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The fault for these prices cannot and should not be placed on the sales barns, because these outlets are vital to our agriculture producers.

In our opinion the fault lies in a marketing system that encourages low prices to agriculture producers, while at the same time socking the consumers on the other end.

Ask some cash farmers in Bradford County how things are in that business. Top quality hay is in short supply, but adequate prices can not be paid for the hay, because of the short fall in cash flow being experienced by most animal growers.

Because of an over abundance of production by farmers who grow corn to sell onto the open market, they are experiencing a difficult time to obtain a price that covers their cost of production.

Then, there are the prices that are being received by the dairy farmers. December's blend price in 1994 of \$12.83 cwt. was 61¢ lower than 1980's \$13.44.

Most of the above agriculture products are being produced and sold at a price substantially below the average cost of production. Producers are being urged to produce more products at a time when the same producers are being told their prices are low because of over production.

The time has come when all farmers must sift through the above double talk. The time has come for farmers to realize there are ample prices available in the market

place to cover the farmers cost of production, plus a reasonable return on the farmers investment.

The people who preach the physiology that farmers must accept current prices are not the ones receiving the ridiculous farm prices.

Many farmers feel the present marketing system is so embedded against the farmer and so controlled by the money people, consequently they feel that there is no chance of making any changes. Changes will be hard to come by; if changes were simple then they would have been made years ago.

In the early 1980's the money people made a decision that the way to increase the consumer purchasing power (many times for unneeded items) was to deplete agriculture prices at the farm level.

Consequently, a box of corn flakes contains only 12¢ worth of grain, a loaf of bread selling for \$1.50 may have 7¢ of grain and many dairy products being sold at high prices the return to the dairy farmer is only one third of the selling price.

The Madison Avenue firms are reaping a substantial amount of moneys from agriculture products as a merchandise and promote one product against another with no consideration for the agriculture producers.

1995 Farm Bill

Regardless of how anyone feels, there will be a 1995 Farm Bill developed this year. Already hearings are being held and input gathered for the bill. However, the majority of input does not reflect

prices paid to farmers.

It now is time for farmers to stand up and demand a fair share of the funds available in the market place. It's time for farmers to stand up and say it's time for a farm bill to be a Farm Bill. It's time for the farm bill to have pricing formulas for farmers that reflect the cost of production.

Many national organizations are working on a dairy bill for 1995 that would price milk on the cost of production, plus allow producers to produce for the real market, plus allow producers to produce for the export market, plus the bill would cover the needs of the special nutritional programs, plus the bill allows for a formula to cover conservation and environmental programs. All this can be obtained and cost the USDA far less money than existing programs and give the dairy farmers a fair price.

Pro Ag is working with the National Family Farm Coalition on this bill. Other farmers will be working through organizations like NFU, NFO, the WIFE Organization, some State Granges and others for the same purpose. Farmers need to support the efforts of these organizations in order to have a realistic 1995 Farm Bill.

A continuation of where we are today is only a suicidal path for the majority of farmers.

Arden Tewksbury
Meshoppen

I would like to take this opportunity to write about the E.P.A. (Environmental Protection Agency) review of the Triazine herbicides. (Bladex, Princep, and Atrazine)

Most of the corn growers in our area as well as across the country use some form of Triazine herbicide in their weed control program. We use it because it is fairly inexpensive, it works well in all types of tillage practices, it tank mixes well with a number of other herbicides, and it is relatively safe

to handle.

Should the E.P.A. ban Triazines we would also lose more than twenty pre-tank mixes such as Bicep and Laddok.

If you are concerned about an E.P.A. ban on the Triazines please write to the E.P.A. and let them know why it would be a hardship to you in your farming operation. The address to write to is:

Public Response and Program
Resources Branch
(OPP-30000-60)

Field Operations Division
(7506C)

Office of Pesticide Programs
Environmental Protection
Agency,
401 M St. SW

Washington, D.C. 20406

Remember, if you don't write and these products are banned, you have nothing to complain about.

One other thing I would like to mention is the 1994 record corn crop. According to the latest U.S.D.A. crop report the American corn growers produced a 10.1

billion bushel corn crop with an average yield of 138 bushel per acre. This is a remarkable feat when you consider that it has only been 40 odd yrs. since the national average yield was only 38 bushels per acre.

Unfortunately, record crops come with lower prices. That's the bad news. However, there is some good news in the U.S.D.A. report. This is the corn usage figures.

