

The Dairy Compact:

(Continued from Page A44)

cooperative Dairy Farmers of America, expanding the Compact to include Pennsylvania and New York was considered a moot issue by many.

Industry Positions

In news releases the DFA has called for opening the Compact.

Gary Hanman, DFA president and CEO states in a DFA news release, "Efforts are underway in almost every state where DFA has members to develop some type of pricing system, which is independent of the pricing system contained in Federal Milk Marketing Orders."

Land O'Lakes, until the DFA merger, was the second largest dairy cooperative. It's position is that it supports expansion of the

Compact, but not just for one or two additional states. Land O'Lakes is petitioning for the Compact to be opened nationally, and if that can be done through opening up the existing Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact, then it will seek to do so, according to spokesperson Laura England.

Other organizations have stated support for opening the Compact, though not with the aggressiveness of DFA.

More locally, a small contingent of dairy farmers from northeast Pennsylvania, the same ones who had threatened to dump milk to protest federal pricing methods, has been issuing statements to the media calling for action to join the Compact.

A rally in the state Capitol Rotunda, on behalf of dairy farmer

seeking to join the Compact, was recently called for by Pro-Ag, run by Arden Tewksbury of Meshoppen.

There has been no groundswell of support for opening the Compact by either the state Grange nor the state Pennsylvania Farm Bureau.

At the state level and in the industry, some have expressed concern that it doesn't make sense to spend several months effort to gain at best a couple to several months of participation in the Compact, given the current issues that need attention and concern, and given that no one has been able to project the impact of adding the milk production of New York and Pennsylvania.

New York and Pennsylvania together produce five times as much milk as the combined production of the six states included in the Compact.

Maryland Farm Bureau wants its state to be included, as do some of its dairy producers. Maryland has been suffering from higher overhead costs than many dairy producers, as well as suffering from depressed milk prices because of out-of-state milk being dumped in Maryland at below-cost prices.

The Maryland government has so far ignored the recommendations of its Dairy Task Force, which were directed at eliminating that discrepancy and forcing

Maryland producers and processors out of business.

No one has been able to project the effect of opening the Compact, and initial guesses are that milk prices would drop.

But, another issue affecting efforts to open the Compact is that it competes for attention with the proposed restructuring of the federal milk marketing order system. Educational efforts are almost nonexistent for that and the 60-day public comment period is ticking away.

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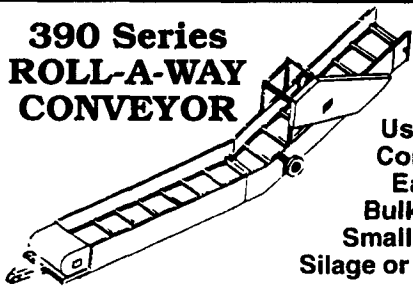


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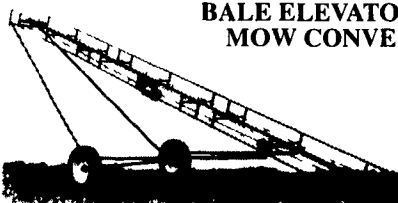
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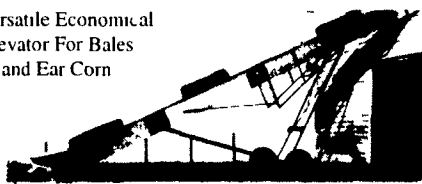
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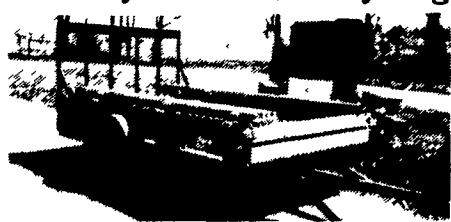
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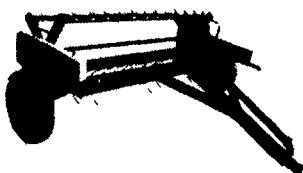


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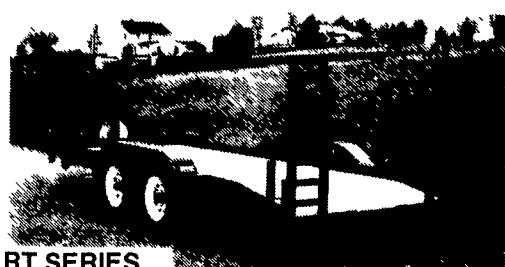
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