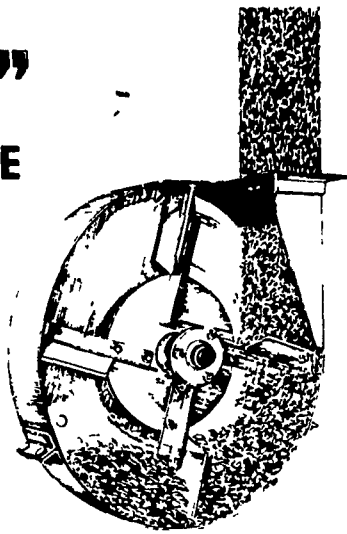


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Robert Martin, Eastern Milk Producers local president, presents a camera to Clifford Day, right, Garden Spot High School vo-ag teacher, who accepts on

behalf of the local vo-ag students. Looking on is Paul Burkhart, Manheim RD3. Martin was master of ceremonies at the Blue Ball banquet.

Eastern

(Continued from Page 8)
about 21 cents a hundred over last

year, York said he doesn't see much change for 1972. He said he "sees nothing that will make prices go up, but you never know in an election year."

He said Eastern would like to

see a national sliding price formula which would cause milk prices to change automatically as costs of production change, as the consumer's buying ability changes, and as wholesale price levels change. This would be a way of protecting farmers against inflation and rising costs, York explained.

Looking farther into the future in the next 10 years, some problems he sees include difficulty in finding enough farmers as the average age of farmers continues to rise, problems from the ecology movement, increasing pressures from urbanization, problems for milk plants in developing necessary waste disposal programs.

He also noted that a proposed national blend price program would cost northeast dairymen 10 to 20 cents per hundredweight. This money would go to midwest dairymen under a national program because the midwest currently is where most of the milk is used for class II products, York explained.

York also expressed concern about proposals to abolish the U. S. Department of Agriculture and to make the Pennsylvania Milk Board part of a consumer group. "How far are we going to go in abolishing farming?"

He continued, "I think it's a lot of nonsense to say that the price of milk is too high. Anyone who tries to get the price lowered is doing it for the benefit of the consumer and at the expense of the farmer."

York stated that both dog food and distilled water in New York City are more expensive than milk.

In commenting on the proposed state milk referendum, York said it is assumed that a referendum will be held. He stated that Eastern Milk Producers will use its bloc vote against the proposed mandatory deduction of five cents per hundredweight from every farmer's milk check for promotion of milk.

York said a mandatory program does not allow the individual farmer to get out. "You can get out of Eastern, you can get out of a voluntary program."

He also stated, "I visualize that if a program is adopted some of the money may be used against the handlers you're selling to."

In explaining the bloc vote division of the proposed referendum, York explained that it allows the cooperative to vote its entire membership in a certain way. The individual farmer will still get a ballot, however, and individual farmers who oppose their cooperative's decision will have their votes subtracted from their cooperative's vote.

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