

Specialists See Many Changes In Future Of Milk Production

The future success of dairy men will depend on their ability to mechanize, automate, and adjust to change. That's what dairy farmers were told recently by two University of Delaware agricultural experts.

W. T. McAllister, extension farm management specialist, said the term "mechanize to survive" will be the watchword of dairy men during the next few years. W. R. Hesseltine, extension dairyman, told the dairy farmers they will have to get more milk from fewer cows if they intend to compete.

McAllister pointed out that it is already possible to almost completely automate the whole cow milking process. Using electronic and mechanical gadgets, a cow can be guided into a milking stall, fed, milked, and otherwise cared for and turned out again without involving human hands. With such a system, the amount of milk produced would be weighed and recorded, and the future feed rate computed based on the previous week's production. After all cows are milked, equipment would be washed and sterilized, and made ready for the next milking.

McAllister also pointed to a whole new system of haymaking that will cut standing forage dry in a minute with atomic energy, and pelletize it in one operation. Other innovations that dairy men can look forward to include electronically manipulated tractors monitored by television, and breeding techniques that will permit a top producing cow to "give birth to literally hundreds of offspring through a system of transplanting fertilized ova into receiver animals."

According to Hesseltine, the 1975 U. S. population of 230 million people will need 140 billion pounds of milk. It will be produced on half as many farms as it is now, by fewer cows that will aver-

age up to 14,000 pounds of milk a year compared to the current average of only 8,300 pounds. He said dairy men will have to test, cull and use top A1 sires to accomplish this.

On the retail level, the dairy specialist said there will be much less door-to-door milk selling and fewer retailers in the next few years. All milk will be sold in gallon and half-gallon containers. He raised the question of a new milk marketing technique—juggling. With this system dairy farmers produce, pasteurize, bottle and sell their own product.

Hesseltine expects the 1967 farm milk prices to average around \$5.90 per hundredweight, up 15c over the 1966 average.

PA. POTATO STOCKS 9% BELOW LAST YEAR

Stocks of Pennsylvania potatoes in the hands of growers, local dealers, and chippers were estimated to be 3,100,000 cwt on January 1, 1967, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. This was 9 percent below January 1 stocks a year ago and 14 percent below the 1960-64 average. Stocks held by chippers and processors in excess of normal supplies for current operations were included in the estimate.

Disappearance (sales, home use, etc.) during December totaled 900,000 cwt compared with disappearance during December a year ago of 1,100,000 cwt. Disappearance from time of harvest to January 1, 1967, was 2,774,000 cwt compared with 3,540,000 cwt a year ago. Carlot unloads of Pennsylvania potatoes in 41 cities for this marketing season through December show movement only 41 percent of last season. Growers continue to comment on above average breakdown in storages in all potato areas. Breakdown in numerous eastern and southeastern areas is reported to be excessive.

4 PERCENT LESS CATTLE ON FEED IN PENNA.

Pennsylvania cattle feeders had 82,000 cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market on January 1, 1967, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. This was four percent less than the 85,000 on feed for slaughter a year earlier and about two percent below the 5-year average of 84,000. Fed cattle marketed during the past quarter totaled

28,000 up 33 percent from a year earlier. Placements during the quarter totaled 54,000, down 13 percent from a year earlier. Cattle on feed less than three months on January 1 numbered 52,000, three to six months, 22,000, and more than six months, 8,000. Expected marketings for the January-March quarter at 28,000, if realized, would be eight percent above the 26,000 marketed during the same period in 1966.

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED UP SEVEN PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in 39 feeding states totaled 11,279,000 head as of January 1, 1967, an increase of seven percent from a year earlier.

The 32 major feeding States had 11,136,000 head on feed for slaughter market compared with 10,436,000 head on January 1, 1966.

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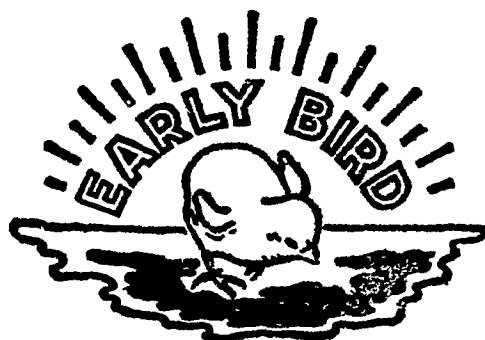
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