

8/29/00 Assembly Agriculture Sub-Committee Hearing at Johnson Creek

2) MIKE MARTIN of Hayward, Member of WMMB

1 -Supply management controls needed. Have surplus glut. Nationwide legislation is needed.

2 -Imports. There are no quotas on milk solids/protein so gazillions are coming in from New Zealand etc.

Locally, it's an agricultural crisis situation not just dairy but corn and fuel...

3 -Keep EPA at bay. EPA, DATCP and DNR influence on non-point rules. Amounts to triple duty police state!

3) SUSAN SCHAEFIR of Watertown, dairy farmer

1 - Non-point rules are unenforceable. Not all bad. Farmer is expected to comply yet large municipalities can get away...contradictions.

2 - New Drainage rules. State idea. Jefferson County needs maintenance. Funding will go to engineers instead of to farmers.

"If you are trying to help, stop, because we can't afford it."

City communities allow lawn care products to go to the sewers. So how is it fair to the farmer who feeds you for a loss.

(Dave of Leg.C. responds: It's local issue and control. Mandatory engineering only on ditches not on cleaning up stuff.)

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4) NORMAN BARTEL of Watertown, alderman and retired farmer

Feels things are worse since

LAND not being dedicated to agriculture

it should be deed zoning instead of houses all over
(Ref. Pennsylvania law did that for agriculture.)

PRICING - treat as national resource

Can't afford to lose farmers
Food is the ultimate weapon

No more surplus here than in other areas, overproduction cause

Maintain profit

42% already imported. No more.

Diesel fuel costs a lot.

Canada like pricing system- they lose farmers .

5) CHARLES UNTZ of Lake Mills

need control over, regulate price

World trade NAFTA. We are infringing on human rights if not feed over seas.

Johnes testing- costly for dairy farmers and not even accurate, poor rule

(Dr. Siroky: need to manage Johnes. The only way. No vaccine and no other tests. If you are buying a cow - you want to know it it's healthy. If you are selling you may not care.)

Question on the Amendment to rule on "implied warranty".

(Dr. S states that DATCP specifies diseases included)

8/29/00 Assembly Agriculture Sub-Committee Hearing at Johnson Creek
Cont. Charles Untz

Assessments on ag land rates higher.
(Blamed Bruce Jones for creating a bad formula.)

(Bruce responds: Use Value formula is based on assessment.
1500/acre, drop to 600 with use value, 2% mill rate = \$30/acre saved.
Take into account:

average yield
Average price
Capitalized rate = assessment
Mill rate
Income from farming

In Charlie's case - offset in assessment when property tax considered
Charlie's issues need to be addressed...

Farm buildings are useless - use value should be applied to them.

(Kestell: Wisconsin farmers taxed high in agriculture land, use value is in the
right direction.)

(Bruce adds that use value ties assessment to ability to pay for land.)

6) VERNON NEWHOUSE of Kaukauna, Neighborhood Dairy

(also written comments turned in)

Has been farming for 40 years, ag is in bad condition = disaster

Retail agriculture is a problem, The gap between what the farmer gets
and what it is sold for is widening at increasing speed.

WE have a minimum markup that must be followed. Why not a Maximum
markup so there's a limit to what it can be.

What was received is low - can't survive at this rate.

Federal Milk Marketing Order will never get changed because of politics
yet it's outdated.

Created Neighborhood Dairy with 480 cows and 4 families.

Won't add more cows until he's got the land to get rid of waste.

8/29/00 Assembly Agriculture Sub-Committee Hearing at Johnson Creek

7) DAVE MATTHES of Viola, Wisconsin Livestock Dealers Association

Wants to give commodities to welfare recipients instead of money. It would use surplus.

Also create something like a credit card that can be used to hold info and provide health care for kids.

(Committee members stated the debit card idea is already used instead of the welfare cash.)

"Cream", "Buttery flavor" - words used to get the benefits yet no actual dairy products in them.

Should have a percentage of the item in the product in order to use the name.

Farmers have a lack of organization.

Regarding the "implied warranty" measure, he has worked with Wisconsin Federation of Coops and Equity etc. Now the Ag Board put exclusion in it in May without notifying them. Their draft did not have such language. If you don't say anything, you guarantee.

(The bill was not amended but the change did come into effect through an administrative rule through the department. The department has the authority to act when things pop up.)

The state ag. department has an attitude. Is basically unaccountable.

Sign in sales barn regarding johnes means nothing,

When livestock dealers were agents, you dealt with person to person. Closed herds were not a problem.

Now have Equity and emergency rules...

8/29/00 Assembly Agriculture Sub-Committee Hearing at Johnson Creek

8) HAROLD SCHOESSOW of Mequon

Enhance exports to poor nations.

(Rep. Kestell spoke about preserving green space)

DNR not paying taxes on land they own.

(Federally owned land is also not subject to taxation just like the DNR purchases, however they do make payments in lieu of taxes.)

9) GEORGE ROEMER of Hartford, Equity Coop

Rubicon area farmer. Had fire and rebuild his farm. 300 acres.
Could not do another red barn but had a lot more to deal with as far as regulations.

Went through nutrient management process. It's doable but lots of red tape. Hard to take it when someone else tells you where to spread your manure and that's pretty much the case.

Has 60 fields and needs 5 year plans for each.

Manure reception tank creation required the assistance of NR people.
Had to dig 7-14ft. holes.

The entire operation was more expensive to rebuild.

If you want to eat, this is what you pay.

Problems obtaining health insurance for daughter. She has congenial heart defect.

Not insurable on her own since it is considered preexisting.

Wife's company will not take her since it is considered high risk.

Family can't leave current insurance because they will not insure daughter alone, want the premiums for the whole family.

(Rep. Ainsworth suggested possibility of applying with the state as a pool for those cases.)

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10) GAIL GOEHRING, with Equity Coop

Went to December hearing and just got taken.

Was told - Need certain number of pigs to keep going.

They put food on the table.

Can't make a difference because there is not enough of them.

So we need big companies - 2000 cows? Packing plants?

All aspects of production controlled.

As small farmers, farmers would like to do entire production.

"Help us make a difference".

Don't want to import all of our food, because we won't be able to make it.

Her number of producers dropped to half.

(We're here to give voice. All of us here legislators are farmers. Do not carry much weight but find way to provide input.)

(On state level, can't do much. Don't get our share from the Federal Government.)

(FSA member responds that they can only administer what they get.

FSA member of Jefferson County: total benefits paid are 9-10 million over 2 years. 1988 disaster payments made it to 20 million but since payment same. Comes to be about 1,500 per individual.)

Q: people who do not farm can get that money too!

(Landowners eligible to participate even though from Chicago. Some programs are for those producing crops, some only to active farmers in the county.)

Gail feels equal opportunity is needed.

(Q: alternative crops. Should farmers try something else? Al told them about the Jerusalem Artichoke and touched on industrial hemp...)

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11) SUE MARX of Helenville

Under federal order rules, the make-allowance is unfair because it favors dairy processors at the expense of dairy producers.

It is unfair to provide dairy processors with at guaranteed cost of production when dairy producers have no guarantee,

Freedom to farm is not working and needs to be changed.

There is increasing disparity between the prices farmers receive and retail.

Prices are on the decrease. More Joint Ventures/ Mergers .

Elimination of competition = lesser prices.

No profit means no spending and circulating the dollars back into economics.

Government should investigate and determine if mergers are needed.

Issues- accurate inventory management system
Price support programs

Farm Bill not an adequate Safety Net.

Agriculture largest industry yet forced into world market without protection.

Federal Legislation should improve and enhance the market.

Cost of production should protect farmers. Not supplemental income as a way of life.

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12) PETE HAAKENSEN of Evansville

He is operating without a permit because the DNR has no staff to send to deal with it.

Have valid rules but service is needed to make it work.
Fund DNR to help do non-point, help for farmers.

Large animal operations unless permit received. That means no help until permit received.

What is the state doing to attract dairy farmers to come to Wisconsin?

He only has one dealer so there is not much competition.

Discussion on changes....

(AI talked about Calumet County mega-dairy moving in...we need to fight for the dairy industry to stay in Wisconsin. We are different than Montana or Vermont, their solutions do not work here. 85% of our product goes out of state. We are an open target for other states and have stiff competition.

Legislature alone can not deal with the political extremes. For example the Family Farm Protection Act - hard language. Environmental issues have been worked on and going good so far but times are changing and we need to fight hard.)

