

Eastern Milk Producers New Holland Local Holds Banquet

New Holland Local 8 of Eastern Milk Producers Co. operative held its annual banquet last Friday night at Leola Fire Hall.

Robert E. Martin, New Holland RD1, was reelected president.

Other officers elected were: Paul H. Bruckhart, delegate; Mervin Deiter, vice president; Mervin Weaver, secretary; Leroy Smoker, treasurer; and Luke Weaver, alternate delegate.

Bruckhart, of Manheim RD3, gave a delegate report and Mike Martin, of Grassland FFA Chap-



Albert Merrill
Eastern Milk President

ter, recited the FFA creed. Alfred Wanner, an Eastern director, spoke briefly and Arvin Redcay warned of the importance of milk inspection. He warned that farmers with poor ratings are endangering both themselves and their neighbors.

Albert Merrill, Eastern Milk Producers president, was the speaker.

Merrill particularly emphasized the opposition of Eastern to proposals to lower requirements for adoption of a milk promotion law in Pennsylvania. The present law requires a two-thirds vote in favor by milk producers, while recent proposals call for lowering the vote to a simple majority and allowing block voting by cooperatives for their members.

"I still believe in the right of the individual," Merrill said, adding, "When it comes to the point that the co-op has to vote on something which affects the pay check of the individual producer in the milk shed, I think something is wrong."

Merrill also indicated some concern about the move of DHIA toward the new Milk-O-Tester system. He said that check tests have indicated that farmers under the Milk-O-Tester system will get a lower butterfat test and therefore will receive a lower price for their milk. Sample tests with his own herd, he said, showed a possible \$1,700 a year reduction in the milk check from the system in comparison to the creamery test.

As a result of this, according to Merrill, "There's going to be some means of checking these (Milk-O-Tester) tests."

In terms of a "fair shake to the producer," the cost of such precautions will be worthwhile in terms of increased income, Merrill said.

Speaking on the price farmers receive for their milk, Merrill noted that Eastern was "laughed at" five years ago when the cooperative asked for a one dollar a hundred increase.

But this increase has come about, costs continue to go way up, and "so we've decided to ask for another one dollar."

He stated that Eastern feels farmers are going to have to get this additional dollar or they "can't withstand the pressure much longer."

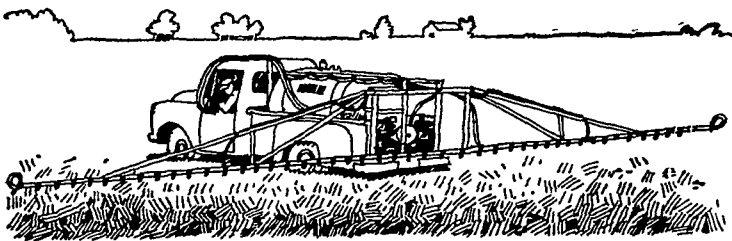
Merrill also stressed the importance of quality milk. He said Eastern has 20 men primarily involved with quality control work at the producer level.

Merrill also said Eastern is still basically a bargaining cooperative. All those who talk about a cow to consumer operation, don't discuss how much it's going to cost, he said.

He also said that individual farmers can't market their milk as efficiently as those who have been in the business all their lives.

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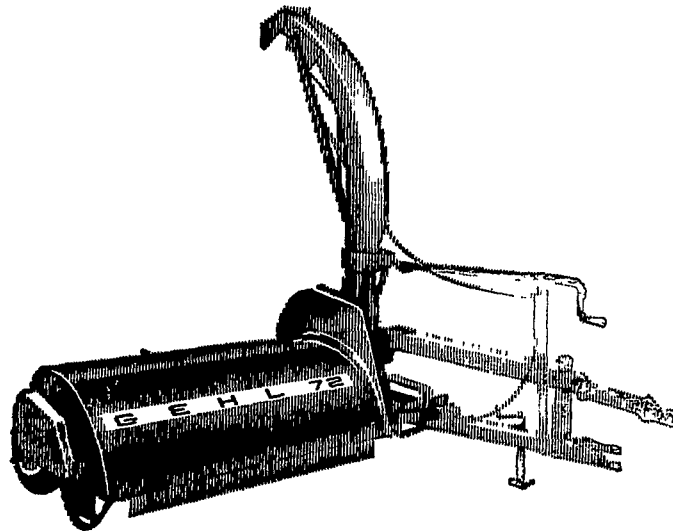
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