

## Eastern Seeks Support of Legislators

Eastern Milk Producers, in its continuing efforts to protect Northeast dairy farmers, has decided to call a meeting of legislators in Washington, D.C. to inform them of the disastrous effects recent government decisions are having on farmers and the consuming public alike.

John C. York, Eastern's General Manager, in announcing the action, stated that the decision to halt emergency loan funds for the area's farmers without the prospect of substantial milk price improvement will cause an unheard of economic calamity in the Northeast region of this country. The administration's recent decision to allow the importation of an additional 25 million pounds of nonfat dry milk into the U.S. market and exportation of grain will compound the depressed milk industry's problems and keep dairy farms' cost up and income down this year.

Slaughterhouses will be overflowing with dairy cattle within the next several months, and consumers will be faced with an extreme milk shortage by fall if some relief is not forthcoming for milk producers. The time has passed when certain interests in the Northeast can afford the luxury of being passive. Political and milk industry leaders must take firm and positive action to overcome the inequity with which we are now being faced.

York said that he recently read in the newspapers where two major Northeast operating cooperatives would like to join

with Eastern Milk Producers Cooperative in seeking the highest possible returns for dairymen.

"I am certainly grateful for this support because Eastern has always been willing to work with other cooperatives on projects designed to benefit dairy farmers," said York.

First, Eastern would welcome a concerted effort on the part of these two cooperatives in assisting with obtaining a much needed improvement in the Class I (fluid) price of milk, a request that Eastern made in August of

1972.

In addition, Eastern has an economic price formula which would take into consideration local costs of production and boost the income of dairymen in the Northeast regional markets in time of inflation. This formula would protect milk producers while feed prices and other costs of production are skyrocketing in the Northeast. Up until now, Eastern has been unable to gain the required support for the approval and implementation of such a formula.

Two years ago, Eastern petitioned the government to call a hearing to prevent outside milk supplies from entering the New York pool and deteriorating the price paid to farmers. With the kind of united effort suggested, Eastern feels that this could now be accomplished.

Eastern Milk Producers has also spoken out in favor of a merger of the Connecticut and Boston Regional federal milk orders, so that all producers affected by these New England Orders could share equitably in a common market. Currently, producer prices are being rebled, causing a hardship on hundreds of producers. Again, Eastern welcomes support in effectuating such a merger.

The door is open for all cooperatives as well as other farm organizations to join with Eastern Milk Producers in improving the income of dairy farmers in the Northeast by supporting these and other issues which need meaningful cooperation.

## Bucks County Best in Vegetable Exhibit

The Bucks County Vegetable Growers Association repeated as winners of the best county exhibit at the 57th Farm Show. This makes the eighth consecutive year that the Bucks County group has captured the honor. Chairman of the exhibit is Dominik Pellergrino, of 1981 Hansel Drive, Cornwell Heights.

The best farmers display was exhibited by Joe Digirolamo, Jr., 5448 Holmsville, Cornwell Heights.

Dave Specca, Trevoise, Bucks County, for the second straight year, showed the best growers collection.

John King, Nottingham, RD2, Chester County, exhibited the best white fancy mushrooms, and Robert Wood, Oxford, RD2, Chester County, showed the top white button mushrooms.

## Lancaster County Sweet Exhibit Winners

The Lancaster County Honey Producers placed first in the collective county honey exhibit at the 57th Farm Show. The Lancaster County group makes their headquarters at 252 State St., Ephrata.

Hackenberg Apiaries, Lewisburg, RD3, Union County, took championships in both individual exhibit and specialty pack divisions.

The best exhibit of comb honey was shown by Archie Krug, Ebensburg RD1, Cambria County. The best exhibit of extracted honey was displayed by Ronald W. Colwell, Spring Mills RD1, Centre County.

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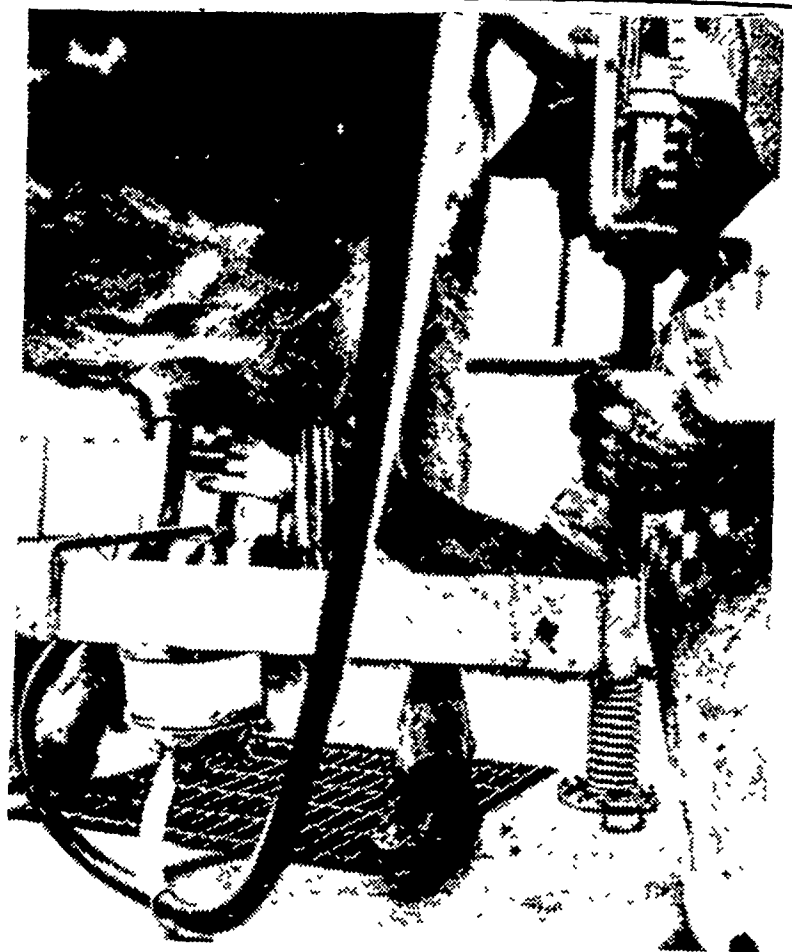
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