

Cattle With Superior Solid Protein Genetics Sold At Successful Golden Milk Sale

DRYDEN, N.Y. — More than 300 farmers from across the Northeast recently attended "The Golden Milk Sale" at Empire Livestock Marketing's facility here.

The first-of-its-kind sale, sponsored by Dairylea Cooperative and Empire Livestock, featured nearly 80 animals having high protein, solids, and other desired components in their genetics.

The sale was held to encourage dairy farmers to re-examine the way they have been planning for the future, in light of

the multiple component pricing provisions contained in the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) final rule on Federal Milk Marketing Order reform.

Under the USDA's reform, which has been temporarily halted by a lawsuit, dairy farmers will be paid according to the components that are present in their cow's milk. In anticipation of this change, many farmers are now looking to add new cows-ones that have a history of producing the desired components - to their herds.

"We are very pleased with this sale," said Dale Chambers,

general manager of Empire Livestock, who managed the sale. "Empire's facility in Dryden is well equipped to handle a large sale of this nature. Having a good milking facility on the premises came in handy, as 50 of the animals needed milking during the time they spent at the sale barn. The staff at Dryden did an excellent job preparing for and handling the event."

Empire Livestock's Don Yahn served as auctioneer of the sale. Reading the pedigrees were Chuck Luchsinger, Jerseys, Gordon DeMay, Brown Swiss,

Jim Patsos, Jr. Ayrshires, and Don Yahn, Holsteins.

During the sale, 36 Holsteins, 11 Brown Swiss, 13 Jerseys and 6 Ayrshires - all of milking age - were sold, along with some youngstock and bulls.

"Very high-quality animals were sold, with many Holsteins, and several Brown Swiss and Jerseys going for more than \$2,000," reported Chambers. "The animals all looked impres-

sive, thanks to Curt Prime and Luke Pullis, their crew and several SUNY Morrisville students, who fit and cared for the cattle."

The New York Jersey Club, the New York Brown Swiss Association and the New York Ayrshire Club assisted in providing top-quality animals for the sale.

Empire Livestock Marketing, LLC is a subsidiary of Dairylea Cooperative. It operates eight facilities.

National Farmers Commends Glickman's On-Farm Storage Program

AMES, Iowa — National Farmers Organization recently commended Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman for considering a plan to restart an on-farm storage building program. If implemented, financially strapped grain producers could receive loans directly from USDA.

"We highly commend Ag Secretary Dan Glickman for considering reinstating a federal facility loan program," said National Farmers Organization President Gene Paul. "These are serious economic times for America's grain producers, and we're very pleased the Secretary is seriously considering a key point of the Farm Recovery Plan we proposed last August."

Reportedly the White House Office of Management and Budget approved the proposal weeks ago, but program operational details have not yet been established. Once details are agreed upon, the program could go into effect immediately upon publication in the Federal Register.

Loan rates could be as low as 1 percent above the cost of borrowing money from the Treasury.

"We are hopeful the government will quickly determine program details and provide necessary funding," Paul said. "And it's also important that the interest rate offered to producers is as low as possible, considering the severe economic stress the nation's grain producers are under."

Paul also encouraged the administration to give strong consideration to the other elements of National Farmers farm recovery plan, including:

- Establishment of an annual Soil Bank program, allowing time for markets to absorb worldwide grain stocks.

- Expansion of the highly successful Conservation Reserve Program from the current 36.4 million acres to 45 to 50 million acres, using a continuous sign-up procedure.

- Reinstatement of the Farmer-Owned Reserve program, which would allow producers, not shippers, to benefit from rising markets.

The program would extend the time period grain and oil seeds could be kept under loan to 24 months plus provide storage payments of 25 cents per bushel annually.

"We understand Secretary Glickman has stated his intentions to send Congress a detailed farm plan next year to replace Freedom to Farm," said Paul. "Our ideas would be a good starting point."



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