

## DER Milkhouse Wastewater Study

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The issue of milkhouse wastewater was briefly raised during the first meeting of the Nutrient Management Advisory Board to the State Conservation Commission.

The 15-member advisory committee is to review all regulatory proposals from the State Conservation Commission for the administration of the Nutrient Management Act, made into law earlier this year.

During discussion on what types of things might be considered in a nutrient management plan, the issue of milkhouse wastewater was

questioned. In response, a DER representative said the department had no problem with milkhouse wastewater being dumped into a farm's regular manure storage pit, to later be used on fields for the material's nutrient and soil-building value.

Rider confirmed that as the position of the department at this time, with no real reason to suspect any change with the completion of the department's investigation into milkhouse wastewater.

"We've always advocated putting wastewater in manure," Rider said. "We've always seen it as

being acceptable."

However, until all the data is reviewed, Rider could not confirm that the department will maintain its position on milkhouse wastewater; though that is most likely, since normal milkhouse waste contains nothing toxic after dilution into manure.

The focus, he said, is on onlot septic systems.

"Once we get the data evaluated and take a close look at it, we will have a better idea," he said.

The evaluation is to get a better

understanding on "just what is in (milkhouse wastewater) and in what concentrations.

"We've always known it was mixed with manure and SCS (USDA's Soil Conservation Service) said, 'fine,' and we've had no pollution problems (with it) mixed, so we thought it was okay.

"But what we're looking at now is just what's in it and what concerns we might have to disposal into subsurface systems. A lot of facilities utilize just a subsurface (system). There may be some concerns with these systems malfunctioning because of the strengths of the materials put in it," he said.

He said specifically that the

department will be looking at the waste in terms of biological oxygen demand (BOD) and suspended solids.

Even though the flow of milkhouse wastewater into a subsurface system may not be as great as from other sources, the concentration of nutrients is much higher than normal waste handled with a subsurface system, he said.

Rider said that following additional inhouse meetings with technical people, meetings between DER and agricultural representatives will be held in an attempt to work out what needs to be done and how soon.

## August Milk \$12.33

ALBANY, N.Y. — Dairy farmers who supplied regulated milk dealers (handlers) under the New York-New Jersey marketing orders during August 1993 will be paid by handlers on the basis of a uniform price of \$12.33 per hundredweight (26.5 cents per quart); the price for the corresponding month last year was \$13.36 per hundredweight.

Market Administrator Ronald C. Pearce also stated that the price was \$12.85 in July 1993. The uniform price is a marketwide weighted average of the value of farm milk used for fluid and manufactured dairy products.

The seasonal incentive plan has been suspended for 1993. If the plan had been in effect, 25 percent of the monies deducted would have been returned in the August uniform price calculation.

A total of 11,873 dairy farmers

supplied handlers regulated under the New York-New Jersey marketing orders with 945,736,466 pounds of milk during August 1993. This was an increase of 1.7 percent (about 16 million pounds) from last year. The gross value to dairy farmers for milk deliveries was \$116,697,152.45. This included differentials required to be paid to dairy farmers but not premiums, deductions authorized by the farmer, or assessments.

Regulated handlers used 365,275,554 pounds of milk for Class I, 38.6 percent of the total. This milk is used for fluid milk products such as homogenized, flavored, low test, and skim milks. For August 1993, handlers paid \$14.45 per hundredweight (31.1 cents per quart) for Class I milk compared with \$14.88 a year ago.

Handlers used 183,564,532

pounds of milk for Class II products, 19.4 percent of the total. Class II products include fluid cream, eggnog, ricotta and cottage cheeses, ice cream, and yogurt. Handlers paid \$11.08 per hundredweight for this milk.

The balance (396,896,380 pounds or 42 percent) was used to manufacture Class III products including butter, cheese other than ricotta and cottage cheeses, and dried milk. Handlers paid \$11.27 per hundredweight for this milk.

The uniform price is based on milk containing 3.5 percent butterfat. For August 1993, there was a price differential of 6.9 cents for each one-tenth of one percent that the milk tested above or below the 3.5 percent standard.

All prices quoted are for bulk tank milk received from farms in the 201-210 mile zone from New York City.

## Farm Forum

(Continued from Page A10)

Gordon Hiller, Master of the Pennsylvania Grange said, "I hope this effort will be a start towards developing a National Dairy Policy that everyone can support."