(Dr. Siroky is native of Montana and talked about the situation there. They import more milk. The grass looks greener on the other side but make sure it's real.)

(Tim Griswald of Dairy 2020- Technical development projects must occur, they mean job creation. Not grants and must be paid back @4%.)

(Same as other industries but automatic milker does not create jobs!)

(20,000 dairy farms in Wisconsin, while Minnesota and Pennsylvania have less than 10,000 farmers.)

(AI- we had more dairies to start with, we are going to feel the change the most because we have the most to lose.)

8/29/00 Assembly Agriculture Sub-Committee Hearing at Johnson Creek
discussion on lack of future farmers...

(Gail- not enough young people coming into farming.)

(Jeanne Meier suggests Farm Link Program and such to encourage and train younger generations and help in the transition.)

(Vernon Neuhaus- farming is so labor intensive, young don't want to do what dad has done.)

(there are more options for the new generation.)

13) RODELL L. SINGERT of Mukwonago, Waukesha Cty. Board Supervisor

Feels various programs are getting funding yet some clearly do not work!
Why?

We are stewards of the land as much as DNR is...

More regulation is not always better.

For example: sandhill cranes - wipe out corn yet no one wants to deal with it...

Montana has coyote bounty.

14) RAY IRELAND of Watertown

Has 4 sons and they do not want to farm.

Sept. 4th - milk dumping, farmers will dump because they don't get enough for it.

The only way to drive it into people's heads.

No space program - we shoot people up into space, spend it here instead. Save our farmers.

End of testimony for Johnson Creek.

WATSONVILLE

Percentage of retail dollar received by farmers by year.

1970, 48%	1980, 52	1990, 39
1971, 47	1981, 51	1991, 35
1972, 48	1982, 49	1992, 36
1973, 50	1983, 48	1993, 35
1974, 49	1984, 47	1994, 34
1975, 50	1985, 44	1995, 33
1976, 52	1986, 43	1996, 36
1977, 50	1987, 42	1997, 32
1978, 51	1988, 40	1998, 36
1979, 52	1989, 41	1999, 32
		2000, 28

Aug. 28th Monday.

DURAND

Departure

Time: 7am

Place: E. Washington Ave. Steps

Boarding: Beata
Dave (Leg.C.)
Steve (Sgt.Staff)

*Res-off too!
EWN too!*

Be sure to bring:

(page) Hearing slips, Paper and pencils, nameplates, PORTABLE MIC
(clerk) Hearing notices/tape, Tape recorder, Info Materials

Travel time @ 3 ½ hours.

Directions: I-90 toward Wisc.Dells, I-94 W. toward Eau Claire, take US-10 exit /Osseo...look for arrows and farm signs, farm will be on the left.

Parking: yard adjacent to the farm and hay field

Destination:

Assembly Sub-Committee on Agricultural Issues
Spindler Dairy Inc.
W5127 US HWY 10
DURAND, WI

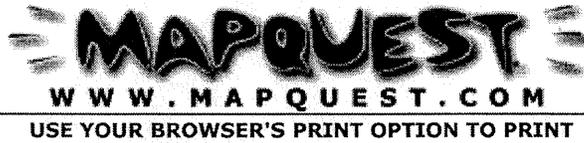
Contact: Pepin Co. Extension Agent : Bob 715 / 672-5214
Farmer 715 /672-3954

Start time: 10:30am

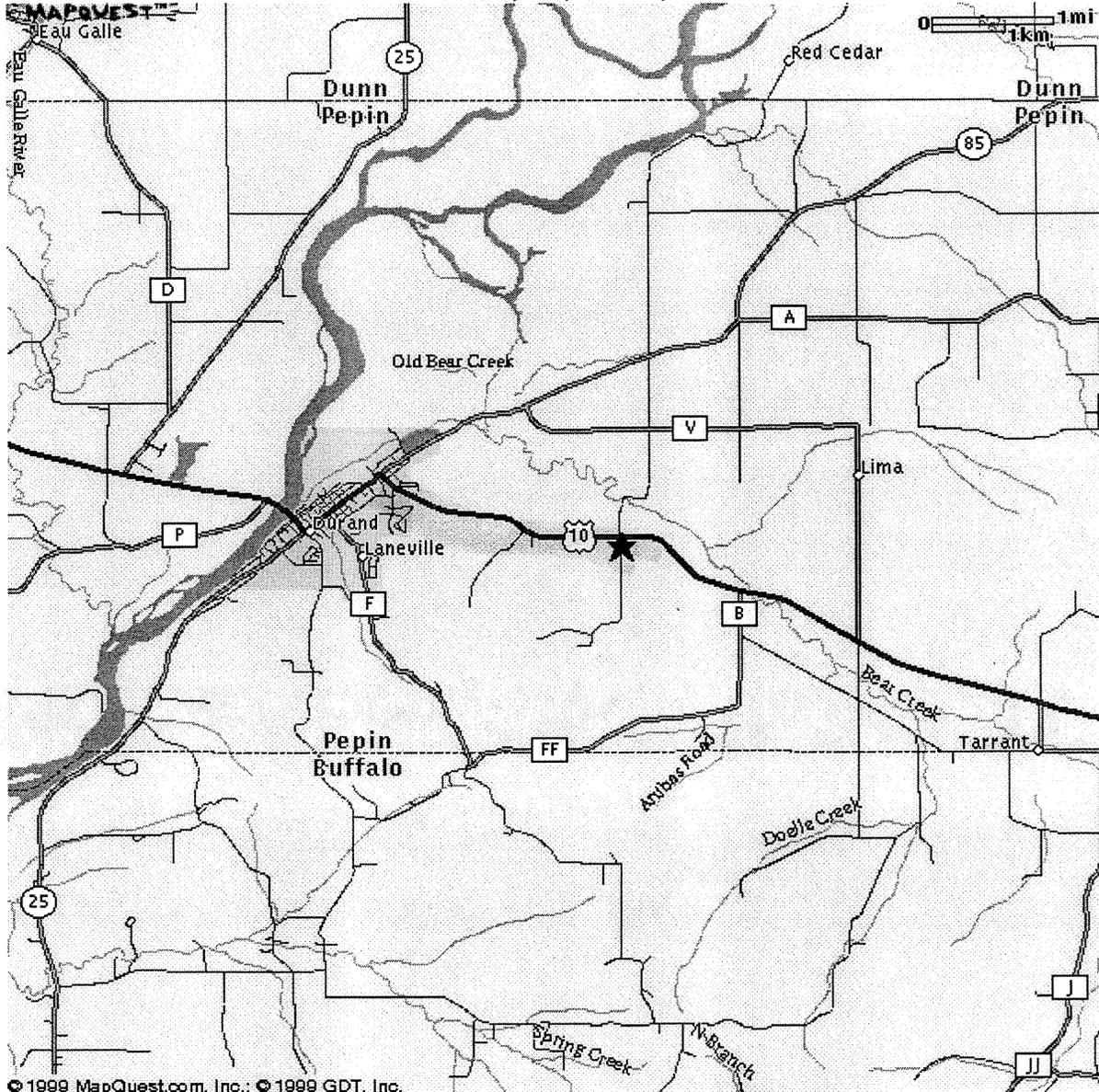
Members expected:

R Ott, Sykora
D Plouff, Gronemus

Accommodations: Tables and chairs up front for committee members and 50-60 chairs in audience available and set up. Outlets available but need portable mics (STEVE). Nearest restaurant is Club 10 on Hwy 10, others in Durand. Gas station within 3 miles in Durand. Restrooms provided with rented Porta-Potty on location.



