

Senate Farm Bill

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compact on milk pricing in regions outside the Northeast, according to Bailey.

Federal payments to dairy farmers in other parts of the country will be based on a five-year moving average.

Bailey's written explanation of the Northeast Dairy Program follows:

The farm level payment rate is equal to the difference between \$16.94 per hundredweight (CWT) and the announced Class I price for Federal order 1 in Boston. If the announced price is less than \$16.94, the difference is multiplied by 45 percent to reflect Class I utilization in the Northeast market. No payment is made if the Class I price rises above \$16.94 per CWT.

Suppose the Class I price of milk in Boston in a given month is \$15.94 per CWT. The program payment would be equal to \$0.45 (((\$16.94 - \$15.94) X 0.45). No program payments are made if the monthly Class I price for milk in Boston exceeds \$16.94 per CWT.

Producers under this program face annual production caps of eight million pounds per farm per year.

That's equivalent to the amount of milk from a farm with a little more than 400 cows. The program also has a budget ceiling of \$500 million over the four year life of the program.

A recent Penn State University study analyzed this dairy title.

A summary of the results of the study follows:

- First-year effects: The annual average farm payment rate for the first year of the program is estimated to be \$0.77 per CWT.

- Farms with 50 cows would receive \$5,791; farms with 100 cows would receive \$11,582.

- Total outlays the first year are estimated to be \$15.5 million for

Vermont, \$68.4 million for Pennsylvania, \$69.8 million for New York; and a total of \$176.4 million for the 12 Northeast dairy states.

- Years 2-4: The annual average farm payment rate is estimated to be \$0.57 per CWT over this period, ranging from \$0.18 to \$0.96 per CWT, depending on market conditions.

Given an average payment rate of \$0.57 per CWT, a farm with 50 cows would receive \$5,130 a year and a farm with 100 cows would receive \$10,260.

The annual cost of the program would be \$62.8-\$252.1 million depending on market conditions, averaging \$157.5 million per year.

Other dairy provisions in the Senate Farm Bill include:

- Extending the dairy price support program at the current level of \$9.90 per CWT

- Authorizing a new national Johne's disease control program

- Extending the Dairy Export Incentive Program (DEIP)

- Increasing Market Access Program (MAP) funds

- Fixing the statutory mandatory inventory and price reporting language to prevent further costly reporting errors by the USDA

- Requiring dairy importers to pay their fair share into the National Dairy Board for promotion and research projects.

Provisions for Other Programs and Commodities
The Senate Farm Bill also:

- Prohibits large meat packers from owning livestock more than 14 days prior to slaughter.

- Limits farm payments to \$225,000 for individuals.

- Increases conservation, nutrition, and rural development funding.

- Mandates country-of-origin labeling of fresh produce, meats, peanuts, and farm-raised fish.

- Prohibits confidentiality clauses in agricultural contracts.

- Limits the amount of fund-

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the exhibit experience itself is made more realistic with sound effects, such as birds chirping, the chopping sound of cutting trees, and leaves rustling. Fabrications of a portion of a log home, the temporary structure and then the permanent one, guide visitors to the basic concept of frontier home living.

In the 1820-1880 section, better tools made life easier. A fanning mill, a reaper, and a grain cradle are on display. As America grew into a more productive society, trades became more popular, including coopering, blacksmithing and pottery, all of which are displayed.

From 1880 to 1920s, farming became an industry. The Frick

ing corporate CAFOs receive.

- Bans mandatory arbitration for farmers seeking legal recourse in contractual situations.

- Increases marketing loan rates.

- Eliminates formula loan rates.

- Bases assistance on current production, yields, and market prices.

- Provides greatest counter-cyclical loan assistance during low price periods.

- Provides assistance to farmers and ranchers suffering weather-related crop and livestock feed losses.

- Provides retroactive reauthorization of bankruptcy protection for farmers and ranchers.

- Expands programs to alternative commodities such as peas, lentils, and chickpeas.

The final version of the Farm Bill will be hammered out by the joint House and Senate conference committee.

Storybook Exhibit Showcases Farm Life History In Southwestern Pa.

threshers and Frick steam engine in this section are impressive testaments to this age of growth. Railroading, mining, and logging became part of the agricultural landscape as well.

Also, the exhibit highlights three nationally known enterprises unique to southwestern Pennsylvania: linenmaking, Glades buttermaking, and maple sugaring.

According to Black, one of the unique things about the southwestern Pennsylvania farmer is that he was diversified.

"In the early days, the farmer had to be a jack of all trades and he relied upon his neighbors for help," said Black. "Farmers also acted as part-time tradesmen, whether it be blacksmithing, coopering, or maple sugaring. His family was also very busy with buttermaking and linenmaking. It's hard to believe all that they did in one day."

The interpretive exhibit in the

barn-like museum doesn't stop there. Visitors also have the opportunity to tour the grounds where a 1773 homestead has been erected with a rebuilt log cabin and the 1800s log house, once owned by the late Adam Miller, is located. In future years, when everything is completed, there will be a 1860s and 1920s farmstead.

"The exhibit serves as an introduction to the farmsteads six months out of the year and the other six months it stands alone," said Black. "The mission of this whole exhibit is to tell the story of farming in relationship to the bigger picture, which includes transportation, trades, economics, local industry, and recreation. It's a great experience for families, young and old alike, and definitely time well spent whether you are from the local area or from a distance."



The Farmall farm tractor is usually a favorite piece at the farming exhibit at the Somerset Historical Center and serves as a testament to the modern, industrial age of farming.

Randall G. Renninger

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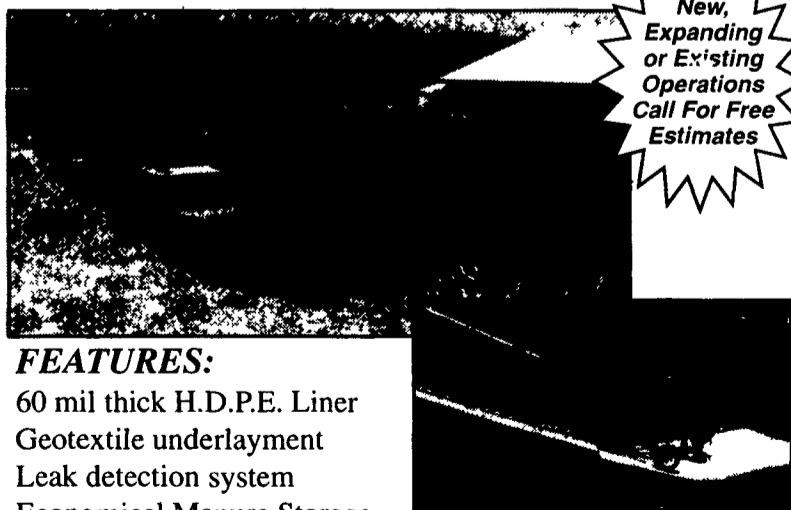
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