

Work-at-Home Schemes Can Victimize Consumers

Consumers who are interested in earning money at home should watch out for work-at-home schemes that will put money in other people's pockets, not theirs, Bureau of Consumer Protection Director Joel Weisberg warns.

"There is really a very limited market for home workers," Weisberg said. "But people are taken in by claims of high income for what seems to be only a small investment. It is tragic

that the victims of these schemes are often the aged, the handicapped, the poor - those who are confined to their homes and want to be useful and productive citizens."

Weisberg said that the Bureau recently charged three Pennsylvania mail order firms with operating an illegal pyramid marketing plan based on a fraudulent work-at-home scheme. The companies advertised through

newspapers, national magazines and direct mail solicitations that persons could earn between \$100 and \$300 weekly in their spare time at home stuffing and addressing envelopes.

The Bureau charged that those responding to the ads were required to pay \$20 each and were sent quantities of the same circulars to which they themselves had responded, soliciting others to stuff envelopes. The Bureau also alleged that the three firms misrepresented the home work, exaggerated its earning potential and failed to deliver materials or make refunds after receiving payments.

Weisberg urged consumers to be especially wary of companies that promise large profits for little work, ask for money

before providing further information, require home workers to buy products for resale, pay no salary, or refuse to give names of others who have worked for the company so that their experiences can be checked.

The Bureau issued the following tips:

— Don't fall for ads requesting a small sum of money just to find out what the employment offer is. Many swindlers simply never reply and keep the money you send them.

— Remember, you may not be paid for the work you do. Some companies sell instructions and materials for making items which you then have to sell yourself to make a profit. Other companies may promise to purchase what you make if the finished product is

"acceptable" but then reject every single article as "not up to our standards."

— Watch out for the envelope stuffing scheme. You are asked to buy the advertisements you mail out and the company usually does not pay you unless other consumers buy the company's product as a result of the ads you sent.

— Beware of firms that require you to purchase a sewing machine, a correspondence course, or other goods or services. You are the one who will have to find a market for the finished product. In addition, the item that is being sold to you may be of poor quality or have an inflated price.

Using leftover Bits of Cheese

What do you do with those bits and pieces of slivers of cheese that are leftover, dried, uneven and assorted? Grate these leftover pieces of cheese and store in a glass jar. Use for flavoring white sauce, sprinkling over salads or topping casseroles.

MEMO

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U.S., Pa. Milk Production

Milk production in Pennsylvania during December was 545 million pounds, five percent more than in November, but three percent less than in December last year according to the Crop Reporting Service.

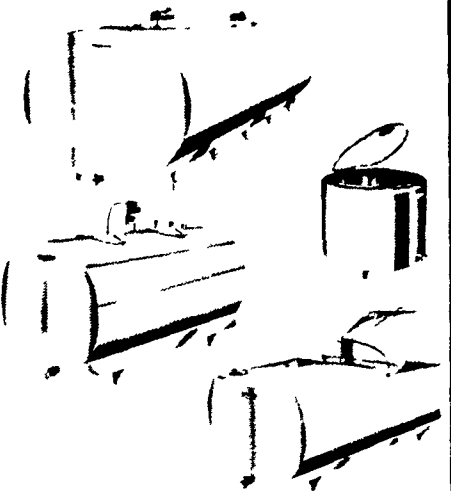
The number of milk cows in the Commonwealth during December was 665,000, the same as last month, but two

percent below December of a year ago.

Milk produced per cow averaged 820 pounds in December compared with 780 pounds in November and 830 pounds in December last year.

United States milk production during December is estimated at 9,100 million pounds, three percent less than a year earlier. U. S. average milk production per cow during December was 804 pounds, compared with 807 pounds in December 1972. During December there were 11.3 million milk cows on farms, down 3 percent from December a year ago.

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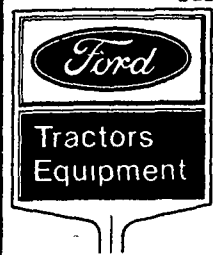
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