DURAND, WI, 54736, US



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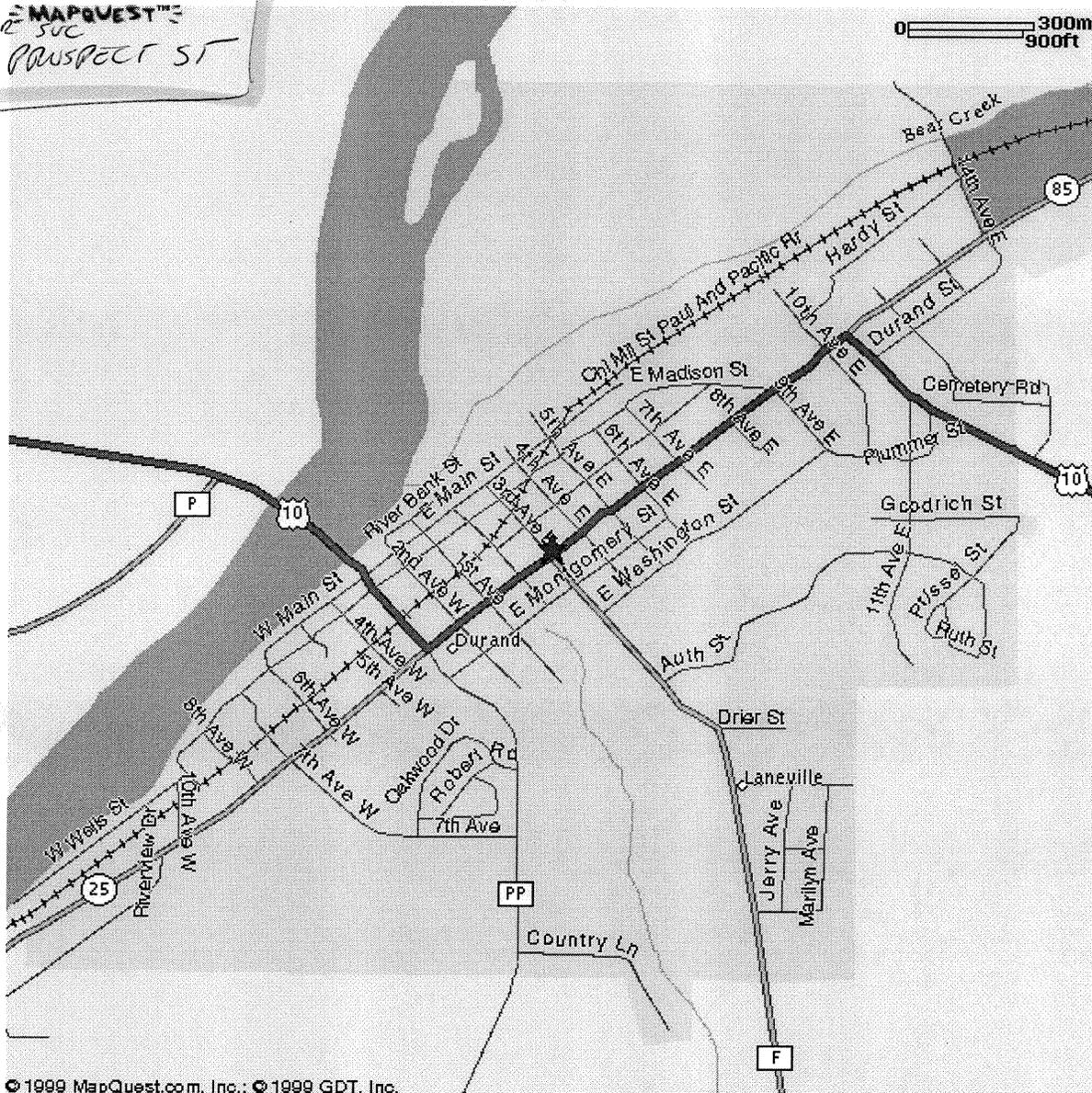
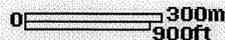


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3: Merge onto I-90 W.	90.1 miles (145.0 km)
4: Take I-94 W towards EAU CLAIRE/ST PAUL.	0.4 miles (0.6 km)
5: Merge onto I-94 W.	58.1 miles (93.5 km)
6: Take the US-10 exit, exit number 88, towards OSSEO(CR-R)/AUGUSTA (WI-27).	0.2 miles (0.3 km)
7: Turn LEFT onto US-10.	37.4 miles (60.2 km)
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TOTAL ESTIMATED TIME:	4 hours, 4 minutes

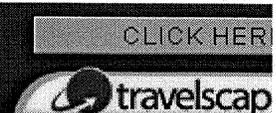
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REPRESENTATIVE AL OTT

State Representative
3rd Assembly District

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Representative Al Ott

August 16, 2000
(608) 266-5831

Assembly Agriculture Subcommittee Announces Statewide Listening Sessions

Madison... State Representative Al Ott (R- Forest Junction), Assembly Agriculture Committee Chair, announced today that an Agriculture Subcommittee will hold four listening sessions throughout the state during the end of August. These sessions will search out the crisis that is occurring within the agricultural community.

The goal of the listening sessions is to bring attention to the current agricultural price crisis and to allow the agriculture industry the opportunity to express their concerns. Additionally, the Subcommittee hopes that this effort will generate ideas and suggestions on how to deal with the mounting problems that the industry is facing.

“We understand that at the state level our hands are tied as to what we can officially do to alleviate the situation. However, as a committee we feel that it is important to go on the road to see for ourselves what is happening within Wisconsin’s agricultural community. To get a complete picture of what is going on, we hope to draw individuals from all spectrums of the industry including farmers, processors, suppliers, cooperatives, implement dealers, feed mills, bankers, etc. We want to listen to whoever is being affected,” said Ott.

The Subcommittee listening sessions will be held in the following locations:

- August 24th at 9:00 a.m. – Richland Center
Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Auction Market Barn - 26702 County Road O
- August 28th at 10:30 a.m. – Durand
Spindler Dairy, Inc. – W5127 US Highway 10
- August 29th at 9:00 a.m. – Johnson Creek
Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Auction Market Barn - N6225 County Road Y
- August 31st at 9:00 a.m. – Reedsville
Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Auction Market Barn - 513 North 6th Street

For more information or directions to any of the locations, please contact the office of State Representative Al Ott. Madison office phone number: (608) 266-5831 or (888) 534-0003 toll free. E-mail address: Rep.Ott@legis.state.wi.us.

###

REPRESENTATIVE AL OTT

State Representative
3rd Assembly District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Representative Al Ott

August 21, 2000
(608) 266-5831

Agenda for Statewide Agriculture Hearings

Madison... State Representative Al Ott (R- Forest Junction), Assembly Agriculture Committee Chair, released an agenda for the statewide Agriculture Subcommittee hearings that will be held throughout the next two weeks.

“ We are going out to the farming community with a specific set of goals. I am confident that we can make these sessions successful if we stick to this agenda. The hearings are not a forum for political candidates. We do not want to overshadow this serious issue. This is however, a forum for people in agriculture as well as a chance to explore what can be done to keep the industry strong in Wisconsin,” Ott said.

The Subcommittee agenda is as follows:

- **Collect information and report what is happening in the state to Wisconsin’s Federal Delegation and US Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman.**
- **Offer the opportunity for members of the agriculture community to express, in their own words, the impact of the current situation.**
- **Make the economic concerns of agriculture more visible to the general population.**
- **Provide information on the various resources available to the agriculture industry.**
- **Generate ideas on possible ways to alleviate the hardships faced by Wisconsin agriculture.**
- **Bring the media and the agriculture industry together.**

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###

Agriculture Subcommittee Hearings Agenda

These listening sessions are being held in response to the silent economic crisis that is taking place throughout Wisconsin's agriculture industry.

Ultimately, the Purpose of the Four Subcommittee Hearings is to...

- ✓ **Collect information in order to compile a report to be sent to Wisconsin's Federal Delegation and to US Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman.**
 - What is happening in Wisconsin agriculture.
 - Have this information as they return to Washington to vote on appropriation bills that deal with agriculture.
 - Wisconsin Legislature's hands are tied when it comes to something like agriculture pricing. However, we want to offer Wisconsin agriculture a voice.
 - Easier for the Federal Delegation to respond to the problem if they are well informed as to what it is.

- ✓ **Generate "*Ideas for Action.*"**
 - Generate ideas for action that **can** be taken at the local, state and federal level to alleviate the hardships throughout the industry.
 - May discover some action we can take to help Wisconsin agriculture.

- ✓ **Provide the opportunity to members of the agriculture community to express, in their own words, the impact of the current situation.**
 - Stress that these sessions are open to **EVERYONE** feeling the impact of the current crisis. "*From the Farmers to the Bankers.*"

- ✓ **"*Press Conference for Agriculture.*"**
 - We hope that the media present will take the opportunity to talk to farmers and members of the agriculture industry and vice versa.

- ✓ **Raise awareness on all fronts.**
 - Inform people that may not necessarily be aware of what is happening in agriculture.
 - Make the economic concerns of agriculture more visible to the general population.

