



OPINION

Dairy Price Floor Petition Denied

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has denied a petition to establish a price floor for milk regulated by federal milk marketing orders.

In making the announcement, Dan Glickman, agriculture secretary, admitted that dairy farmers "continue to undergo significant stress," but he said the hearing in February at the request of what is now Dairy Farmers of America did not meet the requirements of the law or have evidence convincing enough to approve it.

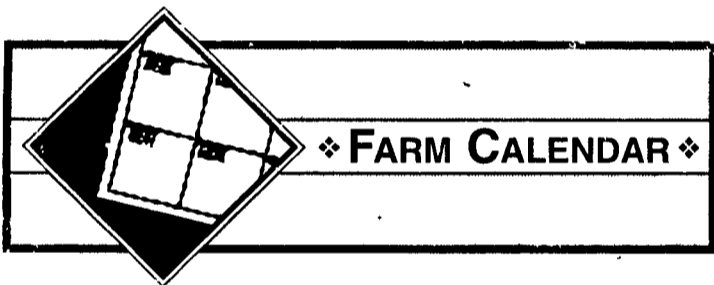
Glickman cited these reasons:

- Dairy farmers most in distress might not benefit.
- The effects of the floor price would not be distributed evenly.
- Consumers are not in danger of having an inadequate supply of milk.
- Milk cost to consumers would increase, especially to low-income consumers.
- With the better prices, milk production may increase and dairy prices get lower again.

This is the same old story of why we can not pay dairy farmers more for their milk. Consumers ARE in danger of not having an adequate milk supply if we continue to put dairy farmers out of business. On second thought, we probably can import milk and put our food supply in the hands of foreign countries just like we depend on foreign sources of oil to run our industry.

Increased production comes as much from dairy farmers who need to add more cows to pay the bills as from profitable milk prices.

As for higher consumer milk prices, those with money buy what they want, including \$20,000 cars produced with high union wages and car company profits. And the low income consumers get food stamps. Let them buy milk instead of the luxury items they cart out of the supermarket. We have had a cheap food policy long enough.



❖ FARM CALENDAR ❖

Saturday, June 20

- Eastern State Master Gardener Conference, Penn State Berks Campus.
- Lancaster Farmland Trust Pedal To Preserve Bike Marathon, starts at Donegal High School, Mount Joy, 9 a.m., ends at the high school.
- Sullivan County Dairy Princess Pageant, Main Street, Dushore, 7:15 p.m.
- York County Dairy Princess Pageant, York County 4-H Center, Bair Station.
- Md. 4-H/FFA Spring Show, Garrett County Ag Fairgrounds, McHenry.
- Berks Shire Hunt Paper Chase, Stonehaven Farm, Limekiln, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
- East Earl Community Farm Festival, Conestoga School Yard (behind East Earl Goodwill Store), 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Armstrong County Dairy Princess Pageant, Bonello's Steakhouse, West Kittanning, 7 p.m.
- Clearfield County Dairy Princess Pageant, Clearfield Agway, Clearfield.
- Berks County Wool Pool, Leesport Farmers Market, 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 21

Father's Day
Summer Begins

Monday, June 22

- 6th Annual Pa. Friends of Ag Golf Tournament, Country Club of Hershey.

- 4-H Ambassador Conference, Penn State University, thru June 24.
- Southern Alleghenies 4-H Camp, Camp Kanestatake, Spruce Creek, thru June 25.
- Schnecksville Community Fair, Schnecksville, thru June 27.

Tuesday, June 23

- Fresh From the Farm Ag Science Camp, York County 4-H Center, thru June 25.
- Dairy-MAP On Tour, Jo-Bri-Den Farm, Newburg, 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Wednesday, June 24

- Using Milk Futures Session II, Kent County Extension Office, Chestertown, 10:30 a.m.-noon.
- Fruit Twilight Meeting, Graybill's Fruit Farm, Richfield, 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
- Ohio Fruit Growers Association Summer Tour, OARDC, Wooster.
- Dairy-MAP On Tour, Shinko Farm, Union City, 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 25

- 1998 Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, thru June 28.
- Living Mulch Tour, Schuylkill County Meet at Mahantongo Fire Company, Pitman, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- Open Jacket Wether/Ewe Lamb Show, Mercer County 4-H Park, 8 p.m.
- Shepherd's Night, Mercer County 4-H Park and Extension Center, 5:30 p.m.



Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County
Agricultural Agent

To See Satellites At Ag Progress Days

This year's event will show how computers and satellites are being used.

Exhibits and demonstrations featuring global positioning systems (GPS), geographic information systems (GIS) and related technologies will be among the new activities. Visitors will be able to see firsthand how farmers, environmental professionals and local government agencies are using these systems for a variety of purposes.

Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences Ag Progress Days will be held August 18 to 20th at Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center at Rock Springs (near State College). Penn State's Ag Progress Days features more than 500 acres of educational and commercial exhibits, tours and machinery demonstrations. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday. Wednesday the hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

To Look At Consumer Attitudes: 1

Animal Rights International

American Farmland Trust Tour of Cove Mountain Farm, Mercersburg, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Friday, June 26

Farm Safety Day Camp, Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Brookville.

Lititz Historical Foundation Annual Antique Show and Sale, John Bonfield Elementary, Lititz, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. and June 27, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Butler Fair, Prospect, thru July 4. Beekeeping Short Course at Delaware Valley College, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., thru June 28.

Saturday, June 27

Western State Master Gardener Conference, Penn State Beaver Campus.

