

... 1981 by a 205 to 203 vote of the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF). The closing vote on the measure by the House was the most closely fought in years. The measure was cleared the 1981 farm bill presidential action. The measure by the House was assured when he members of the House approved the bill farm legislation the administration.

The measure would raise the price of dairy products, which will support level at the \$1.10 through next year. Following that, the price will be set at \$1.10 and \$14.60 for fiscal years 1984, and 1985, if the estimated program in these years costs \$1 billion. If the price is estimated at less than \$1.10, the support level will be a minimum of 70 or 80 cents, depending on the estimate of dairy prices during the year.

Milk Producers and its member organizations mounted a major opposition to the support. Joining the opposition were a number of farm organizations opposed to various provisions of the bill. When Tom Harkins of Missouri and Jim Jeffords of Vermont headed the opposition to dairy price support, other primary opposition from the House Committee came from the Midwest.

... of Missouri, Clint Roberts and Tom Daschle of South Dakota, Dan Glickman of Kansas, and Floyd Fithian of Indiana. Harkin attacked the conference report as an overreaction to current problems facing the Dairy Price Support Program and was critical of administration efforts to utilize dairy product stocks acquired under the program. He cited offers for export of CCC-held stocks which the secretary of agriculture has turned down, suggesting the secretary would rather have the stock levels build in an effort to discredit the program.

Jeffords argued the plan presented in the bill would only result in forcing many dairy farmers out of business. Citing cuts already made in the programs that would be more costly and which would be disruptive for agriculture. Joining the administration in its fight was the House Republican leadership and, at the last minute, the House Democrat leadership.

Cong. Tom Foley, assistant majority leader and a member of the House-Senate Conference Committee on the farm bill, had earlier refused to sign the conference report, stating it fell far short of what was needed to deal with current agricultural problems. "In the final analysis, however, Foley did vote for the bill. During the debate, he did restate his view that it was inadequate, but made a plea to the House to approve it on the basis that it was, indeed, the only bill that could be passed.

World red meat supplies are expected to expand by about 0.5% in 1982, following small declines in both 1981 and 1980, says the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Higher beef production in countries, such as the United States and Mexico, may about offset a significant decline in beef production in Argentina, and smaller pork production in the United States and other countries. Generally weaker economies in many of the developed countries and relatively higher consumption of poultry meat are discouraging demand for red meats, resulting in weaker prices and less international trade. Imports of red meat by the countries are seen falling 0.5% in 1982, while exports will gain almost 1% as certain countries, such as several in the Middle East, increase imports.

Cattle numbers are forecast at 947 million head for the start of 1982, a growth of approximately 0.4% during 1981. Growth during 1980 was roughly 0.5%. The United States is expected to show the largest increase in numbers at the start of 1982.

Cyclical numbers a liquidation primary buildup in Hog inventory to be uncertain earlier at 1 following a million head stability in result of a head decline being off elsewhere. America an pattern different 1981 change declines in the European. Sheep inventory at 724 million of 1982, up a level. The head buildup partially finalization Agriculture sheepmeat, producers production increase its growth type years.

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## Chemical fallow is best method

Some farmers still prefer to mechanically till summer fallow for fear the standing grain stubble acts like tiny wicks to move limited water out of soils.

Not so says a soil scientist at USDA's Central Great Plains Research Station, Akron, Colo.

"Our many years of research show chemical fallow is the most efficient and effective way to control weeds and increase soil water storage," says Darryl E. Smika with USDA's Agricultural Research Service. Chemical fallow leaves the maximum amount of standing stubble.

To disprove the wick idea, Smika poured a mixture of melted paraffin and tallow around standing stubble and on

bare soil in lysimeters to seal water below the soil surface. If any water was left in the soil it would have to be transported up through the standing stubble. After 84 days during July and August, the lysimeters with the sealed soil surface lost less than 1 inch of water whether the soil was bare or had standing stubble. Smika attributes this to losses through small cracks that may have developed in the paraffin and the sides of the lysimeters.

For comparison, Smika measured water losses from areas having stubble mulch or bare soil during this same July and August test period. The stubble mulch lost 4 inches of water, and the bare soil lost 6 1/2 inches of water.

The only one who saves time is the one who spends it well.

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