- ✓ **Provide information and resources.**
 - Hope to have information and various resource people available to field questions and to comment.
 - Let members of the agricultural community know that there are resources available and make the link between providers and those in need.

Chippewa Herald - Story - 8/30/00

Farm issues, finance reform, dominate Feingold session

BY MARK GUNDERMAN / THE CHIPPEWA HERALD

Vice President al Gore came to La Crosse and failed to mention agriculture, but one of U.S. Senator Russ Feingold's listening sessions cannot go by without the subject taking prominence.

Feingold holds listening sessions with constituents in each of Wisconsin's 72 counties every year. He told a gathering of about 20 people at the Chippewa Valley Regional Airport Monday that he, too, was disappointed with Gore's omission of agriculture issues during a recent visit, then went on to discuss those issues with the constituents. 8/28/00

The themes were familiar.

"If something isn't done by next summer, we will be seeing a bloodbath," said Jan Morrow of Cornell, who had just come from a farmers' meeting in Durand. "By next summer you would be hard pressed to find any dairy farmers in the state of Wisconsin."

Morrow said if farmers could do something about supply management, they would still need to do something about imports. She called upon Feingold to support a Midwest Dairy Compact modeled after the Northeast Dairy Compact he had been fighting.

Feingold reacted coolly to the suggestion and said "No one has ever said to me before this moment, 'Let's have a Midwest Dairy Compact,'" Feingold said. "You're going to have to get some stuff to prove to me that this dairy compact would help. Because everything I've heard from farmers is that it wouldn't."

Feingold did agree with other comments by constituents about farm issues. Dave Reischel of Bloomer asked about doing away with block voting - the practice that allows dairy cooperatives to cast votes for all of their members instead of allowing each farmer to vote for himself.

"For years I've been trying to do away with block voting," Feingold said, and referred to his proposed Democracy for Dairy Producers Act.

Feingold also shared concerns by Reischel and Morrow about the effects of consolidation of farm markets into the hands of a few and the manipulation of the market by Phillip Morris, the owner of Kraft.

A Feingold meeting also tends to focus on campaign finance reform. Some constituents praised him for his leadership in crafting the McCain-Feingold Bill, and also for his refusal to take part in some corporate-backed activities at the Democratic National Convention.

Feingold said he was confident he could pick up the votes in Congress for McCain-Feingold, but that

one presidential candidate would sign it and one would veto it.

Other questions dealt with Social Security and opposition to privatizing its investments.

"That's what Wall Street would like," said Clarence Winkler of Stanley.

Pauline Schultz urged the opening of borders for more migration of visiting workers, who are needed in some segments of agriculture.

"You cannot get people," she said. "Even high school students can make more money than we can afford to pay them," she said.

(END)

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'Frustrated' farmers air complaints

More than 100 attend meeting

By Dan Lyksett
Leader-Telegram staff

DURAND -- Low milk prices, stray voltage and the escalating value of hunting land were just a few of the issues farmers brought forward -- often forcefully, sometimes angrily -- when they were asked for their opinions Monday.

Rep. Al Ott, R-Forest Junction, convened a meeting of the Assembly Agriculture Committee at the Spindler Dairy farm outside of Durand, the second of four such meetings he has planned.

The mission, Ott said, was to collect information from farmers that government agencies and politicians can use to combat record low prices affecting farmers across the country.

"This is not a finger-pointing day," Ott said. "This is a day of coming together to understand what's impacting agriculture, and then pass it on to the people who can help."

Fingers were pointed, however, by many of the more than 100 people who attended at foreign governments that heavily subsidize their agriculture and the farmer down the road whose large dairy operation may be causing water pollution.

Mary C. Anderson of Whitehall, who once milked cows with her husband on their farm and now raises beef cattle, decried what she called a government "cheap food policy" that intentionally lowers the prices farmers receive for their products.

"We are in a depression in the agricultural community," she said.

Anderson faulted large agricultural corporations for selling products that stimulate milk and grain production at a time when surplus products are blamed for low commodity prices.

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WIRE

"All the people who work for the big chemical companies, you don't hear them going 'How are we going to pay our light bill?'

"And every woman in this room who has kids knows what it's like to not be able to buy their kids that pair of Nike tennis shoes because the money isn't in the checkbook."

Arnie Spindler of the town of Durand also raised the issue of foreign governments subsidizing their farmers.

He said foreign governments are said to outspend the U.S. \$60 to \$1 on agricultural subsidies.

"Boy, I'll tell you, that's tough competition," he said.

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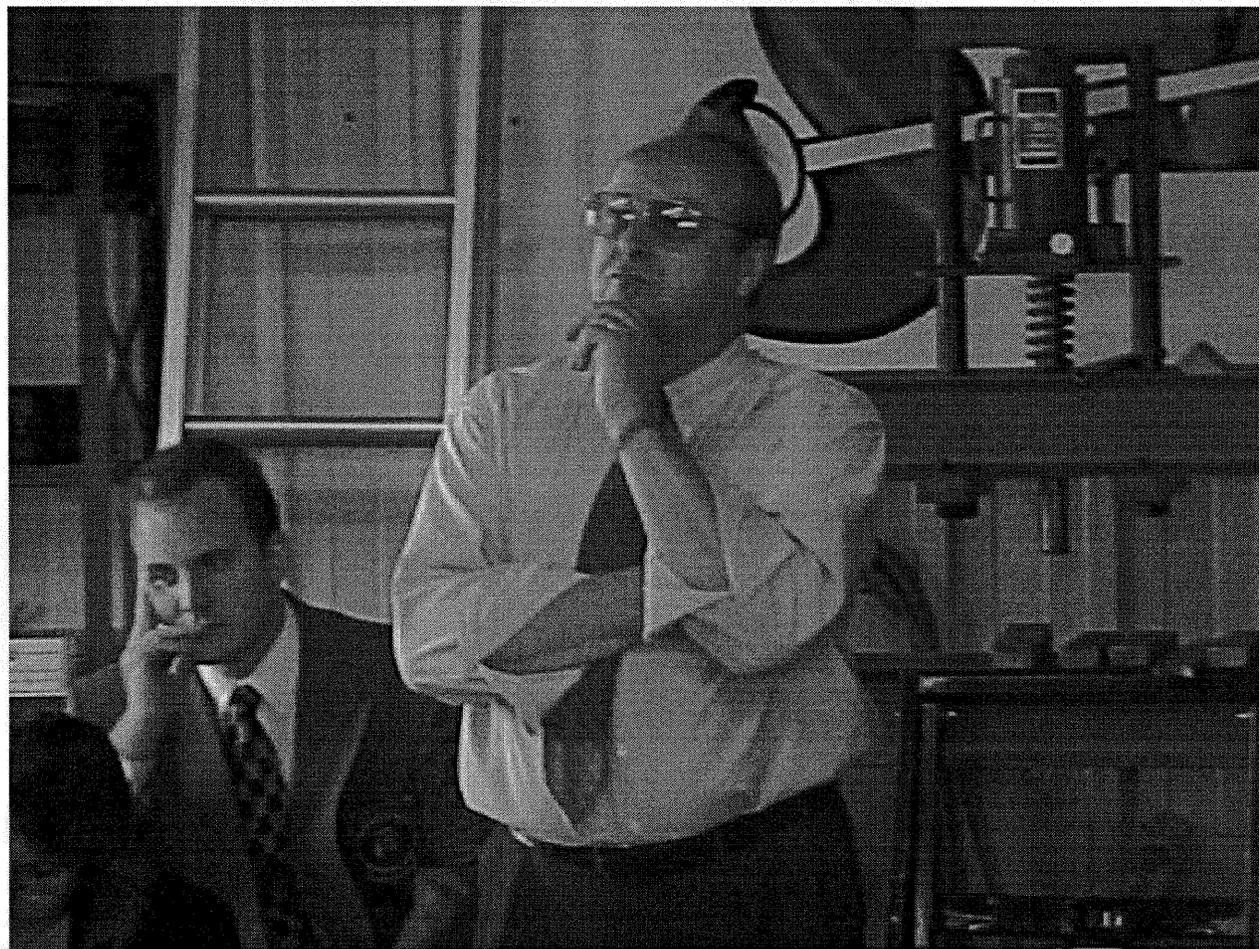
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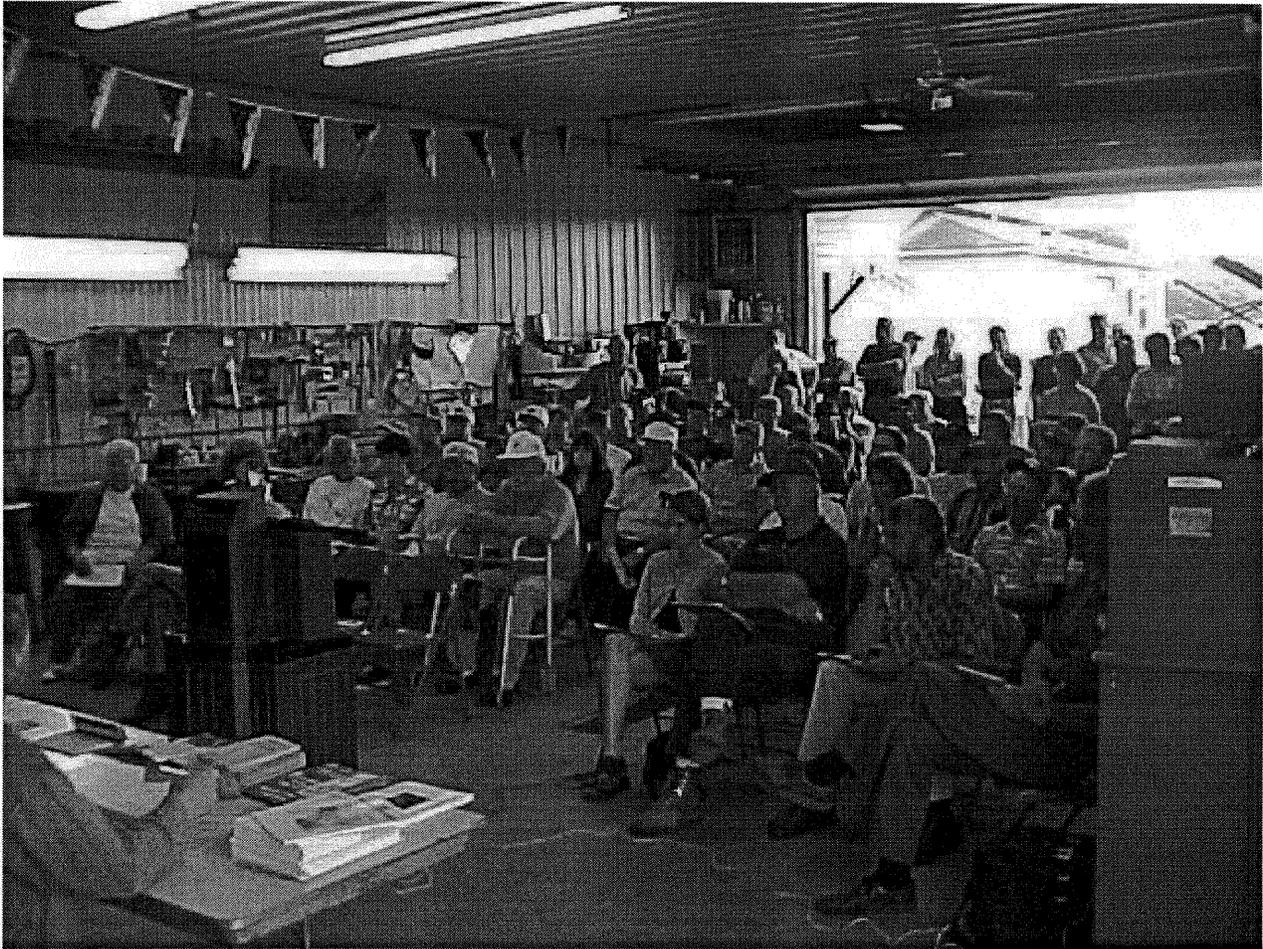
"And then you also see some of the frustration aimed at each other, and somewhat personalized, and that kind of gets us off the goal we wanted to get to today.