Pa. German Festivan, Kutztown Fairgrounds, thru July 5.

Crawford County Dairy Princess Pageant, Christ Evangelical Free Church, Saegertown.

National Holstein Convention, Louisville, Ky., thru June 30. 18th Annual Hickory Ridge Antique Farm Show, Horace Potter Residence, Milford, Del., thru June 28.

Marburger Farm Dairy Open House, Marburger Farm, Evans City, noon-6 p.m., also June 28.

Sequoia Riders 4-H Horse and Pony Club Spring Open House, Columbia Riding Club, 9 a.m.

Sunday, June 28

Ephrata Area Young Farmers Summer Picnic, Ephrata Park, 12:30 p.m.-3 p.m.

Monday, June 29

Holstein Association 113th Annual Convention Meeting, Louis-

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just released the results of its latest two question consumer poll. Regardless of your views on this organization, the results do reflect trends and emerging issues farmers need to address through their organizations

Question 1. "The United States government says that meat, poultry and egg products cause 5 million illnesses and 4,500 deaths a year. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? The meat, poultry and egg industries should be held liable for illnesses and death caused by their products" 32% strongly agree, 31% somewhat agree, 21% somewhat disagree, 16% strongly disagree and 1% do not know.

To Look At Consumer Attitudes: 2

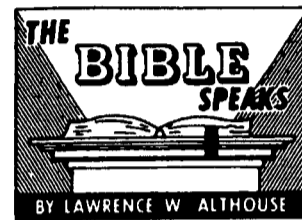
Another statement from the Animal Rights International consumer poll was: "Meat, poultry and eggs should be labeled 'poten-

tially hazardous' similar to the labels on tobacco products." 19% strongly agree, 24% somewhat agree, 22% somewhat disagree, 33% strongly disagree and 1% do not know

On the statement, "Most people would be healthier if they ate less meat." 32% strongly agree, 30% somewhat agree, 20% somewhat disagree, 17% strongly disagree and 1% do not know

Question 2 was "If delicious vegetarian meals were as widely available as burgers and other fast foods, how likely would you be to eat more vegetarian meals?" 35% very likely, 39% somewhat likely, 24% not at all likely, 1% no effect because I do not eat burgers/fast food and 2% no effect because I am a vegetarian. These results show the importance of educating people about our food production system and nutrition.

Feather Prof's Footnote
"Possibilities - the only things that are truly limitless."



WITH FRIENDS
LIKE THESE
June 21, 1998

Background Scripture:

Job 2:11; 4:1-7; 11:1-6;
13:1-4; 23:1-7

Devotional Reading:

Job 7:1-11

Last year, while visiting abroad, we were treated very unjustly by someone who jumped to the unwarranted conclusion that we had done something wrong. Although eventually the situation was resolved in our favor, we were still very upset by the ordeal we had to endure.

A longtime friend who lived nearby, heard of our problem and came to see us. We were shocked to find that, instead of giving us consolation, she wanted to know what we had done to get ourselves in that situation. We couldn't help but think of that old saying, "With friends like these, who needs enemies?"

In retrospect, I'm sure our friend had not meant to offend us, but she was quite inept in expressing her support. She had added hurt upon the hurt we had already experienced. The experience has caused me to wonder whether I have ever been that inept with someone who needed my support.

BEST INTENTIONS

This was certainly Job's experience. Hearing of Job's almost unbelievable bad fortune, he is visited by three friends: Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. It is believed that they came some distance presumably from northwest Arabia, to visit Job. Apparently they came with the best of intentions and it is only after they listened in silence to Job's lament that they speak to him in turn.

Eliphaz is presumed to be the oldest and most learned, so he speaks first. Although his speech is courteous, Eliphaz implies that Job should accept his plight in humility and not question the Lord. "Think now, who that was innocent ever perished. Or where were the upright cut? As I have seen, those who plow iniquity and sow trouble reap the same" (4:7,8). He suggests that Job has perhaps in some way brought this disaster upon himself.

Job replies to Eliphaz, refusing to change his stance.

Then, Bildad the Shuhite jumps in with both feet: "How long will you say these things, and the words of your mouth be a great wind?" (8:2). So much for courtesy and diplomacy! He goes on to accuse Job of affirming that God perverts justice. Then, he suggests that it is because of the sins of Job's children that he is suffering. If Job will just "seek God and make supplication to the Almighty, if you are pure and upright, surely then he will rouse himself for you and reward you with a rightful habitation" (8:5,6). Easy for him to say!

JUST DESSERTS

Job responds to Bildad and then Zophar the Naamathite speaks. His approach is a theological argument. Job's suffering is the just desserts of his guilt. Job also answers Zophar and then each of his friends speaks twice more, with Job responding each time. As the discourse goes on, his friends seem to become less polite and more militant. Their accusations grow stronger and more pointed. The meaning of their separate approaches is clear: if you had not done something wrong, Job, you would not be in this mess!

But Job refuses to back down. He still believes that he is right. "Oh, that I knew where I might find him, that I might come even to his seat" (23:3). If God would appear before him, Job believes he would present his case to the Lord as an innocent man. "There an upright man could reason with him, and I should be acquitted forever by my judge" (23:7).

There are a lot of things we experience in life that offend our sense of reason and fairness. Like Job, we find it hard to fathom. Yet, even in the midst of his frustration, Job refuses to go away mad. Outraged by his experience, disappointed in God's absence, still Job will not give up his relationship with his one true friend. He will plead with him, complain to him, and argue with him, but he will not forsake him. Neither will his friend.

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