

Dairymen Urged To Attend Northeast Dairy Compact Hearing

CAMP HILL (Dauphin Co.) — Pennsylvania Farm Bureau is calling for a strong show of support from dairy farmers for legislation to enable Pennsylvania to join the Northeast Interstate Dairy Com-

compact. PFB is urging dairymen to attend a hearing taking place in Williamsport on Friday, April 3 on S.B. 170. The state Senate Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee will conduct the hear-

ing from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Penn College of Technology.

"Farm Bureau strongly supports the Northeast Compact legislation and will testify on its behalf," said PFB president Guy

Donaldson. "Other organizations will also be weighing in on the issue. But legislators need to see how important the Compact is by having dairy farmers from every corner of the state in attendance at the hearing. A big show of support from dairymen can back up our words to the committee."

The Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact has been in operation in six New England states — Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont — since last July. A 26-member Northeast Dairy Compact Commission, which includes producers, consumers, processors, supermarket representatives and government officials, sets a price for Class I milk produced and sold in the Compact states.

The price, which stays in effect for six months, was set at \$16.94 per cwt. "Not only does the Northeast Compact guarantee price stability to producers," said Donaldson, "But at its current level, the average Pennsylvania dairyman would be receiving an additional 70 cents to 80 cents per hundred-weight on milk sold for drinking. And, in today's marketing conditions, the Compact would not result in higher milk prices for consumers." In addition to a more stable price, the Compact would price all milk sold in the compact region. The Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board would still be responsible for enforcing minimum wholesale, retail and farm milk prices.

The Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact can be expanded to cover contiguous states. That means, in order for Pennsylvania to be able to join, New York must first become part of the Compact.

"Legislation has already passed that state's Senate and is supported by the governor," Donaldson said.

Upon passage of S.B. 170 in Pennsylvania, Congress must approve Pennsylvania's inclusion in the Compact. "We've already talked to our congressmen about Pennsylvania joining the Compact during a recent visit to Washington by about 200 of our state farm bureau leaders," said Donaldson. "But our immediate priority is to get a bill passed by the General Assembly."

"We must act quickly and we need farmers to show their support by attending the hearing in Williamsport. If dairymen are serious about wanting the Northeast Dairy Compact, the upcoming Hearing on S.B. 170 in Williamsport is the place to show it."

The hearing will be held at the Professional Development Center of the Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport. Directions to the site are:

From Route 15 — follow to Williamsport and take the Maynard Street exit.

From Interstate 80 East — exit on Interstate 180/Rt. 220 at Exit 31B, or take Exit 26 on Rt. 220, if traveling from the west. Follow to Williamsport and the Maynard Street exit.

All traffic — from Maynard Street Exit, should travel north on Maynard Street. At the second traffic light, turn left onto West Third Street, and travel almost two blocks, just past Park Street. The campus buildings appear on both sides of West Third Street. The Professional Development Center is located on the left, between Park Street and College Avenue.

Progress In Progressive Dairymen's Co-op

J.W. Welch, president of Progressive Dairymen's Cooperative, enthusiastically reported to the members on the progress of the cooperative. The occasion was the co-op's annual meeting on Saturday, February 21, at the Edgewood Restaurant in Troy. The well attended meeting of the co-op's members and families was upbeat. Welch, in his report to the membership, cited the continual growth in membership, increased milk volume shipped, and increased premium payments.

Welch emphasized that Progressive Dairymen's Co-op is the co-op of family farms. Producer size is secondary to producer quality and all farmers should have the privilege of being dairy farmers without respect to their cow numbers. "We want to serve the family farm," he stated.

Welch's enthusiasm was infectious as he reported to the filled room.

James Patsos, CEO of United Ag Services, was asked to address the members. He started by presenting quality awards to the top quality producers for 1997, commenting on how close the placing was. Each recipient received a certificate and a check. First place went to Paul Allen of Granville Summit, second to John and Bonnie Kendrick, Mainesburg. A four-way tie for third was held by Roger Alexander, Mansfield; Ro-Sa Acres (The Ron David Family), Warren Center; Steven and Theresa Coleman, Towanda; and

Fred Toothaker and Carol Myfelt, Ulster.

