

# Farm Bureau Opposes Increased Butter Imports

CAMP HILL (Cumberland Co.) — Pennsylvania Farm Bureau is urging members of the United States Congress to oppose efforts to increase imports of butter which would result in lower milk prices for dairymen.

Farm Bureau's request comes on the heels of a recent resolution by its board of directors to oppose imports of butterfat from countries which pay subsidies to their producers.

Butter prices have increased nearly 50 cents per pound over the past two months to over \$1.98 per pound. This has resulted in higher butterfat differentials and a higher Basic Formula Price for dairymen.

The International Dairy Foods Association, a Washington, D.C.-based association of processors, manufacturers, marketers, distributors and suppliers of dairy foods, has asked USDA Secretary Dan Glickman to increase from 13

million pounds to 40 million pounds the amount of butter set to enter the United States this year under reduced tariffs.

"American dairy farmers have been told repeatedly in recent months that they need to learn to adapt to the market," said PA Farm Bureau President Guy Donaldson in a letter sent to Pennsylvania's congressmen.

"When one element of the market begins to work in their favor

we shouldn't be rushing to change the market. The real result of government intervention would be to drive the price of butter down and decrease the profits and viability of American dairy farmers."

Farm Bureau is urging congressmen to sign a letter being circulated in the House by Rep. Roy Blunt (R-Missouri) requesting USDA not to increase the quantity of butter eligible for in-quota tariff rates. "The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau supports this effort and urges you to cosign the Blunt letter," Donaldson said.

The letter to Agriculture Secretary Glickman being circulated in

Congress by Rep. Blunt states, "Prices for dairy products will continue to fluctuate in accordance with the law of supply and demand. The government should not alter policy in response to these price adjustments. We believe that the best policy for consumers and dairy farmers would be to maintain the status quo."

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau is a voluntary, statewide farm organization which represents over 26,000 farm and rural families. It is part of the nation's largest general farm organization, the 4.8 million member American Farm Bureau Federation.

## Farm Bureaus, Penn State To Provide Material

UNIVERSITY PARK, (Centre Co.) — County offices of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences are collaborating on a campaign to encourage farmers to install improved reflective material on agricultural equipment that operated on public roadways.

The Women's Committees of county bureau offices are starting a new program during July called Fewer Accidents with Reflective Material, or FARM. The program provides highly

visible retroreflective marking materials and high performance fluorescent markings for tractors and implements.

The improved materials meet the newly revised safety standard of American Society of Agricultural Engineers.

Under the previous ASAE standard, fluorescent material had to have no discoloration or cracking after a year of exposure to the south Florida sun. The new standard has increased that standard to two years.

"Fluorescent material aids

daytime visibility," said Dennis Murphy, professor of agricultural engineering. "But fluorescent materials don't last forever. Fluorescent dyes decompose from light and moisture and the colors will fade over time. The material's ability to reflect light also will lessen as the material decomposes.

"Retroreflective material reflects the headlights of oncoming vehicles at night," Murphy said. "Retroreflective material holds up much longer than fluorescent markings. However, the new retroreflective markings are nearly 10 times brighter for nighttime visibility than markings currently in use. The new materials can be seen from a mile away, compared to a few hundred feet for earlier signs.

The program offers three different types of kits at reduced cost: a regular kit at \$11.50, an extremity kit for equipment with extended booms or other wide attachments at \$8.65, and a buggy kit at \$17.35. The program also offers three types of leg wraps for the horses starting at \$13.25. Contact your county farm bureau or county office of Penn State Cooperative Extension for ordering information.

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