"But it is a time to talk and a time to share our concerns, and that's what they're doing."

Lyksett can be reached at 830-5840, (800) 236-7077 or dan.lyksett@ecpc.com.

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Eau Claire Leader Telegram - Story - 8/29/00

'Frustrated' farmers air complaints

More than 100 attend meeting

By Dan Lyksett
Leader-Telegram staff

DURAND -- Low milk prices, stray voltage and the escalating value of hunting land were just a few of the issues farmers brought forward -- often forcefully, sometimes angrily -- when they were asked for their opinions Monday.

Rep. Al Ott, R-Forest Junction, convened a meeting of the Assembly Agriculture Committee at the Spindler Dairy farm outside of Durand, the second of four such meetings he has planned.

The mission, Ott said, was to collect information from farmers that government agencies and politicians can use to combat record low prices affecting farmers across the country.

"This is not a finger-pointing day," Ott said. "This is a day of coming together to understand what's impacting agriculture, and then pass it on to the people who can help."

Fingers were pointed, however, by many of the more than 100 people who attended at foreign governments that heavily subsidize their agriculture and the farmer down the road whose large dairy operation may be causing water pollution.

Mary C. Anderson of Whitehall, who once milked cows with her husband on their farm and now raises beef cattle, decried what she called a government "cheap food policy" that intentionally lowers the prices farmers receive for their products.

"We are in a depression in the agricultural community," she said.

Anderson faulted large agricultural corporations for selling products that stimulate milk and grain production at a time when surplus products are blamed for low commodity prices.

"All the people who work for the big chemical companies, you don't hear them going 'How are we going to pay our light bill?'"

"And every woman in this room who has kids knows what it's like to not be able to buy their kids that pair of Nike tennis shoes because the money isn't in the checkbook."

Arnie Spindler of the town of Durand also raised the issue of foreign governments subsidizing their farmers.

He said foreign governments are said to outspend the U.S. \$60 to \$1 on agricultural subsidies.

"Boy, I'll tell you, that's tough competition," he said.

Steve Haines of Arcadia was one of several farmers who complained about state-led efforts to

solve stray-voltage problems on dairy farms.

"The only (farmers) I know who have (solved the problem) are the ones who've sold their cows," he said.

Bob Cropp, UW-Extension agent in Pepin County, helped coordinate the hearing. Cropp said he wasn't surprised that some of the farmers present expressed their frustrations.

"We did get a good turnout of people -- farmers, mostly dairy producers -- and if there's a word to describe them, it's 'frustrated.'

"And then you also see some of the frustration aimed at each other, and somewhat personalized, and that kind of gets us off the goal we wanted to get to today.

"But it is a time to talk and a time to share our concerns, and that's what they're doing."

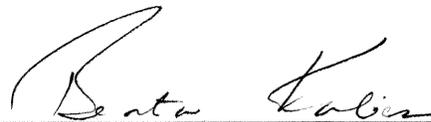
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Committee Meeting Attendance Sheet

Assembly Committee on Agriculture

Date: AUG. 28, 2000 Meeting Type: LISTENING SESSION
SUB-COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL
Location: SPINDLER DAIRY, DURAND, WI ISSUES

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Excused</u>
Rep. Alvin Ott, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Jerry Petrowski	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Eugene Hahn	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Steve Kestell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Joan Spillner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Scott Suder	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. John Ainsworth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Tom Sykora	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Barbara Gronemus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Julie Lassa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Joe Plouff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Marty Reynolds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. John Steinbrink	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Sarah Waukau	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>10</u>



Beata Kalles, Committee Clerk

8/28/00 Assembly Agriculture Sub-Committee Hearing at Durand, WI

1) MEL PITTMAN of Plum City, dairy farmer

Has 75 cow dairy farm and is director of Dairy Co-op.

In the last 3 months, his payroll is 40% down, see no improvement

-Find \$ to make direct payments to farmers to keep going. Suggested an amount based on percentage of gross income on tax return.

(Rep. Gronemus suggested this should apply to all farmers not just dairy.)
(Rep. Plouff called this "unemployment insurance". Is that what is meant?)

(Some discussion about this unemployment part followed. Then Al stated that it will be included in our report. Also mentioned the Montana Compact and the fact that Wisconsin has no way to subsidize farmers.)

2) JAN MORROW of Cornell, dairy farmer

(Also a Democratic Candidate in 67th district/ Sykora's seat.)

Milks 50 cows and does not want a welfare payment but better prices. She talked to Sec. Glickman. Talked to Governor and he was to get emergency aid from Pres. Clinton. People can't afford to buy milk! There's a soup kitchen in Eau Claire and that has not happen in a while. Managed to get the group a little revved up. Al intervened.

