

FARM CALENDAR

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Sunday, November 17

**SARE: Second Annual Soul of Agriculture Conference, Durham, N.H., (603) 862-5040.**

Monday, November 18

**Farming with Technology Pre-Conference Workshop, Weaver's Banquet Hall, Adamstown, noon to 5 p.m. Workshop Nov. 19, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., (800) 270-0047.**

**Md., Va. Milk Producers' Co-op district meeting, New Midway Fire Hall, New Midway, Md., 7 p.m.**

**Northampton County Extension annual meeting and dinner, Brown and Lynch Post, Easton, 6:30 p.m., (610) 746-1970.**

**Pa. Egg Quality Assurance Training, Grantsville Holiday Inn, Session 5, 9 a.m.-noon and Session 6, 1 p.m.-4 p.m., (717) 651-5920.**

**"Let's Talk," Cumberland County Agricultural Committee, Cumberland County Extension Building, Carlisle, 7:30 p.m.**

**"Forest in a Crisis?" Bucks County Heritage Conservancy, Doylestown, (215) 345-7020, ext. 120.**

**Pa. Farm Bureau annual meeting, Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey, thru Nov. 20.**

**DairyCOP\$ Workshop, Weaver's**

**Banquet Hall, Adamstown, 1 a.m.-5 p.m., (717) 503-8114.**

**Octoraro Young Farmer's meeting, vo-ag dept. of Octoraro High School, Pesticide Applicators' License, 7:30 p.m., (610) 593-8259.**

**Beef Quality Assurance meeting, Mercer Extension Office, 7 p.m., (412) 662-3141.**

Tuesday, November 19

**Farming with Technology Workshop, Weaver's Banquet Hall, Adamstown, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., (800) 270-0047.**

**Western Pa. Vegetable meeting, Days Inn Butler, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., (724) 837-1402.**

**Statewide Project Grass Conference, Days Inn, State College, thru Nov. 20, (814) 238-8454.**

**Winemaker Technical Meeting, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 2 p.m.-5 p.m., (717) 394-6851.**

**Ohio Food Security Workshop, University Plaza Hotel, Columbus, Ohio, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., (614) 292-9833.**

**Berks County "Forests in Crisis," Berks Ag Center, Leesport, 7 p.m.-9 p.m., (610) 378-1327. Also Lehigh County, UGI Utilities Auditorium, Bethlehem, (610) 391-9840.**

**Codorous Creek Watershed Association meeting, York County Solid Waste Authority, York, 7 p.m., (717) 843-2929.**

**Beef Quality Assurance Training, Indiana Farmers Livestock Auction, Homer City, 6 p.m., (724) 837-1402.**

**Cumberland County Holstein annual meeting, Penn Twp. Fire**

# MPCs Cause Dry Milk Surplus

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ing to do with fluctuations in global protein prices. He speculates that higher-value MPC imports, those with protein levels well above 40 percent, are insensitive to prices. "Food processors really want MPCs," Bailey said. "Some are willing to pay top dollar because of its functional properties in their foods. These firms aren't shopping global markets for the best deals."

He said the real issue for dairy farmers is the lower-valued MPCs, those with protein levels comparable to the 40 percent protein content of domestically produced nonfat dry milk. Some of these lower-valued imports are

Hall, Huntsdale, 7 p.m.

Wednesday November 20

**"Trees are the Answer" video and discussion, Centre County Woodland Owners, (814) 625-2741.**

**Dairy Heifer Management Conference, Carriage Corner Restaurant, Mifflinburg, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., (888) 922-5420.**

**"Forests in a Crisis?" Lancaster Farm and Home Center, (610) 582-9660. Also Dauphin County Conservation District, (717) 362-8875.**

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mixed with other dairy ingredients such as dry whey and casein and come from places such as Canada and Europe. In fact, Bailey noted, the U.S. even imported MPCs in 2002 from countries such as the Dominican Republic, Estonia, and India.

As their use in the production of cheese rises, MPCs could displace domestic nonfat dry milk, and even domestically produced fluid milk as ingredients, theoretically resulting in increased cheese production and lower cheese prices. While cheese production has risen in 2002, it is not clear from Bailey's study how much of this increase can be attributed to MPC imports. "Most of this year's cheese production increase is clearly due to higher levels of milk production," Bailey said.

