

Goddard Sees 1973 'Reasonably Good' Year for Farmers

Farmers in the Northeast can expect somewhat higher prices for the commodities they produce this year, but probably not enough higher to offset anticipated increases in production costs.

This is the farming outlook for 1973 as seen by Ronald N. Goddard, executive vice president and general manager of Agway Inc., Syracuse, N.Y.

In a communication to Agway members, Goddard outlined his assessments of the year to help farmers develop their plans for the coming growing season. Agway is a farm supply and food marketing business owned by 111,000 farmers in 12 northeastern states.

The Agway chief executive cited last year's poor harvesting weather and continued heavy grain exports as the principal causes of short supplies and advancing prices of most feedstuffs. Until data for this year's grain planting commitments can be assembled, many feed ingredients will probably continue to command higher-than-usual prices, he said.

Goddard predicted that pressure to raise the price of milk paid to farmers would increase during 1973. Commenting on the price of eggs, he noted that although the egg market has strengthened, he questioned whether it will be strong enough to undo what he termed "the damage of the past two years." Egg prices paid to poultrymen have been at or below the cost of production in the Northeast for many months.

Goddard said commercial crop growers will probably feel the effect of price controls indirectly as price restrictions on food processors serve to impose ceilings on prices paid for raw

products.

The energy crisis also came in for some discussion because Agway is a large producer and distributor of petroleum products for agricultural, home, and industrial use. Goddard advises that supplies of power fuels for farm use are adequate "at this time," but says indications are they will tighten up next summer. He noted that heating oil supplies are tight right now. The Agway executive said prices for gasoline and fuel oil are likely to go up as the year progresses.

In Goddard's opinion, it is going to take more money to farm in 1973. He sees labor, land, taxes, equipment, and production supplies generally costing more. However, he said, lending agency officials have told him there will be no shortage of money to finance capital improvements or pay for production needs. But interest rates will probably be up slightly.

In summary, barring unforeseen events, 1973 should be a reasonably good year for northeastern farmers, Goddard said.

Dec. Base Price For Milk Up 1¢

The December uniform price for base milk in federal market order 4 (+Philadelphia) increased 1 cent from the previous month. Excess milk showed an increase of 11 cents.

In comparison to December levels one year ago base milk was up 29c and excess up 43c.

The weighted average price for the market was \$7.06, an increase of 31c above December 1971.

A total of 386.2 million pounds of producer milk was pooled in December of which 64.8 percent was sold as Class I, showing a decrease of 4.4 percent of deliveries made in November, and 1.4 percent decrease from Dec. a year ago. 8,305 Order No. 4 producers provided 12.4 million pounds per day to dealers during

December, averaging 1500 pounds per day per farm. Total value of producer milk was set at \$27,354,159.32 for the month.

Base milk price - \$7.26; Excess price - \$5.44; Butterfat differential - \$.081++

+Producers shipping to plants located within 55 miles of Philadelphia receive an additional .06 per hundredweight. ++Butterfat differential is .081 per point above or below 3.5 percent.

PSU Heifer Booklet Gains in Popularity

Genital abnormalities account for 10 to 20 percent of the failures of dairy heifers to conceive after four or more breedings, according to experiments at The Pennsylvania State University. The findings of Dr. Tsuneo Y. Tanabe and Dr. John O. Almquist, dairy physiologists at Penn State, are supported by studies among other scientists.

These studies of subfertile dairy heifers are published in "Gross Genital Abnormalities in Dairy Heifers," a bulletin gaining an international reputation for thoroughness of subject matter and high quality of color illustrations.

The bulletin features 24 color plates showing various genital abnormalities. Cooperating on the project at Penn State were

the departments of dairy science, bacteriology, and veterinary science.

Since it was published in 1967, requests for "Gross Genital Abnormalities" have come to Penn State from many parts of the world. It summarizes the incidence, type, and severity of gross abnormalities of the reproductive system among 180 subfertile dairy heifers which had failed to conceive upon repeated breedings. The heifers appeared essentially normal upon clinical examination.

The publication is available for \$3.00 plus 18 cents state sales tax from Box 6,000, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa., 16802. Make checks or money orders payable to The Pennsylvania State University.



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