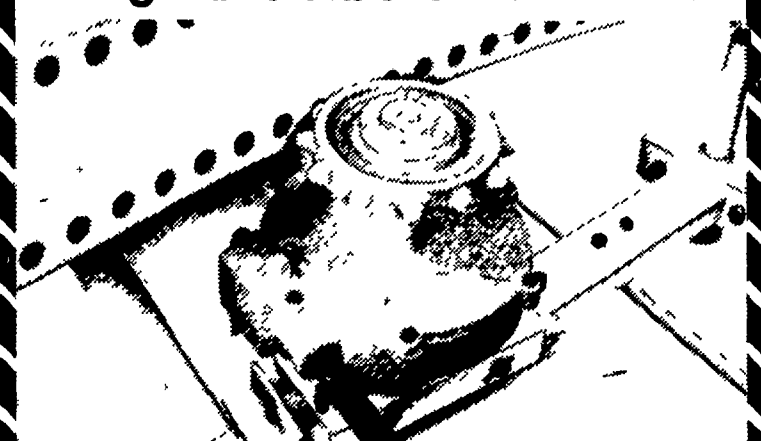


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**New PDA Milk Inspectors
To Evaluate Retail Outlets**

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture is assigning eight additional inspectors to the Division of Milk Sanitation, effective Jan. 7, 1974, to initiate an aggressive statewide surveillance program on the quality of milk distributed through schools, stores and all types of retail outlets.

Secretary of Agriculture Jim McHale said the extra inspection is needed at the retail level because of the shift in merchandising of milk from home delivered to store bought. "In the past, when an occasional problem on flavor or freshness occurred," McHale noted, "it could be handled directly, between the homemaker and the milkman. But today 90 per cent of milk sales are made at stores."

Major improvements in the handling, transportation, processing and packaging of milk, from the cow to the consumer, combined with stringent quality control programs and strict regulatory efforts, has greatly improved the keeping quality of milk. There have been no reported milk-borne diseases in Pennsylvania in nearly 20 years, but when improperly

handled, flavor defects may and do occur.

In 1972, the Milk Sanitation Law was amended to provide for uniform inspection standards throughout the Commonwealth, including the requirement that milk be held at lower temperatures during transportation and the establishing of standards for the care of dairy products in retail stores. A survey of the quality of milk in retail establishments indicated the need for additional surveillance.

Through a special appropriation by the legislature, the eight new inspectors will be trained to evaluate dairy product facilities in retail stores and in the proper collection and handling of representative samples. It is anticipated that 5000 samples will be tested in the first six months.

The Department of Agriculture is contracting with municipal and commercial laboratories to make bacteriological, chemical and compositional analyses of the samples. Both the retailer and the processor will be advised of findings and deficiencies will be subject to follow-up inspections. A recent act of the legislature

empowers Secretary McHale to enter into reciprocal inspection programs with other states eliminating costly out-of-state trips and duplication of efforts. To date, 19 states throughout the nation are participating with Pennsylvania to insure the delivery of quality milk and milk products.

**PennAG
Conserves
Energy**

Pennsylvania's agribusinessmen are doing more to conserve energy than staying in bed a little longer in the morning, according to a survey made recently by PennAg Industries Association, Ephrata.

Eugene E. Eby, Newport, the association's president said,

"Our study reveals that members have been giving the energy crisis a great deal of thought — a kind of 'burning the midnight oil'. A variety of plans have already been put into operation while others have been placed on the back burner, should the crisis worsen. To the degree these energy-saving ideas generate efficiencies, the better for the economy, but we realize some customer services may suffer. We are asking our farm customers to be cooperative and understanding in the meantime."

Some of the energy-conserving ideas generated from the study: Reduce office temperatures; decrease frequency of personal sales calls in favor of increased use of telephone; replace incandescent with fluorescent lighting; utilize compact vehicles in fleet operations and more frequent tuning and servicing of vehicles; reduction of delivery radius, consolidation of routes, and elimination of part loads; elimination of short production runs; purchase of new equipment to increase efficiency; elimination of space heaters in production areas; encouragement of employee use of public transportation, car pools or walking to work; seek employee suggestions for other energy-conservation ideas; shorten work week and/or shut down an additional day before or after a holiday; schedule the work day to coincide with daylight; and finally, consider the advisability of cancelling further processing of feeds, such as steam-rolling or pelleting.

"We have not heard of any firm which has actually cancelled production of pelleted or steam-rolled feeds, but it is a possibility. Feeding efficiency would suffer, however, and this suggestion would be implemented only as a last resort," Eby concluded.



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