The letter was signed by: National Farmers Union, National Family Farm Coalition, National Farmers Organization, National Dairy Campaign, National Wife Organization, the Progressive Agriculture Organization, Pennsylvania State Grange, New York State Grange, New York State Milk Producers Association, and in Pennsylvania the Scenic Mountain, North Penn, and Northern Tier Milk Cooperatives.

Arden Tewksbury, Manager of Pro Ag stated, "all of these organizations helped to mold the effort, and the majority of the organizations are strong supporters of a new dairy pricing formula based on the national average cost of

producing milk coupled with a supply management program, such as two-tier to maintain an adequate — stable supply of milk.

Many of the above named organizations were responsible for bringing many of the dairy farmers that attended the National Dairy Summit this past June in York, Pennsylvania.

The joint efforts were mainly prompted by the recent announcement from officials of the U.S.D.A. that the National Average Cost of Producing Milk was \$14.11 in 1991, which left the residual return for management and risk at a minus -38 cents per cwt. The residual return in 1981 was a plus \$2.30 per cwt. John Hathaway, from the Empire Farm Alliance, complimented the leaders of all the organizations for their efforts on the joint letter.

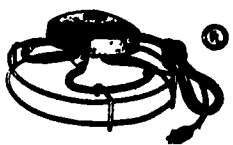
Arden Tewksbury  
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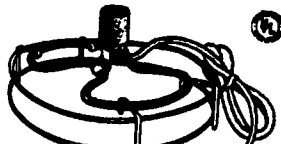
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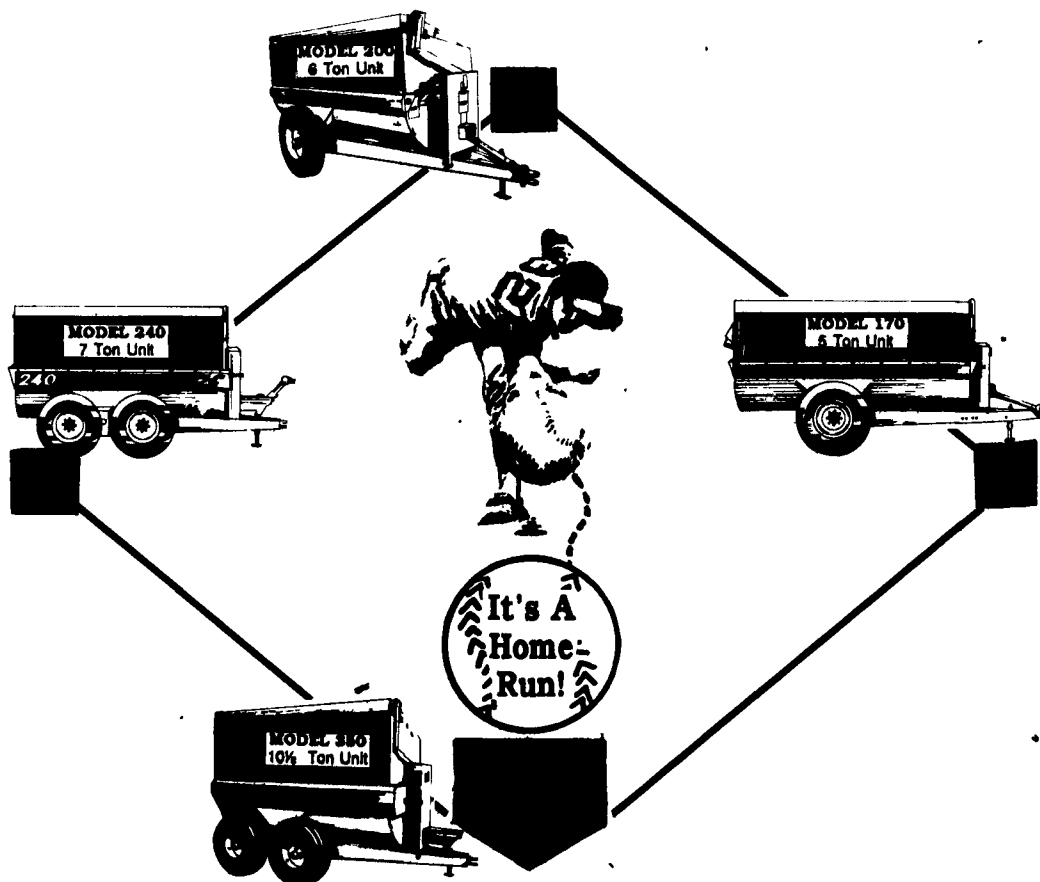
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