

FARM TRENDS

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to a pound of wholemilk, had reached 1.18, its lowest level since 1955.

By October dairy farmers were culling their herds at a 3 percent rate, the highest level since 1970, sending cows to slaughter and, in some cases, getting out of the business entirely. Cow numbers have been decreasing steadily over the years, but the declines generally were offset by increased per-cow output. But last year, for the first time in 30 years, per-cow output declined 0.3 percent. This was because high-protein feed costs climbed to prohibitive levels, and farmers fed their animals less nutritious feeds.

Not surprisingly, dairymen are keeping a closer eye on feed costs this year than they have in recent years. What happens to those costs will depend on the size of this year's crops of soybeans, corn and other feedstuffs and the export demand for them.

But these crops won't be harvested until the second half of the year. Because of this, milk output is expected to decline through the first half of 1974. The first-half drop might be enough to cause total output in 1974 to decline from 1973.

Some dairy specialists had been optimistically predicting steadily improving milk-feed ratios since August, but last month the ratio reversed its trend and tightened again to 1.52, after having improved to 1.61 in November.

Government policies are aggravating the supply situation, some dairymen contend. At the start of the year, President Nixon raised import quotas to allow additional imports of 100 million pounds of cheddar cheese products during the first quarter to ease high retail prices. Imports had been limited by Congress to 10 million pounds annually.

This action comes on the heels of several similar import relaxations last year, all of which "further discourage domestic milk production," says Patrick B. Healy, secretary of the National Milk Producers Federation. This "never-ending flood of subsidized imports" is adding to the U.S. dairy farmer's lack of confidence, Mr. Healy asserts. "They are leaving and will continue to leave the milk-production business in unprecedented numbers," he says.



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Fulton Grange 66 Celebrates 100 Years

Fulton Grange 66, which has 260 members largely from the southern end of Lancaster County, held their centennial banquet Friday, January 4, 7 p.m. at the Memorial United Methodist Church, Quarryville. 140 people were in attendance for the festive occasion.

Master of ceremonies was Charles G. McSparran who is Master this year and also filled that position on three other occasions in the past. He is the third generation to head this organization. His grandfather, James G. McSparran, served as the first Master when Fulton Grange organized January 2, 1874 and his father, John A. McSparran, not only served as Master of this Grange for four years but also was Master of the Pa. State Grange for 10 years.

The invocation was given by the Chaplain, Gyles H. Brown. Donald Trimble served as song leader and Glenn Hough as organist. A past Master, Robert Armstrong, gave Centennial High lights. Some of the highlights in the past 100 years were their cooperative purchasing for the members, legislation, forming a Junior Grange, purchasing a meeting place and community service. The Grange also has been a strong force promoting education, religion, patriotism and community service, as well as being a fraternal and social organization.

Mrs. J. Everett Kreider and Mrs. Donald Trimble, accompanied by Glenn Hough, sang "Do You Know My Jesus?"

J. Collins McSparran, who served as Master of Fulton Grange on two occasions, as Master and secretary of the

Pa. State Grange and treasurer of the National Grange, gave an address reminiscing at first the intelligent discussions at Grange meetings, contests, entertainments, parties and suppers. He said "I can never repay the Grange what it has done for me", citing how Fulton Grange was instrumental in securing lower electric rates and promoting legislation that has benefited farmers. He spoke out in favor of the Pa. Milk Control Board and compared the food value and the price of milk with that of soft drinks. He also spoke of the present trend of putting the small farmer out of business.

He expressed concerns about ecology problems and the controls put on by ecologists. Also of the cost of government, mentioning the fact that our state payroll increased by 300 million dollars this past year. He spoke of the lack of morality and said "out of the aims of the Grange has been the development of a better manhood and a better womanhood."

Speaking of the community service of the Grange, he said "I'm proud of the record of this (Fulton) Grange in the past years." He mentioned by way of example occasions when Fulton Grange secured medical Doctors and veterinarians when there was a great need in the community. Finally, he admonished the members "No matter what you put in this Grange you'll take out far more than you'll ever put in it in self satisfaction."

An original poem "Centennial Reminiscence", composed by Mrs. J. Marlin Kreider, was read by Mrs. Jesse Wood. Glenn Hough rendered an organ-piano selection "Battle Hymn Of The Republic." Chaplain

Gyles Brown pronounced the benediction.

Mrs. J. Stanley Stauffer Jr. distributed 16 table centerpieces to some of the ladies. Some of them were made or contributed by Mrs. Anna Armstrong, Mrs. Virginia Beck, Mrs. Chester Eckman, Mrs. LaMar Heim, Mrs. Richard Holloway, Mrs. Clifford Holloway Jr., Mrs. David Knight, Miss Judy Longenecker, Mrs. J. Collins McSparran, Mrs. Alfred Overly, Mrs. William Rhoades, Mrs. Howard Steinberg, Mrs. Charles Tindall Jr. and Mrs. Ira Welk. Wheelbarrow favors were made by Mrs. J. Marlin Kreider, Mrs. Marion Eckman and Mrs. Wilmer Black. Mrs. George Hough and Mrs. W. Harold Graybeal made a mural that served as a backdrop for the speakers table.

The centennial committee, Mrs. J. Stanley Stauffer Jr., Norman Wood, Miss Joyce Galbreath and Mrs. Jesse Wood, were in charge of the banquet which was served by the church ladies. They have planned for an anniversary program for May 4 when National Master John W. Scott and State Master A. Wayne Readinger will speak and a centennial pageant will be given. They are preparing a Grange history and a centennial souvenir booklet which will be published for the centennial program.

Fulton Grange No. 66 will hold their regular meeting January 14 when the lecturer, Miss Joyce Galbreath, will present a centennial program.

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