

Honan Charges N.Y. Producers Seek To Change Phila. Milk Order

"The true interests of the New York-based milk cooperatives in seeking a change in the milk order for Philadelphia have finally been revealed," Dr. James E. Honan, general manager of Inter-State Milk Producers' Cooperative charged, "to be the funneling-off to their own farmers the richful income of Delaware Valley milk farmers who have served the Philadelphia area for many, many years."

Honan asserted that the real intention of the New York-based cooperatives has come to light in exceptions just filed in Washington with the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

"Proposed order changes would permit more dumping of surplus milk from outside sources than the present order allows," Honan points out. "Yet the Eastern Milk Producers Association, Syracuse, has requested, in a brief just filed, provisions which would permit even more dumping of surplus milk in the Delaware Valley area."

The Dairyman's League Cooperative Association of New York and the Northeast Dairy Cooperative Federation, Syracuse, have taken parallel positions, in their affidavits presented to the USDA as comments to the recommended decision.

"Even without further inroads as requested by the New York based cooperatives," Honan charged, "the Delaware Valley dairy producers will take an immediate loss of \$10,000,000."

For the last eighteen months Inter-State Milk Producers' Cooperative has been fighting to protect the income of milk farmers who market their milk under the handler pool system in the Delaware Valley. This fight has been against the USDA and several New York-based cooperatives Inter-State represents 3500 dairy farmers in the Delaware Valley marketing area, Honan said.

On June 8, 1965, the Secretary of Agriculture issued a directive to terminate the Dela-

ware Valley handler pool marketing order. As a result of a protest by the Delaware Valley dairy farmers a hearing was held in October, 1965. The hearing lasted 24 days and 4500 pages of testimony were presented.

"Although the USDA announced that the Department had claimed it was not possible to enforce this Delaware Valley handler pool order when requested by farmers to enforce it, by October, 1966, the Department had obtained, in three separate courts, orders requiring the production of records in cases of suspected violations in the Delaware Valley marketing area," Honan continued.

"No indication or sign of any attempted enforcement has appeared to date."

Honan emphasized that "bankers, businessmen and industries of the Delaware Valley should be alerted to the possibility of this \$10,000,000 or more a year immediate loss of farm income," and explain-

ed, "the importance of this money is magnified by the fact that each \$1.00 of farm income multiplies itself many times as it progresses through the Delaware Valley economy."

"All related industries will suffer this loss," Honan concluded. "However, no downward change in the retail price of milk to consumers can result from this action."

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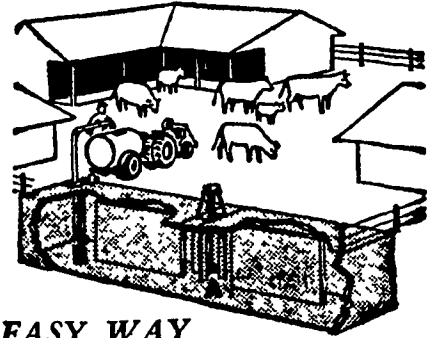
Spring will reign over the weekend, says the weatherman, with temperatures averaging above the normal range of 49 to 30 degrees. Cooler temperatures are expected in the early part of the week.

Also in the early part of the week rain will reign. A possible 1/2-inch, or more, is looked for accompanying the cooler temperatures about Monday or Tuesday.

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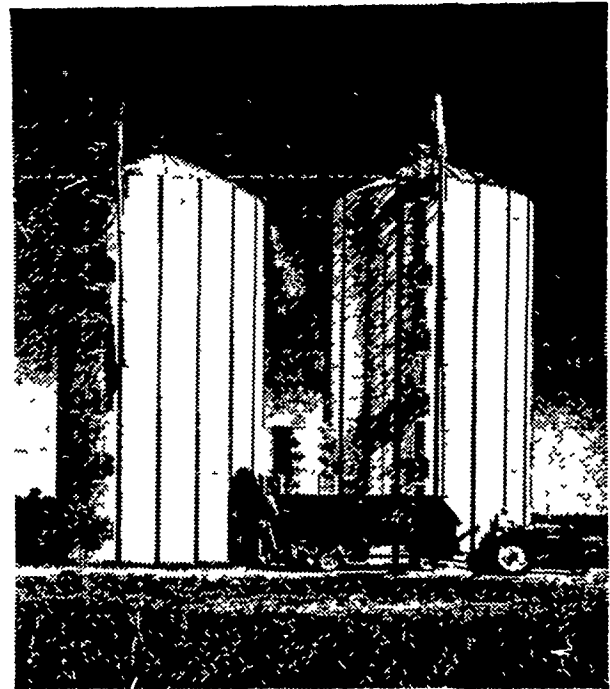
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