-need to get Governor to ask Clinton for economic state of emergency assistance.

-put pressure on Atty. Gen Doyle to figure out how come milk costs \$4 in Chicago.

-do something about imports, need quality chicken!

(Rep. Gronemus added that the coop Jan belongs to buys imported chicken.)

8/28/00 Assembly Agriculture Sub-Committee Hearing at Durand, WI

3) ARNIE WEISENBECK of Durand

Agriculture imports add up to 72% over the last year!

(Rep. Bronemus clarified that this is all milk products not just milk.)

-imports are driving our prices down.

Even though we are in a global economy, other countries subsidize their products.

4) ARNOLD SPINDLER of Durand

Went to Rural Conference in D.C. Foreign countries spent \$.60 for every \$1.00 in subsidy.

8/28/00 Assembly Agriculture Sub-Committee Hearing at Durand, WI

5) TOM ROTERING of Fountain City

Stray voltage all over the place. REMC needs fixing. They take suggestions and throw them out. Mark Cook tested the underground and it's bad. Public Service Commission/ Utilities say there is no engineering proof for that. Has Riverland Energy and it used obsolete equipment to test. Utilities are not addressing this issue as it is a problem that needs to be fixed.

Asked Dr.Siroky if he has seen a cow die of stray voltage. Reply was no because it is not obvious.

(Al suggested that the formation of REMC was to find answers and it is a new effort to help. Discussed the membership of REMC.)

Do we get paid for whey products? If they get paid for it so should farmers. Component pricing has made things worse.

(Someone suggested that whey comes in the price already when consider milk III prices. Whey prices are fairly flat. If sell to a coop, they get annual reports.)

(Bob B. statistics dept. suggested that every Friday that info is published on their website. Quality components pricing included protein, fat and whey. Currently it's about \$.17 /lb.)

(Ken McMahon of Ellsworth Coop commented that Mandatory reporting soon will include whey pricing.)

8/28/00 Assembly Agriculture Sub-Committee Hearing at Durand, WI

6) STEVE HAINES of Arcadia

REMC is not fulfilling its duties. There were 3 proposals on the stray voltage study but only one was reported. There were at least 10 people against the proposal. One petition had 400 signatures against it.

(Jeanne Meier responds that such input was not considered since when the UW makes a research request it is meant only for those within the system. The info provided was considered by the research committee at UW. Entire council looked at the proposal selected. Choice was either do this one or not at all. So some changes were included and this is the proposal that was selected. Prof. Doug Reinemann is only one of 3 scientists working on the project.)

(Rep. Gronemus asked how is the farmer supposed to influence research?) By letting legislators know.

Steve said that Mr. Stelzer (?) is still waiting for a reply from AI since he wrote his letter.???

-Put legislation together to address the control of local coops. They should be regulated.

7) NANCY IVERSON of Plum City, dairy farmer

Sell product for less than it takes to produce. Loss of income.

-need livable wage on own products, so far nothing to show for it

-need to do something if we are to remain strong in agriculture.

8/28/00 Assembly Agriculture Sub-Committee Hearing at Durand, WI

8) JAMIE VOELKER of Rice Lake, dairy farmer

Three years ago she had the Marketing Act in her hand when she met with Joe Tregoning of DATCP. It stated that it SHALL address the cost of production. Agriculture Marketing Act 96.04. Joe was going to have his attorneys look at it.

Choices are to expand, get out or bring outside income to the farm. She does not understand the subsidy for expansion.

Neighbor farmer up the hill from her apparently dumps manure on watershed area and gets away with it because he did not have the animals before the expansion took place. Regulation is not followed.

Change the salary of administrators of co-ops to get their attention. Tie it to the milk price. Farmers should demand control of co-ops.

(Rep. Gronemus added that any large operation has to go through permit process. The neighbor can't get away with it.)

Jamie replied that the local board told her they have barnyard runoff to deal with first. She did not inquire if a DNR permit was obtained.

(Audience member (Ken?) called out - do not put farmer against farmer! He takes exception to expansion but that is not the problem.)

Jamie continued that farming needs to be considerate of resources.

(AI suggested that farmers need to come together, both small and large, and stay together because otherwise the world is going to take market from us.)

What is the purpose of the marketing order? Is it not pricing?

Someone answered that It's for research and promotion. Pricing is done separately.

8/28/00 Assembly Agriculture Sub-Committee Hearing at Durand, WI

9) JAY RICHARDSON of Spring Valley

Everyone should attend the non-point hearings that DATCP and DNR are hosting. Changes are coming that could mean drop in cows from 1000 to 500. (someone suggested as low as 300).

He was the first farmer to put up manure storage. He feels it's needed since can't spread it on frozen ground.

At hearings people found more issues, so the DNR and DATCP went back to the drawing board to address them.

Need to work with them, but not get kicked out of business.

Be careful what you wish for because you may get it.
Problems are not size specific.

10) MARY ANDERSON of Whitehall

No longer milks cows. Has 100 head beef with intense grazing. Was happy with 60 cows. "Policy for cheap prices".

Got problem with products such as BST that makes efficiency possible.
Overproduction is making our milk prices low.

It makes for better corn, industry feeds this idea. Farmers grow it and use it but can't export. Exports not possible, they don't want it.

Expansion is not wanted if can get good price with less animals.

-Government needs to sort out the problem for the farmers. Government needs to do more.

Soda should not be promoted and made available cheaper than milk.

Appreciated those that produce. Depression exists in the ag community. Farmers don't get any benefits. "We feed you, what do you do?"

-Legislature needs to step in and help. Don't want welfare. Get people to take stock in our products. Don't hurt our products with imports and synthetics.

8/28/00 Assembly Agriculture Sub-Committee Hearing at Durand, WI

11) WILLARD HAIGH of Eleva, dairy farmer

(see attached written comments)

Most fixes are temporary just to hold up the system that is collapsing. His suggestions focus on dairy and price enhancement.

Flaws in our marketing system. Neither political convention thought this was an important issue. Farmers make up a small percentage of the population but they do feed everyone.

Cost of production is between \$17-18.00 per hundred. Congressman Kind suggests \$12.50 floor price! At least cost of production should be covered in milk price. Want cost of production plus investment.

Why is the USDA cutting the basic formula price and coming up with inventory figures to kill the price?

Passing appropriate "legislation can be compared to loading of hogs. It don't go up the chute all at once."

Whey - whey powder costs 17 cents and non-fat dry milk costs \$1.02. Difference of 83 cents. Yet the two powders are interchangeable in many uses.

1/3 of whey production- whey, lactose and protein is used within the dairy industry in making cheese spreads and ice cream etc.

2/3 of whey is used by food and drug companies.

If whey is used within the dairy industry, profits should be returned to the producers, especially in a coop.

There is between 5-6 pounds of whey per hundred pounds of milk.

Raising the price of whey will have little cost to consumers but will cut into the profits of secondary processors. If whey could be priced the same as non-fat dry milk, it could be as much as \$4 per hundred more in milk price.

The ag community within Wisconsin needs to work together to make this happen. Whey is not federally regulated, so it's not a federal issue. There is little coordination within the state on this.

Supply control - do what is practical. Study and compromise on - price of drying and selling. Whey would be good for export as well since China is a good market.

8/28/00 Assembly Agriculture Sub-Committee Hearing at Durand, WI
Cont. Willard Haigh

- I) Total grade A milk system. What are the costs to overhaul the system?
- II) Legislative good intentions (use value for example), but door open for big spending. No cap in evaluations. The well to do own the land and can afford to pay the taxes. What is the local cost when it comes to schools, jails, roads, environment etc?
- III) Monitor sales barns and farm services.
- IV) Volume pricing not just in milk but fertilizer.
- V) Bring co-ops into the hands of the farmers. Large farmers are expanding and getting premiums and hauling discounts. Not allow them to process imported products. Co-ops should process only what is produced by the farmers.

On the federal level, we need to cover broad area such as exports, location, parity with the rest of society.

12) DENNIS IVERSON of Plum City

The more land can sell, more price supports available.
Banks say we should get out. Knows what taxes are.

Sees blatant discrimination between farmer organizations.
The bigger you are, more you get ex. Trucking discounts.
Government wants big farms only.