Patsos, in his discussion, stated that there has not been a time when there was so much excitement or so many challenges in the dairy industry. Co-op mergers, new co-ops being formed to supply niche markets, dairy plants changing hands, federal order reforms, and Class I differentials are just a few of these challenges. He also explained the value of the Northeast Dairy Compact and how important it is for the New York State Legislature to approve joining the Compact. Since Compact legislation requires the states to be contiguous, New York must join before Pennsylvania is able to join.

Patsos then spoke of the value J.W. Welch has been to Progressive and to United Ag Services, serving as their president also. His knowledge, concern for his fellow dairy farmers, and leadership qualities have been invaluable.

Patsos also commented on Progressive's growth this year and suggested that the members discuss with their neighbors the advantages of belonging to their co-op. Members can receive an incentive bonus for signing up new members or making referrals that result in new members.

Bonnie Keil, Commercial Loan Officer of Northeastern Farm Credit was the guest speaker. She spoke about the growth in various segments of the dairy industry. She feels confident that conditions are improving and that there is a

good future in dairy farming.

Jeffrey Ammerman of Athens was elected to the Board of Directors. Don Hamilton of Millerton, Doug Stewart from Rome, Steve Coleman of Towanda, and Bruce Berguson from Mansfield, were re-elected directors.

In closing, J.W. Welch thanked the members and the Board of Directors for their support the past three years. He has enjoyed his work with his fellow dairy farmers and hopes to be able to continue to work on their behalf. Welch is unable to continue as president of Progressive Dairymen's Cooperative since he recently sold his dairy.

At the Board of Directors meeting immediately following the annual meeting Douglas Stewart was elected president, Don Hamilton, vice president, and J.W. Welch, secretary/treasurer.

United Ag Services is a federation of cooperatives that provides marketing, quality control, accounting, producer payroll and employee payroll services to small and medium size agricultural organizations and individual farmers. United is located at 12 North Park Street, Seneca Falls, NY 13148. They can be reached at 1 (800) 326-4251 or (315) 568-2750.

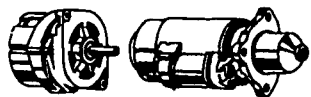
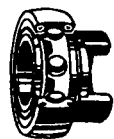
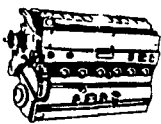
BUY SELL TRADE OR RENT THROUGH THE
CLASSIFIED ADS

PHONE 717-626-1164 or 717-394-3047
FAX 717-733-6058

Mon Tues Wed Fri 8 AM to 5 PM Thurs 7 AM to 5 PM

Quality Assured Case IH Parts BEST PARTS.... BEST DEAL.... BEST VALUE

When You Need Parts,
Call SALEM For FAST
Courteous Service. Express
Service To Your Farm....
Please Call Today.



"Thanks for
your business!"



SALEM
FARM SUPPLY

Route 22; Salem, NY
1-800-999-FARM (3276)
FAX: 518-854-3057

CASE CREDIT CARD - FARM PLAN - VISA - MASTERCARD - DISCOVER

CASE III

Ideal Leaf Tobacco Company

If you plan to process your tobacco, call
Ideal Leaf Tobacco Company.

**THERE WILL BE NO COST TO THE
FARMER UP FRONT.**

If your tobacco was stripped in high moisture, you will not be able to keep it from going through a sweat. This will destroy the quality of your tobacco.

All tobacco that is sold in Maryland will be marked Out-Of-State-Tobacco.

I don't know what it will sell for if it will be sold at any price. All tobacco for processing will be loaded in two weeks and shipped to a processing company.

Contact Joe Irving for processing.

717-529-6416

or Mitch White

717-687-0990