

# Senate Approves Dairy Compact Legislation 44-6

(Continued from Page A36)

action being undertaken by the United States in its partnership with other nations in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)'s effort to stop the Serbians in Yugoslavia from killing and expelling unarmed ethnic residents in an effort to "racially cleanse" the southern region of Kosovo.

Additionally, domestic news highlights this week have also upstaged agricultural policy issues, as national attention has been directed toward a mass killing and suicide at a Colorado high school, where a group of outcast teenagers who armed themselves with rifles and bombs injured and killed a number of students and staff, before killing themselves.

However, national and state farm organizations and national cooperatives have been actively

promoting the reauthorization of the Northeast Dairy Compact and the creation of others.

This has been done especially since U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman has announced a final order for the reformation of the federal dairy program, with pricing milk, and with establishing a reduction in marketing areas.

Farmers are to have the opportunity to vote on the final proposal. Cooperative leadership can vote on behalf of its farmer members.

Farm organizations and cooperatives have issued a number of news releases criticizing the final order. There have been no news releases stating support for the proposal, except for comments included in the USDA's summaries of the final order.

In brief, under the final order, if adopted as proposed, dairy farmers in the Middle Atlantic states (traditionally higher priced) can expect

to experience an overall drop in milk price, while other areas of the nation (traditionally lower priced) can expect increases.

Also, according to some in leadership of one cooperative, there have been some unofficial side-discussions about potentially negotiating and establishing some long-term supply and price contracts between dairy producers and milk manufacturers, in order to take better control of supply and demand and thus enable the entire dairy industry to make longer term planning and risk management decisions.

The six opposition votes to Sen. Madigan's Compact legislation were by Sen. Albert Belan (D) of Allegheny and Westmoreland counties; Sen. Leonard Bodack (D) of Allegheny County; Sen. Jay Costa Jr. (D) of Allegheny County; Sen. Stewart Greenleaf (R) of Bucks and Montgomery counties;

Sen. Timothy Murphy (R) of Allegheny and Washington counties; and Sen. Jack Wagner (D) of Allegheny County.

An association of independent milk producers has been created in the western part of the state to fight against the Compact and artificial pricing for producers. At a previous hearing on the Compact, a small cooperative of dairy producers who sell to an independent processor voiced opposition to the Compact.

Sens. Madigan, and William Slocum, who is chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Rural

Affairs Committee, both said that more than anything, the potential for their constituent dairy farmers to benefit from Compact pricing is viewed as a form of farmland preservation.

Rep. Raymond Bunt has said that it is his intent to call a committee meeting to consider the Senate Compact legislation as soon as he receives it.

He said the House Ag Committee members have known about the Senate legislation for some time and it is only right that they have the opportunity to review it.

## Beef Producers Set April 28 Meeting

NOTTINGHAM (Chester Co.) — A Beef Producers Spring Meeting is scheduled Wednesday, April 28, from 7 p.m.-9:30 p.m. here at

the Herr Angus Farm. Sponsored by the Southeast Cattlemen's Association and Chester County Cooperative Extension, the meeting will include an overview of scanning technologies by Dr. John Comerford, Penn State beef specialist. Comerford will explain the use of scanning technology in feedlots and cow/calf operations.

Eric Fleming, president of Millennium Measuring, Libertytown, Md., will demonstrate the actual scanning of feeder and finish cattle. He will answer questions about facility needs, costs, and other considerations.

Following will be a question and answer session.

For reservations, call (610) 696-3500. There is no charge.

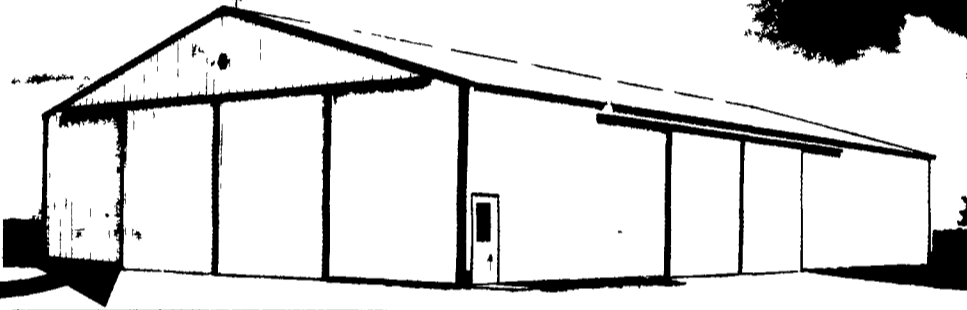
The meeting will be held rain or snow because the chute system and meeting area are under cover.

Light refreshments will be served before the start of the meeting.

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