He notes that there were a number of ways to deal with MPCs, although none of the "cures" are favorable. First, Congress could abolish the dairy price support program. That would significantly reduce MPC imports and eliminate government purchases of nonfat dry milk, and could jump-start an MPC industry in the U.S.

Currently there is no U.S.-produced MPC. "The obvious downside to this idea is that U.S. dairy farmers would no longer have a

floor under their milk prices," he said. "There's no telling how low milk prices would have fallen had there been no price support program."

Second, Congress could pass legislation to subject all MPC imports to the same tariffs as other dairy products. But Bailey says that could spark retaliation from our trading partners, particularly the European Union and Canada. "Given the U.S. farm bill and higher tariffs on steel and wood, retaliation against U.S. exports, especially farm exports, is a real concern," he said.

A more practical approach, Bailey argues, would be to tackle MPC imports as part of the current efforts to renegotiate a new global trade agreement. "That agreement should cover global trade in all dairy products, not just some," he said. "This would help put MPC imports on a par with other dairy products that enter our country."

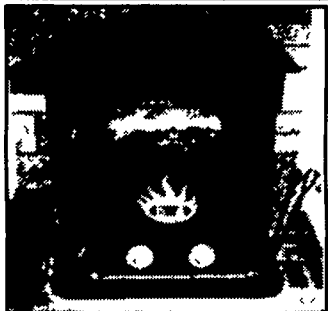
At the same time, Bailey said Congress should consider whether the dairy price support program has effectively discouraged domestic production of MPC.

"If U.S. food manufacturers want high-quality MPC, they will find a way to purchase it. So why not make it here, in the U.S., from domestic milk sources?" said Bailey.

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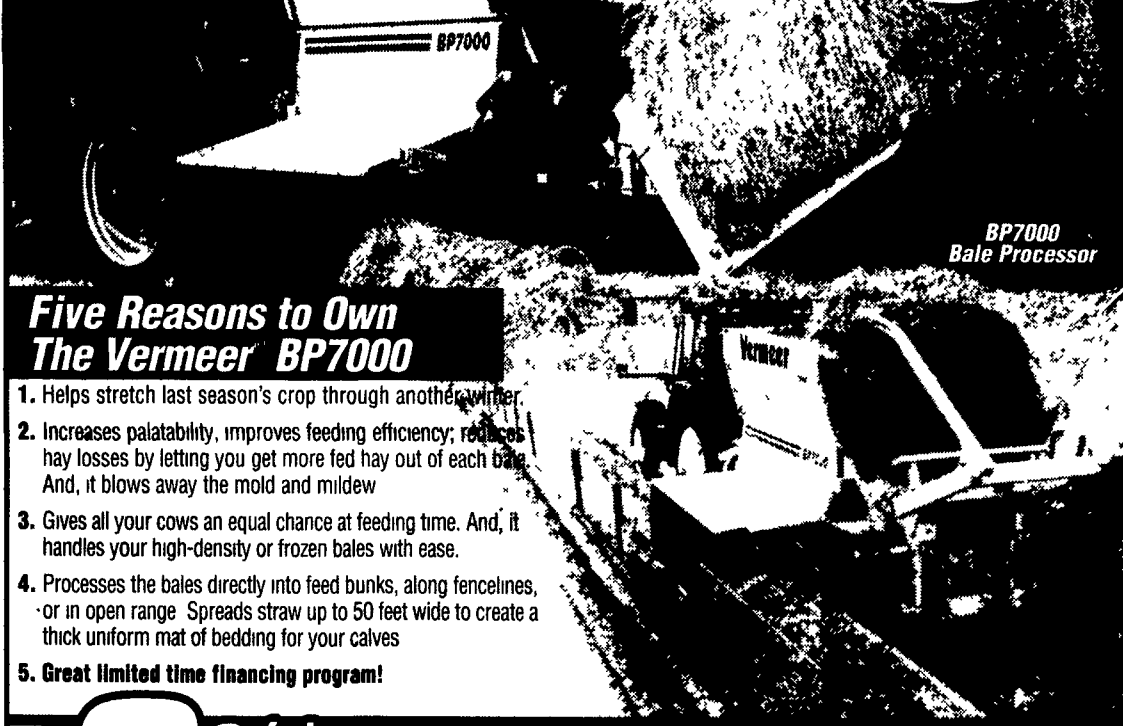
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