

April 2, 1976

Farm Co-ops

(0:30)

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consumer radio briefs

Two University of Minnesota economists say farmers have not gained excessive market power through cooperatives.

Dale Dahl and Winston Grant say although farmers have some market power through cooperatives, farm co-ops are generally small.

More than 93 percent of all co-ops did less than five-million-dollars in business in 1970. The National Council of Farm Cooperatives statement said every corporation in the top 54 of the Fortune list had dollar sales more than double that of the largest farmer cooperative.

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Dairy Imports

(0:50)

Although dairy products are among the most protected items in international trade, elimination of all trade barriers would be less than devastating to most American dairymen.

But free trade is unlikely since the social and economic adjustments it would mean for the dairy industries of the high-priced countries, primarily in Europe, would be too great. These are the conclusions of agricultural economists Boyd Buxton of the University of Minnesota and George Frick of the University of New Hampshire. Both work with the Economic Research Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

In a free trade situation New Zealand and Australia would be the major world exporters of dairy products. Even though the United States could not compete with these countries' prices, the economists believe the American dairy farm would not vanish under free trade conditions.

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