

● Chester County

(Continued from Page 1)

the NFO milk holding action is being supported by members in a 25-state area.

NFO was organized about 11 years ago. Elwell noted, because the farm economic situation demanded it. "The organization now operates in 1800 counties in the U.S.," he stated, "and is the fastest-growing farm organization in the country."

OBJECTIVES

Elwell cited several objectives and definitions of NFO:

1-To build NFO by avoiding the mistakes of past organizations.

2-No one can belong to NFO but farmers.

3-NFO can only serve as a bargaining agency; it can't go into business on its own.

4-Bargaining committees are established on local, area, and national levels and involve grain, meat, and milk.

"We are not a specific crop organization," Elwell explained. "We feel the whole of agriculture is sick, and it all must be brought up to par."

"To be successful, our effort has to be national," the representative said. "Holding actions in local areas have not done the job. The problem is national and has to be solved on a national basis," he added.

HOW MUCH HOLDING IS ENOUGH?

When the meeting was opened up to questions, they came thick and fast, many from two Chester and two Lancaster county newsmen.

"What percent of production in any one market does NFO find it necessary to control to make a holding action effective?"

"We know it takes about 60 percent of the production to control any given market," McNamara stated. "We knew before the holding action started in the Pittsburgh area that we had at least 60 percent support from members and non-mem-

bers, or we wouldn't have called it," he added.

McNamara noted that NFO now claims 80 percent support in that area. And he added that "despite what the processors and the co-ops report, we are getting results."

VIOLENCE, WHY?

One listener, who said he was not a dairyman, questioned the violence and waste of food that has accompanied the current milk conflict.

"Your national organization evidently doesn't think much of public relations. Many of us take a dim view of how minority groups are going about getting what they seek these days," he stated.

Later in the session, a man who identified himself as a dairy farmer, had more to say on the question of the farmer's image.

"We're hurting ourselves with the housewife by dumping this milk in the streets and other public places. I have no argument with holding milk—feeding it to hogs or dumping it on our own farms, but not in public places," the dairyman noted.

BY-LAWS BAN VIOLENCE

According to McNamara, the by-laws of the NFO prohibit any member from engaging in

"violence or threat of violence" and orders them to do nothing to "violate local laws".

"Is a member who engages in violence ousted from the organization?" McNamara was asked.

"If he is convicted (McNamara stressed the word) he is no longer a member of NFO." The representative further explained that "most of the violence you hear about is actually caused by non-members and is often directed against NFO members."

WHEN IS HOLDING, DUMPING?

There seemed to be a certain amount of quibbling over what was simply "holding" milk, and what was "dumping".

Although Elwell pointed out that NFO did not advocate dumping milk, he offered no satisfactory answer to the question of how a farmer can actually "hold" milk for a week or more.

"Assuming he could 'hold' it in good condition," the questioner continued, "wouldn't your gains be offset when that much milk was released on the market?"

"No," Elwell replied, "because by that time we would have made our point in the marketplace, and would have secured a sound contract."

HOW MUCH TO JOIN NFO?

When asked for details on

joining NFO, Elwell said, "That's the question I've been waiting for all evening!"

He explained that NFO's purpose was to secure contracts between the milk companies and the members. In its final form, the contract must be approved by at least two-thirds of the members. They can tear it apart, amend it, or revise it any way they see fit. Then it goes back to the processor for his final approval.

DUES—1 PERCENT OF GROSS SALES

"The dues to join NFO are \$25 a year," Elwell said. "But once we get you a contract, that \$25 no longer applies. From there on, a member pays NFO one percent of the amount of gross sales which he makes through the contract."

ORDER 4, DEAD

In referring to the Delaware Valley federal milk order number 4, McNamara told the dairymen that one reason there weren't more farmers dumping milk in Chester County and vicinity was that "You're in Order 4, and that's the highest paying Order in the country. You're getting about 12 cents a quart for your milk now, we feel you need 14-15 cents a quart to survive," he stated.

When the subject came up again later in the evening, McNamara said, "Order 4 is dead as of April 1, according to what we have learned unofficially. When that happens, you'll lose 50 cents a hundredweight right off the bat. Then you'll need NFO even more," he promised.

NO NEW MEMBERS SIGNED

Following the meeting, the NFO representatives invited dairymen present to join the organization. Lancaster Farming learned the following day that, although no one had actually signed up, several farmers indicated they planned to give the proposition serious consideration.

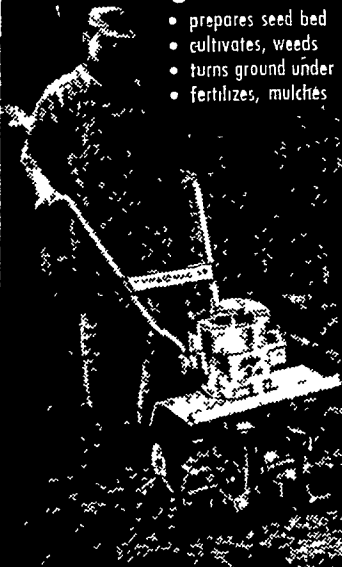
NIGHTLY MEETINGS

Trego said that while the present holding action is going on, Chester County members are meeting nightly at the IOOF hall in Unionville.

He added that once the matter is settled favorably, and they get a chance to catch up at home, the organization will begin encouraging farmers in neighboring counties to join NFO.

The human mind is a lot like a stomach — the important thing isn't what you put into 'em, but what they digest.

CHORE MASTER puts power in your garden!



- prepares seed bed
- cultivates, weeds
- turns ground under
- fertilizes, mulches

That's the way... the easy way, with CHOREMASTER power. Makes every job easier. Does every job better... faster!

Designed for operator comfort and convenience and built for durability in rugged use... by the world's largest manufacturer of tillers. See it, try it today!

See the new and used tillers at

L. H. Brubaker

350 Strasburg Pike, Lancaster R.D. 3, Lititz, Pa.
Phone: Lancaster 397-5179
— Strasburg 687-6002
— Lititz 626-7766

START THE SEASON OFF PROFITABLY BY USING FARMERS' FERTILIZERS

Pulverized and Granular

Call Us Now

FARMER'S FERTILIZER WORKS

For the Farmer

365 WEST BAINBRIDGE STREET

ELIZABETHTOWN Ph. AC 717 367-1211

Quality Fertilizers Since 1904

Stauffer's Of Kissel Hill

LAWN AND GARDEN CENTER
Lititz and Lancaster

Save Money — ORDER NOW!

MICHIGAN PEAT MOSS

For Tobacco Beds

100 lb. bags — one ton at \$1.48 per 100 lb.

2 tons — \$1.42 per 100 lb.

4 tons and up — \$1.40 per 100 lb.

Prices Picked Up at Lititz

Approximate March 20th at Railroad siding

Phone Lititz 626-2028

Phone Lanc. 569-2688

CUSTOM SPRAYING

HIGH PRESSURE WASHING

and

DISINFECTING

in all types of poultry houses.

MAYNARD L. BEITZEL

Witmer, Pa.

Phone 392-7227

for pre-emergence weed control in corn...

LOROX™
LINURON WEED KILLER

plus

ATRAZINE

This combination gives you the best from both.

We recommend it!

P. L. ROHRER & BRO., Inc.

Smoketown, Pa.
397-3539