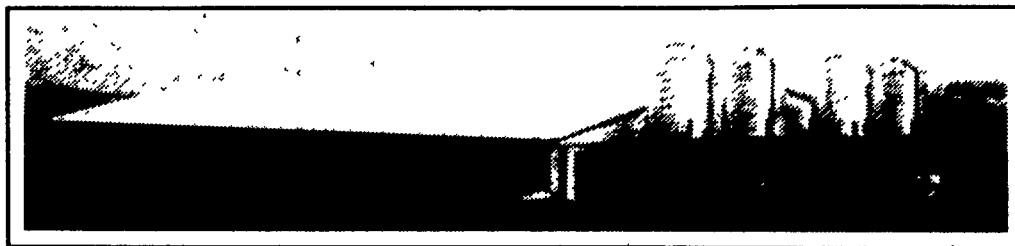


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