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DFA Board Approves Merger Proposal With Michigan Dairy

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The boards of directors of Kansas City-based Dairy farmers of America and Grand Rapids, Michigan-based Independent Cooperative Milk Producers Association (ICMPA) have voted to pursue actions that could lead to a merger of the two organizations. Further action hinges on a vote by ICMPA's 730 dairy farmer members, completion of due-diligence reviews and a final vote of the DFA board of directors, all of which is expected to take place in coming weeks.

"The objective of this action is to increase efficiencies, and enhance profitability, and secure long-term stable markets for the member-producers of ICMPA," said Bob Naerebout, president of ICMPA's board of directors. "After a thorough review and lengthy deliberation, the board agrees that merger with DFA would provide ICMPA's members with the greatest opportunities for growth and stability in

this dramatically changing industry.

Headquartered in Grand Rapids, Michigan, ICMPA is a regional dairy cooperative. With 730 dairy farmer members in the states of Michigan, Indiana and Ohio, ICMPA markets milk to fluid and manufactured product customers within the tri-state area.

DFA Board Chairman Herman Brubaker said the addition of ICMPA members to the DFA organization would be beneficial to both producer groups. "ICMPA has developed an excellent reputation for quality milk production, and DFA is a leading supplier and manufacturer of quality dairy products," he said.

"We think the merger of these two organizations will be very positive for all our dairy producer members."

Nearly one year old (as of January 1, 1999), DFA is the nation's newest dairy marketing cooperative and food company. Owned by 22,000 dairy farmer members in 43 states, DFA markets and processes more than 32 billion pounds of milk annually, and maintains a wide range of manufacturing facilities and joint ventures.

According to Naerebout, in the month ahead, ICMPA's members will participate in information meetings about the merger in preparation for a special member vote. A timeline has not been set.



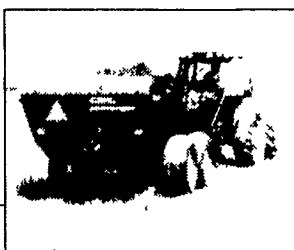
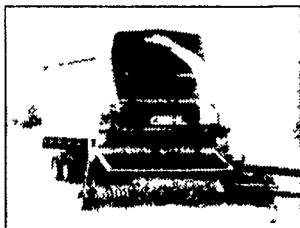
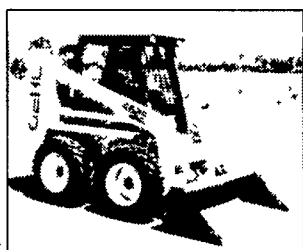
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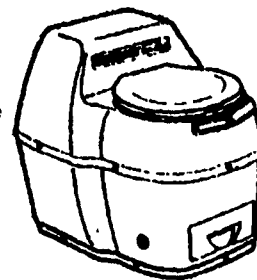
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