

Food Price Hearings

Margins between what retailers pay for eggs and what they charge the consuming public at retail have increased sharply in recent months, while producers of eggs are going bankrupt, according to Dr. Gene C. Masters, General Manager of United Egg Producers, a national federation of egg marketing cooperatives.

Testifying before the U.S. Price Commission, Dr. Masters charged that the average retail margin on eggs increased more than 10 per cent, from 20.9 per cent to 23.2 per cent, during January and February of this year - a period which saw egg prices to producers decline 11.5 per cent.

"Average farm prices for eggs decreased 13 per cent from 1961 to 1971," Dr. Masters said. "Retail margins, however, increased about eight per cent from an average of 18.8 per cent in the early 1960's to about 20.9 per cent in 1971. The margins increased sharply early this year."

Masters cautioned the Commission against recommending a freeze on egg prices at wholesale or farm level because of the cyclical nature of egg production. A freeze at farm or wholesale level based on present prices, or an average price of the past two years, would set prices at below the cost of production. This would drive egg producers out of business, he warned.

"Lack of production would sharply increase food prices or create black market possibilities," Dr. Masters continued. "A shortage of this form of protein would force consumers to higher priced protein sources because no other food offers the quality protein of

eggs for the price."

Dr. Masters emphasized that egg producers have not contributed to the inflationary rise in food prices. He pointed to evidence which showed farm prices for eggs at less than 10 years ago.

"If anything must be frozen, freeze retail margins which are responsible for consumer price increases," Dr. Masters suggested. "Driving egg producers out of business will not be in the best interest of consumers."

March Milk Production

Milk production in Pennsylvania during March was 626 million pounds, three per cent more than the March 1971 production of 610 million pounds.

Production per cow in March averaged 900 pounds, compared with 865 pounds the previous year. Milk cow numbers, at 695,000, was the same as in February but down from 705,000 in February a year ago.

Dairymen reported feeding 14.1 pounds of grain and other concentrates per cow, five percent more than the 13.7 pounds reported a year ago.

U.S. milk production during March is estimated at 10,440 million pounds, up two percent from a year ago. Daily average production for March was nearly five per cent above February, compared with about three per cent increase during the corresponding period last year. Production during the first

Fire Prevention Guidelines

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources, Bureau of Forestry, through its district forester Patrick Lantz, of the Valley Forge Forest District with headquarters at Pottstown RD2, warns citizens of Southeastern Pennsylvania that Spring fire season is upon us.

Nine out of ten fires are started by man. Man starts them and man can prevent them, if we put our mind and resources to work.

The Southeastern part of Pennsylvania encompassing the counties of Berks, Bucks,

Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Montgomery, the lower half of Lehigh and Northampton, comprises 463,000 acres of forest land. Within this area live 4.4 million people. Thousands of fires are started in this area by people. We must do our best to stop them and prevent them.

The major cause of fires is incendiary. The second highest cause of wildfire is debris burning. In areas that burning is allowed be very, very careful. If you must burn debris:

1. Burn in a safe incinerator in the middle of a ten foot diameter circle, cleared to mineral soil.
2. Burn after 5 p.m. for greater safety.
3. Never leave your fire unattended.
4. Do not burn on windy days.
5. Always check with your local fire warden, local volunteer Fire Company, or township supervisors, as to whether it is legal for you to burn in your area.

Remember, burning causes air pollution besides damage, and air pollution is a smoky nuisance. It aggravates respiratory illnesses and is a waste to our natural resources. Do not burn plant matter, use it as a compost in your garden or flower beds. Give your leaves and other trash to your trash collector.

Remember, if your fire escapes, you are liable for the cost of the fire fighting and the damage it causes.

Alfalfa and Weed Control

Most weed controls for new alfalfa stands are not effective at soil temperatures below 50 degrees F. Likewise, the alfalfa seed will have trouble germinating below this temperature. It may pay to be patient. Read the 1972 Agronomy Guide and follow the directions on the label of the particular material you plan to use. Keep track of seeding date and control used so that success comparisons can be made later.

quarter of this year is 2.2 per cent above the same period a year earlier. March output provided 1.61 pounds of milk per person daily for all uses compared with 1.59 pounds last year and 1.55 pounds in February 1972.

Milk production per cow was 852 pounds, three percent more than last year and 12 per cent more than the February 1972 rate. The March rate per cow was at a record high in 30 of the 33 States with monthly estimates. It was the highest in California, at 1,040 pounds, followed by: Washington, 1,000 pounds; Minnesota, 970 pounds; and New York, 935 pounds.

Milk cows on farms during March totaled 12,254,000, down one per cent from the same month last year.

Bolster Their Diet

Three wild plants ("papalolo," "whitey Mary" and "bata bata") are used by Virgin Islanders to bolster their diet. The plants, cooked with fish and meat, make a pungent stew known as "kalaloo."

ANNOUNCEMENT

As of April 24, 1972

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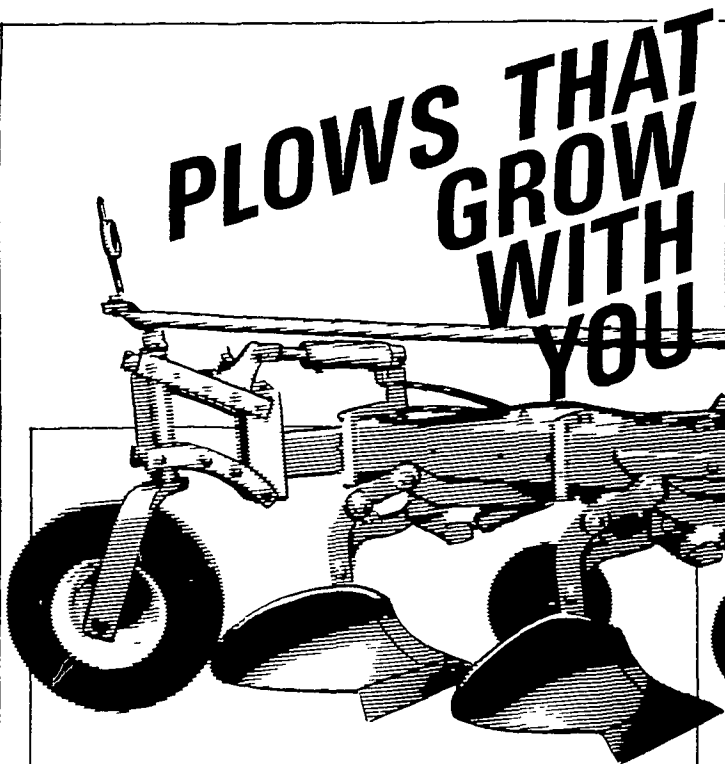
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