## NFO Halts Cull Cow Movement

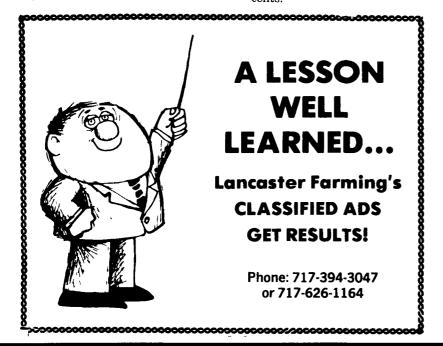
AMES, Iowa — National Farmers Organization Livestock, one of the nation's largest cull cow marketers, announced it will encourage its producers to halt their cull cow marketings, effective Tuesday, Oct. 6.

National Farmers Organization released the news, focusing attention on disastrously low cull cow prices Cull cows are used to make hamburger and steaks for the fast food industry.

"The message we're hearing from beef and dairy producers is that they simply can't continue selling at current prices," said National Farmers Organization President Gene Paul. "These are completely unprofitable and unjust prices. Our members are simply going to shut the farm gate and we're hoping other producers will follow suit. These plummeting prices can be compared to a non-agricultural employee accepting a 20 percent salary cut in one month.

During recent weeks, prices have fallen into the high 20 center per pound range, and producers are suffering a significant decline in income. The marketing halt promotes an "extended time-window sales approach" that is farmer, packer, and consumer friendly.

Industry analysts note that during the last four decades, farmers' share of the beef dollar has fallen steeply. During that time period, the farmers share declined nearly 35 percent, from 71 cents to 46 cents. In comparison, the retailers' share rose dramatically from 21 cents to 45 cents.



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