Exports are projected to be 1.95 billion bushels, feed use is projected at 5.65 billion, and crush at 1.7 billion for a total of 9.3 billion bushels. This equals the size of the second largest crop in U.S. history. With a 7.5 percent set aside in 1995 we will need to produce another 138 bushel per acre crop just to meet demand.

When you look at these figures it is hard not to be a little optimistic. Let's hope 1995 is one of those rare yrs. which bring both good yields and good prices.

Curt Rakestraw
Montoursville

World Dairy Expo Seeks Award Nominees

MADISON, Wis. — Outstanding dairy leaders from both domestic and international arenas are being sought for World Dairy Expo's annual recognition awards.

"We're encouraging people to nominate someone who has demonstrated exceptional leadership in the dairy world," said Tom McKittrick, World Expo general manager.

"Recognizing these individuals during World Dairy Expo certainly adds to the excitement of Expo and demonstrates some of the leadership excellence which is present in the dairy industry."

Nominations are to be accepted through April 1 for four awards. The awards are for industry person of the year, dairy woman of the year, dairyman of the year, and international person of the year.

The industry person of the year award is presented to an individual in recognition for excellence in research, development, education, marketing, manufacturing, or other fields which are part of an industry or institution that provides goods or services to the dairy industry.

The dairyman and dairy woman of the year awards are for those people who are active dairy producers and whose primary source of income comes from their dairy enterprise. The farming operation needs to demonstrate and excel in efficient production and breeding of quality animals. Progressive management practices and a history of achievement will also need to be evident. Involvement in community, government activities, marketing organizations, and other aspects of the dairy industry are also considered.

The international person of the year award is for those whose contribution to improved international relations and/or development of the dairy industry internationally.

Selected awardees are to be honored during the 29th World Dairy Expo, set for Oct. 4-8, in Madison, Wis.

Official applications are available through the World Dairy Expo office at (608) 251-3976.

The expo is the largest commercial dairy agri-businesses trade show and dairy cattle exhibition of its kind. This past year, 66,000 guests attended, including 3,200 visitors from 70 other countries.

Pennsylvania Tobacco Growers Association

Post Office Box 645, Federal Square Station, Harrisburg, PA 17108-0645

Tobacco Grower Meeting

THE 1995 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PENNSYLVANIA TOBACCO GROWERS ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD:

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH, 1995
PARADISE TOBACCO AUCTION BARN
BEGINNING AT 9:00 A.M.**

GROWING TRANSPLANTS USING THE FLOAT SYSTEM

Growing Tobacco Transplants using the float system has become very popular in southern tobacco growing regions.

This year the educational program will be presented by Dr. W. David Smith, extension tobacco specialist at North Carolina State University. Dr. Smith has been active in tobacco research since 1978. He began looking at the greenhouse for transplant production in 1982, and has been working with the float system since 1984. He will be discussing the advantages of the float system and how best to manage the production of transplants. He will also be talking about the control of tobacco diseases and insects during the transplanting process.

- > Coffee and Donuts
- > Annual PTGA Business Meeting
- > Tobacco Industry Representative
- > Legislators and Guest Speakers
- > Free Lunch
- > Pesticide Credit Course (afternoon)

NOTICE: THIS IS CORRECT DATE FOR THE MEETING. DISREGARD DATES IN FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER.

**All Pennsylvania Tobacco Growers Are Invited!
Keeping The History, Pride And Tradition Alive**



"Atlantic Dairy Cooperative's youth programs provided us with a beneficial learning experience. We learned more about co-ops, developed our leadership skills and made new friends."

—George Inhof
and sister, Theresa
Spring City, PA

ADC Is the Place To Be

Member education and youth programs — the outstanding benefits that George and Theresa Inhof refer to — are among the strengths of the premier dairy cooperative in the region.

Atlantic Dairy Cooperative has a 78-year history of excellent service to its members. Financially strong, ADC guarantees a market for all member milk and excels in maximizing returns. ADC is a leader in providing equity payments, quality bonuses and over-order premiums to members.

Nearly 4,000 dairy farmers agree that "ADC is the Place to Be."

For free information on how you can secure the future of your dairy farm operation, write or call:

**Atlantic Dairy Cooperative
1225 Industrial Highway
Southampton, PA 18966
1-800-645-MILK**