If have Federal loan, can't use the DNR woodland program.
Woodland property is used in use value applications, it was not intended that way.

(Julie from FSA comments: Can not receive money from two sources.)

(Rep. Sykora comments on Forest Program. Under 10 acres automatically falls under use-value. There is pressure to sell off small forest crops and this helps avoid that.)

(Audience comments: Owners of woods should be charged other than recreational assessment. People out of state buy good land for hunting and such. Recreational assessments were questioned. No answers.)
Land remaining on farm=farmland. If sold off, classified as recreation land.
This was put in Sen. Decker's bill ?

8/28/00 Assembly Agriculture Sub-Committee Hearing at Durand, WI

(Rep. Plouff responded to audience demand for solutions by saying there are no solutions. The purpose to come here was to listen and get ideas about possible solutions. There are so many issues.)

13) RON HUPPERT of Arkansaw, WI

Had problem with one of his accounts and wants other farmers aware. Info was introduced last session in AB 847 Gronemus... Ott etc regarding documentation of agricultural credit transactions.

Farm Credit Services figure it out - put money in but could not draw out. One document page was missing. Act. # was changed. Loan was transferred twice and then deleted. So a revolving commercial loan got changed to a signed promissory note loan. DA refuses to prosecute and Atty. General sees this as a rural issue.

He was securing buildings with a co-op when this happened. Still is a co-op member. Eventually won the battle by using the trespassing law to get rid of the people.

Case was not published even though criminal activity because he's a farmer. Rep. Gronemus will introduce a bill regarding duplicate documents instead of copies.

14) SAM DANZINGER of Durand

Milks 80 cows for a living. Quota system needed or figure out what co-ops are doing.

"organic" milk - different marketing, niche market yet get \$17.00

(Rep. Gronemus asks are the Co-ops not doing anything? General response no. \$9 milk shipped from Mexico, why pay \$11 here to farmer? But farmers own the Co-ops. Response "we gave away the Co-ops.")

(Public member: Board needs to be selected, if farmers own co-ops then we farmers need to speak up in them.)

(Jamie Voelker added: multi-tier -black voting)

(Public member: How do we start a good co-op? - promote within Wisconsin.)

(Public member: need to manage supply!)

8/28/00 Assembly Agriculture Sub-Committee Hearing at Durand, WI

(Joe Bragger: message that we are in this together. All farmers need to work together.

"Base price" = "cost of production" @\$14.00. Anything above the base that is produced should get less/ quota.)

(Willard Haigh: \$18.00 should be the floor price for milk. Give certificate if meet and if there is a 5% surplus, get 5% less of \$18.00. Or "in-kind" payment. Should be paid only on original cows.)

(Marty Hallock: USDA tried to kill market by killing base price, then when market dictated higher price- suddenly found cheese and then when prices crept up, the USDA cut the basic price \$4.00.

product can go to distribution for 1.89/lb. Creamery and distributions are on line, doubles in value at grocery store.)

(Ken McMahon suggests: work out the percentages.)

(Jay Richardson adds that you can make money in California † \$14.00 USDA admits there is shortage of dairy products- do something about imports.)

(Bob Battaglia/stats : nationally 6 million of cheese sold but only 1 million is from WI/MN. This has to be national effort.)

(Rep. Gronemus: penalize Co-ops?)

(Co-ops control supply to get better price)

15) PAT KLING of Taylor, dairy farmer

With supply and demand, does WMMB do anything?

8/28/00 Assembly Agriculture Sub-Committee Hearing at Durand, WI

16) STEVEN KLING of Taylor

Something has to be done on the state level regarding keeping plants here in Wisconsin. Not best atmosphere here because of taxation. Take competition.

National policy – Mississippi River concerns regarding dredging, environmental issues, main shipping, locks and dams situation, and floatation on the river.

(Rep. Gronemus: conservation credit in Wis. Encourages more people to do more.)

17) JONATHAN WAYNE of Durand, retired dairy farmer

If we don't do something for our products, we lose out.

Need quota system. Cost of living added on.

Set prices / Co-ops. Sell by gallon at the plant so many people go to the creamery.

(Rep. Gronemus: Midwest Compact?)

(Ken: NE price and our price, we can't ship there because they have own. It has limited imports from overseas. Supply management for that area.)

(Jay Richardson added: it would take care of Wisconsin Farmers)

(Re. Gronemus: will co-ops fight such a compact?)

18) BOB SWENSON of River Falls

We have to work with the rest. NW dairy Coalition? (instead of compact)

8/28/00 Assembly Agriculture Sub-Committee Hearing at Durand, WI

(Joe Bragger: limit imports, manage supply = same thing)

(Rep.Sykora: We produce 90% of cheese. Yet our cheese goes out of state/ need to be sensitive to exports.)

(Ken: says national compact is needed. If we do that we take care of all.)

(Joe Bragger: when dealing with exports need to consider value of the dollar since it makes our products more expensive.)

19) JEFF JACKSON of Clayton

How do imports affect milk? Certified grade A?

(Bob Battaglia: only track national level not state)

(Ken: Quotas/tariffs are legal)

Does it mean quality?

(Al: federal gov. should police this)

(Joe Bragger: imports form Mexico and Canada yes but not done between states.)

(Dr. Siroky suggests bill on the Federal level , Ohio lawsuit... States do not want competition.)

(Joe Bragger: meat inspection at local level but do not know what's in it prior to getting here.)

Can WMMB do anything on the Federal level? How much money does it advertise for imports?

8/28/00 Assembly Agriculture Sub-Committee Hearing at Durand, WI

20) JILL LUCHT of Chippewa Falls, representing Wisconsin Farmers Union, farmer

Federal level: collected 12,000 signatures to petition

-higher support prices

-limit imports

-dairy for humanitarian aid, decrease supply

-in favor of country of origin label

as Jill: Family Farm Label – define what it is and how it can be supported

state level: rural unity day with guest speaker Sen. George (D-Milwaukee)

10 proposals including

- full financial aid to update manure handling

-health care as an ag issue

-loans for small farmers

-full funding for milk in schools

(Rep.Gronemus: What is a small farmer?)

Own, run and manage all by one family

-don't want contracts

-make it feasible to get into

-own land and live on it

21) CORLISS HANDRICKSON of Beldenville

Wants report of dairy market to Sec. Of Ag. so knowledgeable

Was there bill in legislature that dealt with this?

For 57 years he has dealt with politics in agriculture

Big corporations rewrote Right to Farm law and now got it in.

Ag. commodities – need to know what 's going on , be involved

Don't contract everything. Know what's going on.

8/28/00 Assembly Agriculture Sub-Committee Hearing at Durand, WI

22) JOE BRAGGER of Independence

Be careful on non-point redesign.

Even 25% cost share can't be afforded. It affects all.

Saw editorial in the paper. DFA -state:

If got rid of lowest 2% of cows = would take care of surplus
How many cows are infected with Johnes?

(Dr. Siroky responds: 10%. But looking at % can cause problems.
Across the board, 400 dairy certified out of that 25% negative, 25% B
category and 5% with infection. There are 1.3 million dairy cows in WI.)

Johnes and Cronos diseases, certain groups can take issue with them.

Need reimbursement for test for Johnes for entire herd and take cows that
are positive out to cull them so they get out of system.

- get rid of extra milk supply/cow
- clean up milk supply
- help farmers

(Dr. Siroky added info about funding. Last farm bill had money allotted.
35 million in direct payment, 20 million to those cows infected,
8-10 million for testing and the rest for training of vets and educating
producers)

Joe attended meeting in Chicago Producers Meeting and the people
there were movers and shakers as cross-section of society yet everyone
together understood danger in not the price of milk but consumer
perception.

If cronos comes out - watch out,

The problems with Johnes is that the test is not all reliable.

20% sensitive heifers, 2 years old have more antibodies in their system.

Test is variable but it's the best we got.

If "positive" means must verify culture and do herd management.

Don't look at Johnes test as discrimination of cows but raising awareness
on farms. Removing cows will make a difference in milk production.

(Rep. Groemus says funding for DATCP is inadequate and it's a culture
thing. Dr. Siroky says that farmers are lowest paid and DATCP is lowest
paid. Ben needs to talk to Rep.G. regarding funding in next budget.)

8/28/00 Assembly Agriculture Sub-Committee Hearing at Durand, WI
Cont. Joe Bragger

(Dr.Siroky added that the problem with Johnes is that it's only the first year. Testing improves over time. Labeling includes Johnes category plus year tested.)

