

Dairy farmers are aware of those holes in the laws and realize that protective legislation is needed. In December 1966, E. M. Norton, secretary of the National Milk Producers Federation, stated:

If we have learned anything in this dairy business during the past 15 years, it is that a small surplus has a drastic effect on the price of milk. And, within the past year, we have seen how milk prices can improve if we bring supply and demand into balance.

What every dairy farmer must realize now is that a pound of surplus butterfat imported from abroad has the same depressing effect on farm milk prices as an extra pound produced here. It does not matter whether the butterfat is imported in the form of butter, butter oil, Exylone, Grapex, frozen cream, Colby cheese, or some other product.

It is unjust that our dairymen should be flooded with dairy products from other countries just after having reduced domestic milk production to match consumer requirements.

It is the same story all down the line, from the large federation to the small farmer with 20 dairy cows. They see rising costs, rising taxes, and lower income and fewer markets for their products.

Since introducing H.R. 8113, dairy import control legislation, mail has been nearly unanimous in favor of better controls. Farmers believe, and rightly so, that a market flooded with ever-increasing imports has cost them money.

I think their own words, taken from several of the letters I have received, makes the point.

A dairy farmer from Licking County writes that he is "alarmed at the increased imports of dairy products" and adds, "I see no fairness in having wage laws that increase my costs while imports are allowed to undercut my markets."

Two brothers, joint owners of another Licking County farm, simply said:

"We operate a dairy farm * * * and we think dairy imports are seriously affecting our dairy prices."

I believe that there is no doubt that they are correct. Some dairy men must rely on help from within the family to survive the pressures. As one letter stated:

"Dairy imports are extremely dangerous to all dairymen, farmers who are working 7 days a week struggling to meet the high cost of feed, labor, expensive equipment plus meeting all Government inspections. We are discouraged, as are many dairy farmers. As you probably know if it wasn't for our son, we would have had to sell years ago."

This same letter expressed a problem which we all must face and it is related to the imports problem. As the letter stated:

"We are always amazed when we attend farm gatherings to find practically all full-time farmers are well above middle age."

More and more the young farmer, or potential farmer, sees friends and relatives forced out of farming by various pressures—dairy import influences among them—and decides to spend his life working in another field.

A young couple wrote and described this situation.

We are dairy farmers and naturally are interested in curtailing the import of dairy products. I'm sure you are familiar with the tremendous amount being imported and what a hardship it is causing.

Milk is lower now than 20 years ago, but still there isn't enough milk produced in the United States for its needs. Is this the old law of supply and demand? My husband and I are in our twenties. He farms approximately 200 acres, plus