

Single Northeast Marketing Order Sought

CAMP HILL (Cumberland Co.) — The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB) Dairy Committee reiterated its support to create one Federal Milk Marketing Order in the Northeast United States, according to an announcement recently by Harold Curtis, committee chairman.

"A single order would put Northeast dairymen in a better position to secure premium prices based on utilization in the region," the Warren County dairyman said. The proposed single marketing order would replace the three presently operating in the Federal Milk Marketing Order system in the Northeast.

"We realize that the marketplace for dairy products is national, but at the same time we believe that a single marketing order would place our dairymen in a stronger bargaining position," Curtis stated. "The dairy industry needs a long term solution to arrive at an accurate means to set

dairy prices. Consolidating the milk marketing orders and including the unregulated areas are necessary first steps."

The basic formula price for milk dropped from \$15.37 per hundredweight of milk to \$11.34 between September and December 1996. There has been some price improvement but the Farm Bureau dairy committee wants further action by state and federal authorities.

The Farm Bureau committee earlier had petitioned the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board (PMMB) to halt a proposed drop April 30 in an 80-cent premium price. Presently, and 80-cent premium price per hundredweight (11.6 gallons) of milk, set by the PMMB, is paid to producers. The premium price would be reduced by 30 cents, which Farm Bureau opposes. Curtis says that Farm Bureau is presently reviewing the fast-moving developments in the marketplace and is open to all

options, including an increase in the premium presently paid to producers.

Calling for closer oversight of

the National Cheese Exchange, Curtis said that this thinly traded exchange has too much direct influence on all milk prices. "In

Joe Kavanaugh, Bovine Podiatrist

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wise caused him a few days of pain. He once sliced deeply into tissue below the thumb and down toward his wrist. When he stopped by the doctor's office, he was told that it would probably take eight stitches to close. But there was a problem — the doctor had no anesthesia in the office.

"I told her to go ahead anyway," he relates with a laugh. "When she got to six, I told her that was enough. But I was back to work the next day."

With a waiting list of clients in central Maryland and southcentral Pennsylvania, Kavanaugh limits his work mostly to that area, though he does continue to serve three herds in Virginia and some in western Maryland. He has taught his skills to eight trainers over the years.

"Few people want to learn the profession any more," he acknowledges. "It's work. A lot of trimmers have dropped out."

"I'm glad I was around for the 'big times' in the registered cattle business, when good bulls and deep, family pedigrees were important," reflects Kavanaugh.

the long run, this influence could be minimized with a restructuring of the federal milk marketing order system," Curtis said, "if it includes a revision of the basic formula price for milk."

his sideline business of helping some of his clients prove young sires. Kavanaugh is instrumental in moving those young bulls out into a variety of herds in the area, to sire the offspring that will develop proofs on their transmitting ability, and in monitoring those daughters as they move into milking strings.

When occasionally tempted to look back with regrets about his decision to sell his herd, or any other decision of the past, Kavanaugh calls up from memory the counsel of former Garrett County dairymen and good friend Weldell Umble.

"It was always nice to 'sit by his campfire' and seek his advice," he relates. "He said there were two things really important in life. One was that the only thing you leave your children are memories, good or bad. The other is to never look back."

Although he tries to steadfastly not dwell on any disappointments of the past, the irrepressible Kavanaugh has thought ahead to the future with his usual brand of humor: "And I always say that when I'm gone, I want them to put on my gravestone: So many feet, so little time."

Frederick County Plans Walk-About

FREDERICK, Md. — The next Frederick County walk-about is to be held from 10 a.m.-noon, March 12, with Jeff and Judy England serving as host.

The Englands own Eng-Land Acres and milk 145 cows, in addition to raising all forages and grains.

The replacement animals are contracted out to be raised. Jeff renovated the milking parlor last year into a 15-stall herringbone parlor with indexing rail.

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This year's major project has been the renovation of the bank barn into a springer and maternity area, J-bunks, headlocks, gates, and added to help in animal care and handling.

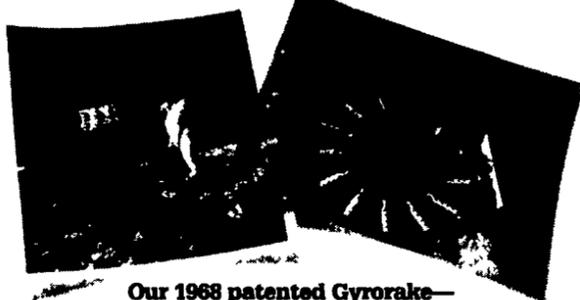
The purpose of a walk-about is to allow dairy producers a chance to learn more about dairy practices that are being implemented on other farms in the area. Most of the time will be spent walking around the facilities and discussing the components of the operation and how they contribute to the success of the dairy business.

The informal atmosphere of these sessions allows for producers to pick up management tips, equipment and facility ideas, and provide a way for farmers to share success stories with other farmers in the community.

The Eng-Land Acres is located at 5620 Detrick Road, near New Market, Maryland. From the I70 exit for New Market, take Rt. 75 north to the first light at Rt. 144. Travel east on Rt. 144 less than a mile to Detrick Road. Turn left onto Detrick Road and travel a half-mile to the farm, located along the left. Signs will be posted.

For more information call Stanley Fultz, dairy science extension agent, at (301) 694-1594, ext. 3578.

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