

Other Activities Reported from Inter-State Annual Meeting

Shuman Hits U. S. Consumer 'Subsidy'

American consumers are being subsidized in the form of low food costs at the expense of farmers and government programs are making the farm price-cost squeeze worse.

That was the message of Charles B. Shuman, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation at the annual banquet Tuesday night of the Inter-State Milk Producers' Cooperative at the Marriott Motor Hotel, Philadelphia.

He noted that the food cost is at the lowest percentage of take-home pay in the history of the world.

Shuman told his audience, "In terms of parity, the Oct. 15, 1970, figure was 70. This is the lowest since the depth of the Depression, December 1933, when the parity stood at 67. It reflects the cost-price squeeze in which farmers are caught."

Parity is the relationship of prices farmers pay for production items as compared with prices received for their products.

Shuman said, "Government farms programs with their annual cost of \$3.5 billion have been little help to family farm operators as the principal benefits have gone largely to the big operators."

"These subsidy payments have been made in lieu of fair market prices, and are part of a



Charles B. Shuman
Farm Bureau President

cheap food policy under which government farm programs are used to depress prices and make farmers dependent on payments for an increasing share of their net income.

"I'm sure," he continued, "that many consumers think farmers want government farm programs and believe their tax dollars are spent in this area are aiding agriculture."

"Nothing could be further from the truth. Most farmers

are not looking for sympathy or government handouts, — all they want to do is stand on their own feet and be permitted to seek a fair price in the market place."

In addition to costly and ineffective government farm programs, Shuman said, government-fed inflation is aggravating the farm income problem by increasing costs of farm production items such as machinery, trucks and fertilizers.

"The overall farm economic picture is discouraging," Shuman told the more than 750 persons attending the annual banquet of dairy farmers.

Other Business

Problems as general as the U. S. Import Policy and as specific as extending the shelf life of milk at the store level were discussed at the 53rd annual meeting of Inter-State Milk Producers' Cooperative on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The 117 official delegates and an equal number of alternates represented more than 3,000 dairy farmers from 79 locals and voted on resolutions at the business meeting during the Wednesday session. These dairy farmer delegates recommended that Inter-State take the initiative in studying milk hauling problems and promotion of their product for improved con-

sumer understanding of the world's "most nearly perfect food" — milk.

Wilbur Seipt, President of Inter-State, opened the annual meeting with the challenge to the delegates, "I want you to be aware of the challenge that is before you, not only as dairy farmers and members of Inter-State Milk Producers' Cooperative, but also as citizens of the United States. The challenge is one that is economic, spiritual and moral. Be open-minded, keep your thinking flexible, so that when you look back at the end

of the next 10 years you can say that you made ourself, your cooperative and our country a little better."

Dr James E Honan, general manager, emphasized, "The new agriculture facing dairy farmers today that has been described as large-scale, specialized, industrialized farming units to produce an increasingly significant share of the nation's total food production makes a demand upon you 'to build a bigger mountain'."

Honan told the members, "This description of tomorrow's agriculture may not sound like farming as most of us still think of it, yet the matters with which we have worked this past year and the planning we must do for future years will begin to use a number of the terms I have mentioned. We are on the threshold of change, and I do believe we are a part of 'the new agriculture'."

Longeneckers
Celebrate 50th
Wedding Day

The three children of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Longenecker, Elizabethtown, held a special 50th wedding anniversary celebration for their parents on Thanksgiving Day at the fellowship hall, First Church of God, Elizabethtown.

About 200 persons attended, mostly family, former neighbors and friends.

They were given an ear of red corn, symbolic of the way they met 52 years ago when the former Mary Strickler found a red ear of corn and threw it at her husband-to-be.

Both of the Longeneckers still work. Retired after 40 years as a farmer, he still works part time at the Clearview Bowling Alley and she has worked as a "hobby" for the past 25 years at Elizabethtown College from 5 a.m. to 10 a.m. She is also a gardener.

They plan to leave soon for Sarasota, Florida, to spend the winter.

Included on the program was the Holstein Quartet, a former Lancaster County singing group which was accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Longenecker to the National 4-H Club Congress in 1955. Members of the quartet present were: Aaron Landis, West Wyomissing, John D. Stoner, Leola, and Stanley Longenecker, Lancaster. Raymond Denlinger, Harrisonburg, Virginia was unable to be present.

USDA to Tighten
Tapeworm Rules

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has issued a proposal to tighten meat inspection regulations on beef carcasses that show evidence of tapeworm infection.

USDA's Consumer and Marketing Service officials said the proposed changes are based on recent studies by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare's Public Health Service.

Anyone wishing to submit written comments on the proposal may do so by sending two copies to the Hearing Clerk, Room 112-A, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250. Dec. 7 is the deadline for comments on the proposal, which was published in the Nov. 7 Federal Register.

Copies of the proposal are available from the Consumer Protection Programs Services Staff, Consumer and Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250.

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