Joe talked about cleaning up milk entering county with good standards. If had 600 per cow, 540 million a year. Need to get money worth.

He farms 260 acres, and out of 200 acres – 1/3 T category or 300 ft distance from water quality area. Rest is hill. Also rents a ridge which is 3ft to bedrock. Again a water quality management area. Thus 1/3 is difficult to farm. Loss of \$12,000 due to corn silage that can not be grown, If no funding available through cost share, it will be hard for his farm to install practices for water quality.

Expansion like selling to son is considered not available for funding. Going back to Jamie's neighbor situation, if don't limit the number of cows in the stream, create trouble. Maybe more than the manure problem.

Work together, can't pit one against another.

23) ANDY HUPPERT of River Falls, Dairy Farmer

Regarding feed corn, he lost money in corn acreage because of problems with wild turkeys. "Your" wild turkeys. DNR brought them on, they did not ask for them.

Sales tax- he has pumps to replace and could use the money.

Use-value. Land selling at 3,500/acre. 25% increase in St. Croix Co. Corn the same price and Oats lower.

We are losing out cropland. We should be locking it in for agriculture. No tax on it. If not locked in then use value.

Milk for needy children issue. Now funded but last year it was not. So where did the money go?

Not all schools participating. Kids need calcium. New school district do not include the milk program but have other extras.

Let's do something about getting free milk for our K-5 students. Kids don't vote or buy newspapers but it's the right thing to do.

8/28/00 Assembly Agriculture Sub-Committee Hearing at Durand, WI

24) MARTY HALLOCK of Mondovi

(Creamery guy)

He is an expanding farmer, trying to add the environmental factor into the cost of production of his milk. If he was in Brazil, would not need to do lots of it. We follow the rules, they do not.
Our consumers will have to pay more.

Slow the imports. Offer supply-demand management.

The impact of Johnes and Cronos would be like the mad cow disease in Britain.

Has problem with real estate taxes and school districts. Always comes down to the farmer who owns the land and ends up paying for the schools, even in Milwaukee.

(Farmland does not go to school. Property taxes should be on homes).

(Jay from the public asked if there is a chance for special session. Not likely.)

End of testimony for the Durand Hearing.

8-25-00

Willard Haugh

N44152 Co. Road 4

Eleva, WI 54738

(715) 287-4451

- Durand hearing
- Feels solution to dairy price crisis is supply control system on whey powder.
- Talked Almost 40 min.
- Spoke w/ Brenemus.

~~10/27/00~~

#1

Phone: 715-287-4451

Willard A. Haight
N 44152 Co. Hwy
Eleva, Wis. 54738

Dear Rep. OTT: My main concerns are in regard to dairy & price enhancement, also property & real estate taxes.

My background: grew up on a farm, worked in a local meat market & later a packing plant. Korean army vet. College graduate in political science & basic business. Dairy experience: butter maker, ice cream mix & general plant work; also field work that resulted in moving grade A milk into the Chicago market. Wife & I have farmed since 1964. Farm in family for 124 years. Helped 3 children get into farming.

The world trade center in New York, because of inadequate foundation is kept from toppling with a system of jacks. Agriculture is kept up with a system of supports, payments etc to keep agriculture in place because of flaws in our marketing system. Figures of \$3 billion annually come up. Neither political convention mentioned ag. - maybe they think that the small percentage of farmers don't matter, or maybe they don't want the public to know the cost. 100% of people do eat.

If you are on track to hold these meetings because many figures put out are not always accurate, after looking in the Blue book at ag. committee members backgrounds it should be possible to do something for the dairy industry.

Before I write about some solutions let's look at some things: Congressman Kind is talking about a \$12.50 floor price. Isn't the cost of production between \$7.00 & \$8.00 per hundred.

It is suggested that milk should be produced for \$5.00 below the cost of production?

Sen. Kohl & Sen. Feingold introduced legislation in regard to the New England Compact. If they (the dairy farmers) get \$1.00 more than \$0.00 it shouldn't hurt us. It's not likely that a lot of multi-million dollar cheese plants will be built.

When the Clinton-Gore bus tour came to Western Wisconsin in 1992, Al Gore, not yet V.P. said that he realized that dairy farmers needed 17 to 18 dollars a hundred to make a decent living. Why then is the U.S. Dept. cutting the basic formula price & coming up with inventory figures to kill the price? - About 4 times in a year.

III When I contacted your office + Rep. Gronemus both suggested that I put my ideas in writing. There are just a broad spectrum of things that come into play. Passing legislation can be compared to loading hogs. It don't all go up the chute at once. Some suggestions I have follow:

Whey - With whey powder at 17 cents + non-fat dry milk at \$1.02 that's an 85 cent a pound spread in price, yet the 2 powders are interchangeable in many food uses. About $\frac{1}{3}$ of whey production powder, lactose + protein is used within the dairy industry for cheese spreads, pudding, ice cream to name a few. $\frac{2}{3}$ of whey products are then sold to other food + drug companies. If the whey is used within the dairy industry, profits should be returned to the producers, especially in a coop. Now what can be done to increase the price of whey? With between 5 + 6 lbs of whey solids per hundred lbs of milk - that means that for each dime the price can be pushed up 20 cents can be added to the milk check per hundred.

It's hard to come up with accurate figures in regard to whey product volume. The Blue Book & farm papers figures often don't match with milk volume & utilization. Some say 700 million lbs annually, others say 375 million but whatever figure your committee comes up with - take $\frac{2}{3}$ of that figure and multiply by the 80 cent price spread between whey powder & non-fat dry milk and then you'll know how much should be in farmers' milk checks. Raising the price of whey will have little cost to consumers but will eat into the profits of secondary processors. If whey could be priced the same as non-fat dry milk we would be talking about 4 dollars per hundred more in milk price. If your committee working with the Wisconsin ag dept & other ag departments in the Mid West would work together would help - this is not a federal issue because whey does not come under federal regulations.

If my suggestion to get supply control would be to do what is practical whether the price farmers buy back whey for the cost of drying or the selling - this could be studied and compromised on. If we took the 12 cent average drying cost and returned 1 lb of whey to the farmer, this would mean that we would be taking $\frac{1}{5}$ of whey production off the market. Maybe we'd want to take more; maybe less.

If the above could be implemented & work, a farmer selling 1000 lbs of milk would spend \$1.20 to possible gain \$4.00. Also if the price of whey is enhanced it could also push up the price of N.F.P.

The one thing to keep in mind is soy products can displace dairy if the price is right or dairy is too high. China has idea to buy 100 million lbs of whey powder for animal feed. This could help.

IV Following are some things your committee
& you may want to think about to turn
the dairy industry around.

(I) A total grade A milk system. What
would be the cost? How to fund? The
product image. What would be the cost to
bring all wells & water supplies on farms
to code. Hauling savings & marketing savings
& efficiency.

(II) When various people come from Madison
in regard to schools, jails, roads, environment -
what is the local cost when everything is
combined. Figures of rent sales are used but
when court house records are fully checked
often it was not for cash. The legislature
passed use value & spending caps it was
well intended but now the dept of revenue
raises valuation making an end run on
good intentions, and telling the assessors
what to do. While the mill rate may
be lowered at present, it leaves the
door open for future big spending.
Parity is well below 50% on farm products
yet public employees need a cost of living
adjustment.

VII

III We should be monitoring sales barns, also people who go to do farm service calls who charge each farm the distance to town even though they receive radio calls & never return during the day to town. A seal costing \$1.00 in our pipeline was leaking. We happened to have one that the repairmen could use. We were charged \$1.00 for the use of a pliers and \$6.00 for the 12 minutes in yard.

IV Volume not only in milk but also in regard input. Fertilizer should not be \$40.00 for the versus small farmer.

V In theory these coops are owned by the farmers. The small farmers for decades built & improved them. Yet the big farmers who just expanded get the premiums & hauling discounts. Legislation should be introduced to bring the coops into the hands of farmers. These managers & directors should be fined if they use coop facilities to process imported products.

VIII

In Conclusion I would like to thank all committee members for this chance to speak. If the state could do their parts we then stand a better chance with future federal laws.

This price structure in dairy can be changed and I've only covered a portion. On the federal level we need to cover a broad area such as efforts, location, parity with the rest of society. The bottom line is that it's a social thing & what will consumers accept.

Thanks again
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