

U.S. Sen. Specter Meets Dairymen At Jersey Farm

MIDDLETOWN (Dauphin Co.) - Farmers, farm organization leaders, and politicians, met at the Tom Williams' Bryncoed Jersey farm, Tuesday afternoon to discuss the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact with U.S. Senator Arlen Specter, (R-PA). The discussion centered on Specter's belief that the Compact will stabilize the price of milk to dairy farmers with only a few passing remarks about Specter's roll in the impeachment trial in Washington that concluded last week.

The Dairy Compact is a formal

agreement between three or more states enacted through state and federal legislation which allows for the establishment of a pricing mechanism for fluid milk sold in the region. Since New York State passed Compact legislation last year, Pennsylvania becomes the keystone state that needs to pass such legislation to meet the requirements that states in the Compact be contiguous. Not everyone in the farm community agrees the Compact is the answer to the pricing problems, but there was no dissenting voice at this discussion.

John Bell, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau; Robert Junk, Pennsylvania Farmers Union, Brenda Stanbaugh, Pennsylvania State Grange, and Arden Tewksbury, Progressive Ag Organization, all said they believe the Compact will give price stability and predictability to milk prices to farmers and help to maintain an adequate supply of milk to consumers.

Tom Williams owner of the farm, said with the large number of consumers in the Northeast, the Dairy Compact would be a "win, win" situation for everybody, both farmers and consumers.

Pennsylvania will hold hearings on the subject as early as Tuesday.



Sen. Arlen Specter, center, meets with dairy farmers, Tom, Sam, and Carol Williams at a news conference on their Bryncoed Jersey Farm to discuss the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact.

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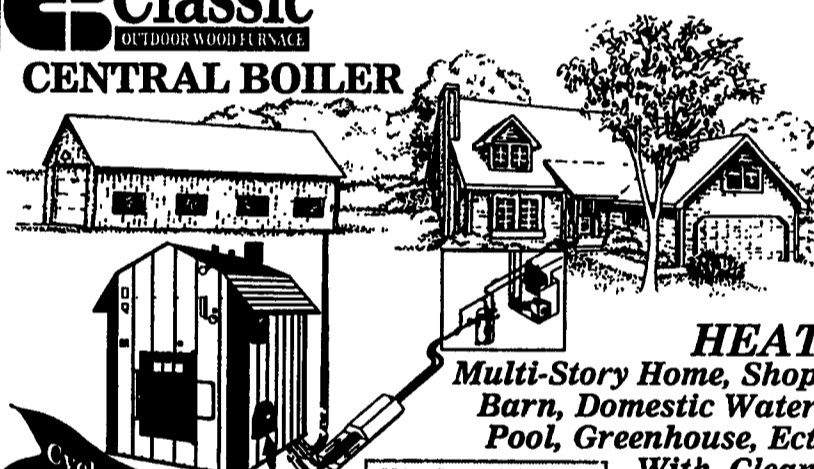
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