

U.S.D.A.

Report On Dairy Industry Bureau Calls For Efficiency

By OVID A. MARTIN

WASHINGTON—(P)—Every once in a while one comes up with the suggestion that perhaps the surest cure for agriculture's price problems is efficiency of production rather than government subsidies.

The Agriculture department itself is one of the latest to suggest as much.

In its annual report on activities of the Bureau of Dairy Industry, the department says, in effect, that better cows would go a long way toward putting dairymen in a position to get along with lower prices for milk.

Milk Production Studied

During the year, the bureau analyzed the records of milk production and feed consumption of 425 dairy cows owned by dairymen who belong to a department-sponsored National Dairy Herd-Improvement association.

The results showed that high-producing cows always yield greater financial returns above feed costs than low-producing ones.

Cows which produced an average of 8,675 pounds of milk a year consumed \$1.90 worth of feed for each 100 pounds of milk they produced. Cows which averaged 5,000 pounds of milk consumed \$2.85 worth of feed for each 100 pounds of milk they produced.

These figures show clearly how the owners of efficient dairy cows are in a better position to withstand declining milk prices than are owners of less efficient ones.

In fact, the department's study raises the question of whether government price support programs, with their subsidies from the federal treasury, would be necessary for milk and dairy products if all dairy cows produced an average of 8,675 pounds

of milk a year.

The present support program is designed to assure a minimum price of \$3.07 for 100 pounds of milk. Perhaps the dairyman who has cows producing milk at a feed cost of \$1.90 for 100 pounds of milk would not need such a price guarantee.

On the other hand, the dairyman with cows producing at the feed cost of \$2.85 for 100 pounds of milk certainly needs a price guarantee of more than \$3. In addition to feed costs, there are labor costs, dairy establishment maintenance costs, and marketing costs.

Choice Not Open

The department does not seek to imply, however, that the choice between efficiency and government subsidies is open either to the government or the dairyman at the present time.

It takes time to increase the efficiency of dairy herds. At present, the milk production of the nation's 25,000,000 dairy cows averages only about 5,050 pounds a year.

Nevertheless, great strides are being made in increasing dairy efficiency. More and more dairymen are joining herd-improvement associations and learning not only how to weed out inefficient cows but how to improve the quality of their herds.

3 More States Adopt Bans Against Camellias

SALEM, — (P) —Three more states, Alabama, Florida and Georgia, had adopted quarantines to prohibit shipment of Oregon-grown balled and potted camellia plants or cut flowers into their states.

Earlier last month, Mississippi adopted a similar quarantine. The quarantines are aimed at camellia flower blight, the State department of Agriculture said.

Honey Support Prices Fight Heads To Capital

PORTLAND, — (P) —E. Harvey Miller, state production and marketing administration chairman, will carry to Washington, D. C., a request for top support prices for honey.

Oregon beekeepers asked him to present their views there. The present farm act allows honey support prices to be set between 50 and 90 percent of parity, and the Oregon group wants the 90 percent figure selected.

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