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Authority. The Budget Authority is actual money appropriated by congress.

In this editorial I'm staying with the Budget Authority because it's new money.

The total U.S.D.A. Budget Authority for 1994 is \$67.5 billion. This is a lot of money to spend on farmers, so let's look at it. Food and Consumer Services

— \$43.3 billion, some of these highlights are: WIC Program - \$3.2 billion; Food Stamps - \$25.1 billion; Nutrition Assistance for Puerto Rico - \$1.0 billion; Child Nutrition Programs (School lunches etc.) - \$7.9 billion.

Several other Programs make up the difference in funds. Remember the total figure in the budget for Food and Consumer Services is \$43.3 billion.

Now let's look at the Commodity Credit Corporation (C.C.C.), Congress has appropriated \$11.7 billion. Isn't it amazing how farmers get branded as the culprits for using U.S.D.A.'s money. Consumer Services takes over 60% of the budget — C.C.C. 16%.

Commodity Credit Corporation Before we analyze the funds used by the C.C.C., I want everyone to understand that Pro Ag supports a well-balanced agriculture policy. We certainly don't want to pit one commodity producer against another. However, it does appear the finger gets pointed too often at dairy farmers, so let's look at the 1994 budget figures, (these are net outlays).

Feed Grains - \$3.5 billion; Wheat - \$1.8 billion; Rice - \$.7 billion; Upland Cotton - \$2.3 billion; Dairy - \$230 million.

Other commodities use the remaining funds.

Isn't it strange that dairy is on the bottom of the pile, but yet dairy farmers are supposed to be the culprits. Also remember there are no direct payments made to dairy farmers as is the case with other commodity producers.

Also how many people realize that the U.S.D.A. has a 30 billion dollar line of credit with the United States Treasury. (So you see agriculture is important.)

Production of Commodities 1992 Figures Actual Cost
Corn, 9.4 billion bushel - \$2.1 billion; Wheat, 2.5 billion bushel - \$1.7 billion; Cotton, 16.2 million

bales - \$1.4 billion; Rice, 300 million bushels (approx.) - \$715 million; Dairy, 151 billion lbs. - \$232 million.

These are interesting figures. In addition, when you consider the value of milk at the farm, the selling of cull cows, heifers, calves etc., then dairy contributes more to the national gross products value than any other commodity.

Dairy farmers are more than carrying their share of the load. It's time to remove some of the load by adopting a new pricing formula based on the cost of producing milk. Please keep the above figures available so when your farm leaders or congressmen tells you how costly you are, then you can separate facts from fiction.

Arden Tewksbury Meshoppen

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Regional Vegetable Meeting Set

POTTSVILLE (Schuylkill Co.) — The regional Schuylkill County Vegetable meeting will be held on Thursday, February 9, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Pine View Acres, Chamberlain Avenue, Pottsville.

Speakers for the meeting will be Dr. Shelby Fleischer, Penn State extension entomologist; Dr. Peter Ferretti, Penn State extension vegetable specialist; Dr. Michael Orzolek, Penn State extension vegetable specialist; and Dr. Alan MacNab, Penn State extension vegetable pathologist; Steven Detwiler, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture; and George P. Perry, Jr., Penn State extension horticulture agent.

Topics discussed will include new alternatives to lost insecticides, liming and nutrient balance, integrated crop management systems with alternative vegetable crops, identification and integrated management for vegetable diseases, update on pesticide record keeping and rules and regulations, worker protection standard for agricultural pesticides, and updates on the new vegetable production guide.

All vegetable growers are invited to attend this meeting, sponsored by the Schuylkill County extension. Pesticide update credits will be issued at this meeting. For additional information, contact George P. Perry, Jr., extension agent/horticulture, Schuylkill County Extension Office, PO Box 250, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972-0250, (717) 385-3431.

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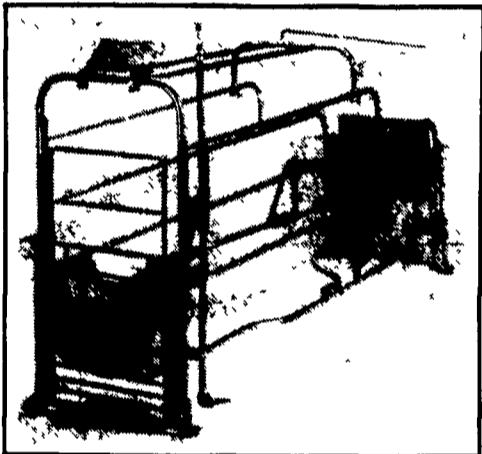
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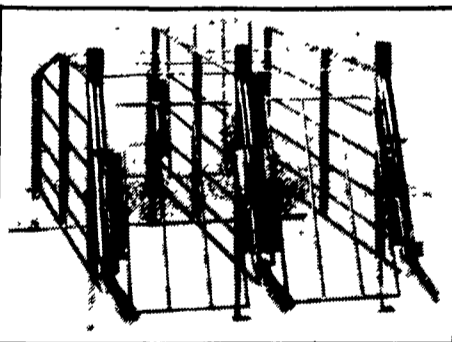
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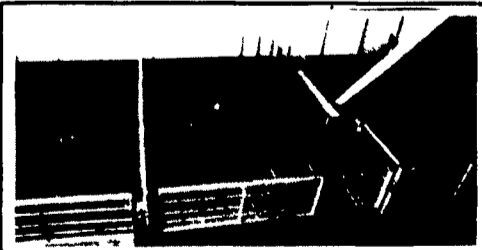
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