

USDA REFUNDS \$81.9 MILLION TO DAIRY FARMERS FOR REDUCED 1995 MARKETINGS

From US Dept. of Agriculture

■(WASHINGTON) Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said Monday that milk producers who reduced or did not increase their 1995 milk marketings from 1994 levels received refunds of their 1995 marketing assessments totaling \$81.9 million.

As required by section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1949 (the 1949 Act), as amended, producers paid an assessment on all milk marketed in calendar year 1995. The assessment rate from January 1 through April 30 was 11.25 cents per hundredweight and from May 1 through December 31 was 18.23 per hundredweight. The 1949 Act provides that any producer who did not market more milk in a refund-year than was marketed in the previous year is eligible for a refund of the entire amount assessed during the refund-year.

Eligible producers filed 37,896 applications and claimed refunds of \$81.9 million based upon reduced milk marketings of 52.0 billion pounds. Producers must have met eligibility requirements and claimed the refund by March 15, 1996.

The Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 terminated the authority to assess marketings of milk on and after May 1, 1996. Assessments collected through April 30, 1996, will be refundable. To be eligible for a refund, a dairy farmer must provide evidence that total milk marketed in 1996 did not exceed total marketing in 1995. However, if a producer quits dairying during 1996, the milk marketings for the months and days of production in the refund year, 1996, will be compared with such milk marketings in the corresponding months and days of the base year, 1995.

NHTSA ANNOUNCES TWO CHILD SAFETY SEAT RECALLS

From US Dept. of Transportation

■(WASHINGTON) The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Tuesday announced child safety seat recalls being conducted by Century Products Company of Macedonia, Ohio, and Evenflo of Piqua, Ohio.

The Century recall involves 11,000 Century SmartMove Model 4750 convertible child safety seats manufactured between Nov. 27, 1995 and Feb. 13, 1996. They are being recalled because a mismatch of latching components could allow the buckle to release during a crash.

NHTSA Administrator Ricardo Martinez, M.D., told parents who had no suitable alternative to safety seats affected by this recall to continue using them until they receive and install the retrofit kit from the manufacturer. An unrestrained child is at much greater risk of injury in a crash than a child in a restraint system, he explained.

To obtain a free retrofit kit, owners of these seats should call Century at (800) 583-4093 or write to Century Products Company, 9600 Valley View Road, Macedonia, Ohio 44056.

The Evenflo recall involves 10,423 Evenflo Trooper Adjustable Shield child safety seats, Models 219140, 219164, 219180, 219186 and 219188 built between

Nov. 27, 1995 and Jan. 22, 1996. Evenflo is replacing the instruction pamphlet accompanying these seats because it switched the instructions for toddler and infant use. This error could lead some owners to believe that infants smaller than 20 pounds can ride facing forward. Evenflo will provide owners with a new, corrected instruction pamphlet.

Owners of these Evenflo child safety seats who wish to contact the company for a new instruction pamphlet should call (800) 837-4002 or write to Evenflo at 1801 Commerce Drive, Piqua, Ohio 45356.

DOE AGREES TO HELP KEEP OIL FLOWING

From US Dept. of Energy

■(WASHINGTON) In a deliberate action to prevent a prolonged disruption in the flow of crude oil to 32 major refineries in America's mid-continent, the Clinton Administration today agreed to help an ARCO subsidiary resolve a temporary problem with a plugged pipeline.

"The President is clearly concerned about the rise in gasoline prices. Government and business have put their heads together to come up with a creative solution to ensure a continued supply of oil to seven Midwestern states," explained Hazel R. O'Leary, U.S. Secretary of Energy.

The Department of Energy (DOE) has

agreed to supply up to 1 million barrels from its Strategic Petroleum Reserve to ARCO under a short-term lease agreement. The crude oil will be used to help fill the Seaway System, a major interstate service that ARCO is expanding to ship crude oil from the Texas Gulf Coast to Cushing, Okla., a key distribution center to Midwest refineries.

ARCO is working to accelerate the flow of oil into the 30-inch Seaway pipeline because a smaller, companion pipeline it was using to supply the Cushing terminal has become temporarily blocked. This 20-inch pipeline is currently out of service, interrupting oil deliveries to Cushing.

Cushing is the distribution center to two refineries in Texas, nine refineries in Oklahoma and Kansas and 21 refineries in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan and Kentucky. Maintaining an adequate supply of crude oil to these refineries at this time of year is especially crucial to meeting the higher summer demand for gasoline and avoiding additional upward pressure on gasoline prices.

Before ARCO can fully utilize the larger 30-inch Seaway pipeline, it must "pack," or fill, the line with approximately 2.5 million barrels of crude oil. To meet this need, the company approached DOE with an offer to obtain up to 1 million barrels from the 60 million barrels of oil that the Government is storing at its Bryan Mound Strategic Petroleum Reserve site near Freeport, Texas.

DOE agreed to supply the oil under a lease arrangement. Under terms of the lease, ARCO will pay the Federal Government a fee for leasing the crude oil. Within the next six months, ARCO will replace the oil with an equivalent grade of crude, plus pay any price differential if oil prices fall during the lease term.

DOE reached the agreement with ARCO under its authority to lease property of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. The temporary arrangement will not interfere with the use of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve should an emergency draw-down be necessary during the lease term.

The 30-inch Seaway pipeline can carry 270,000 barrels per day, while the 20-inch has a design capacity of 160,000 barrels a day. ARCO expects to have the 20-inch pipeline operational in the near future to meet refinery requirements.

ARCO Pipe Line Co. operates Seaway Pipeline Company, which is a partnership between subsidiaries of Los Angeles-based ARCO and Phillips Petroleum Company of Bartlesville, Okla.