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years now, without having had its citizens develop the proverbial "gambling problem."

Thirdly, you appear oblivious of the economic stimulus slot machines would have in the state as a whole and in this region in particular. Funding of public education would increase greatly without any tax increase, and agriculture in this area would receive a great shot in the arm. Western Chester County and parts of Lancaster County contain the bulk of the horse breeding industry in Pennsylvania — it consumes large quantities of hay, straw, fencing, land, and equipment, and it also provides hundreds of jobs. Slots revenues would, of course, greatly enhance the monies for which race horses could compete, making their breeding and training more attractive.

Finally, the proposed slot machine legislation would also encourage the preservation of agricultural land by making the breeding and training of race horses, already an important business in this area, hopefully at least somewhat less unprofitable. More money would pay for more fencing, pastures, and open space, not to mention jobs.

So my conclusion is that the proposed slots legislation would be very good for Pennsylvania for a large number of reasons without risking any gambling problems. If the lottery is OK, as I'm sure you would agree, certainly the slots bill promises even greater benefits for the commonwealth. And since Lancaster County contains no race tracks (where the slots machines would be located), to write that the enactment of a slots bill could make this county "the next Atlantic City" is simply absurd.

— Roger E. Legg
Parkesburg

Editor:

I recently attended a CWT informational meeting. I was appalled. A few slides into the presentation was one that said "Because of overproduction during the past few years, we have ended up with a 4.3 billion pound surplus," the whole basis for the CWT program. There was no mention of where they came up with these figures at all.

This is not the truth. According to official USDA figures, here is the truth:

In 1998, according to USDA, domestic milk marketings in millions of pounds stood at 156,080, with commercial disappearance in millions of pounds at 159,916. In 1999, those numbers stood at 161,411 and 164,948. In 2000, the numbers were 166,247 and 169,124. In 2001, the numbers went to 164,062 and 169,432. In 2002, the numbers of domestic milk marketings were at 168,533 and commercial disappearance at 170,461.

These figures are on a milkfat basis. The truth of the matter is that the oversupply is coming from the imports, of which a lot of NMPF members and affiliate members are either using or importing themselves.

Land O' Lakes has 12 import licenses and DFA has 11. Combined, they have more than anyone else, and some of these companies that have them are set up for the sole purpose of importing dairy products and ingredients. This can be checked at the Website www.fas.usda.gov/itp/imports/dairyimport03/03issuanceword.pdf. I asked the DFA and Land O' Lakes presenters that if we reduced the domestic milk supply and raised our milk price, what was going to keep everybody, them included, from importing more and driving our price back down? They really didn't answer that, but in a roundabout way said that they will do what they have to do to keep their processing plants competitive.

A couple of years ago, Land O' Lakes had an ad on the Internet listing MPC for sale to anyone who wanted it. What does that

have to do with keeping their processing plants competitive?

The Land O' Lakes fellow was presenting the CWT program as "A tool in our toolbox," saying that right now we have no tools in our toolbox to help with our milk prices. Aren't our co-ops, founded under the Capper Volstead Act, suppose to be a tool for us to use? The way the co-ops are going now, they sure aren't a tool for us.

In a reputable Northeast dairy magazine recently, I read that by the year 2012, the processors want to import 50 percent of the nation's milk needs. Is the CWT program just a way to bring us closer to that goal by reducing cow numbers and domestic production? The farmers would be using their own money, through the 18 cent deduction, to help the processors achieve their goal.

The co-ops were founded by members, for members, and for marketing the domestic milk supply at the best possible price for the farmer. Have the co-ops become so far removed from their members and the very reason that they were founded, that they would rather get rid of the members and their milk production so that they can import more?

After the CWT meeting, people came to me and others that spoke out during the meeting and said that we knew what we were talking about and what the actual problem really is. Friends, we all need to speak up to turn this problem around. The whole principle of domestic overproduction on which the program is founded is just not true.

Question what these co-ops are telling you and do a little research, and you will be surprised at what you will find. I would like to thank everyone who helped me research for this letter.

— Hal Drick
Allenwood

Editor:

Just a few thoughts on NMPF's "CWT" (Co-ops Working Together) Program. Since the "surplus" is being caused by the importation of dairy products, shouldn't the off-shore contributors to the "surplus" be requested to kill some of their cows also? DFA is real cozy with the New Zealand Dairy Board (Fonterra). Why is it that only American dairy farmers will have to contribute to the cow kill?

If you compare commercial disappearance with domestic milk marketings, it is easy to see that the USA is in reality a milk deficit country. The free traders won't be satisfied until domestic milk production is reduced by about 50 percent, leaving only enough volume for fluid milk use. They will import the rest.

If the co-ops would just do the job they were set up to do, then this problem could be cleared up in short order. The Capper-Volstead Act of 1922 allows and expects co-ops to set a reasonable price for raw milk to benefit farmers. Why isn't this being done? Problem: It would require some testosterone to do it — a hormone that seems to be sadly

lacking in today's dairy co-op board rooms.

Rather than do what is obligated under Capper-Volstead to relieve the unprecedented human suffering in our dairy communities, co-op "leadership" has hatched the CWT scam that is a bogus self-help scheme that will steamroll more American dairy farmers into oblivion, while foreign products continue to steal our domestic markets. CWT is an outrage with more holes in it than any proverbial imported Swiss cheese. Farmer "support" for CWT is out of abysmal desperation.

Farmer/members of co-ops, is this "taking" of another 18 cents from your pathetic milk checks to finance cow slaughter the best your co-ops can do for you? If so, then you better replace your co-op leadership before you start funding another milk check deduction, because the status quo guys are refusing to work for you. You've been working for them, and now they want you completely out of their picture.

— Joseph Cochran
Dairy Farmer
Tioga County

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