

State Grange Warns About Milk Prices

Grain shortages threatened by the Midwest drought could force 1974 milk production in the United States to the lowest level in more than 25 years, the Pennsylvania State Grange

warned today. "In the first seven months of this year, 1.9 percent less milk was produced than in the first seven months of 1973," said A. Wayne Readinger, state Grange

master. "And," he pointed out, "last year's milk production in the United States (115.6 billion pounds or 53.7 billion quarts) was the lowest for any year since 1952."

This trend was evident four months ago, he said, when the Grange warned that "American consumers could be facing a serious milk shortage if existing production trends continue."

At that time, before drought hit the Midwest, conditions indicated U. S. farmers would produce bumper crops of grain for feeding dairy cattle, livestock and poultry.

Now the outlook is for a feed grain crop about 15 percent smaller than last year's.

"In the space of a few months, Readinger said, 'we have gone from the promise of record yields to

the threat of shortages."

In evaluating the impact of the drought earlier this week, State Agriculture Secretary James A. McHale stated that "The American consumers in the next couple of years will face shortages of beef and dairy products and a continued inflation of food prices. One bad harvest year and this trend could be magnified."

There is reason to be concerned, Readinger pointed out, for future milk supplies and prices.

"Of course we must recognize," he said, "that changing eating habits of the

American people may appreciably alter the demand for milk. And we must realize that total milk production must be related to all uses of milk - for cheese and ice cream manufacturing for cake mixes, for cooking and other purposes, as well as for drinking.

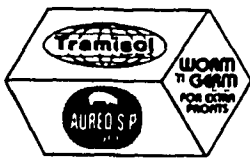
Pennsylvania consumers may be more fortunate than those in many other sections of the nation, Readinger said, since there is legal machinery available in this state to help control inflationary milk prices.

The Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Law, Readinger stated, provides that the Milk Marketing Board "shall fix, by official order, the minimum wholesale and retail prices and may fix, by official order, the maximum wholesale and retail prices to be charged and received by milk dealers or handlers" in the Commonwealth.

"It means," Readinger declared, "that the Milk Marketing Board is empowered by law to take action against runaway milk prices."

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Turfgrass Field Day A Success

Nearly 300 persons from a six-state area and the District of Columbia attended the first Maryland turfgrass research and equipment field day on Aug. 8, according to Dr. David S. Ross, Extension agricultural engineer at the University of Maryland in College Park.

The event was held at the university's Hopkins plant research farm near Calverton (Montgomery County) on Cherry Hill road, north of College Park.

Turfgrass maintenance professional workers concerned with highways, hospitals, parks, sod farms, golf courses, military bases, educational institutions, governmental agencies and public utilities were among those in attendance.

They saw 23 experiments being conducted to learn more about turfgrass varieties, insect control and disease resistance, fertilization, drought-tolerance, mowing height and other

factors affecting the maintenance of good quality turfgrass under Maryland conditions.

In addition, 11 equipment dealers provided a display of machinery needed to maintain established turfgrass. The equipment included mowers—ranging from small, heavy-duty walk-behind units for small areas—to larger turf-type tractors and mowers for parks and highways. Sprayers, fertilizer

spreaders, seeders, trailers and sweepers were also displayed.

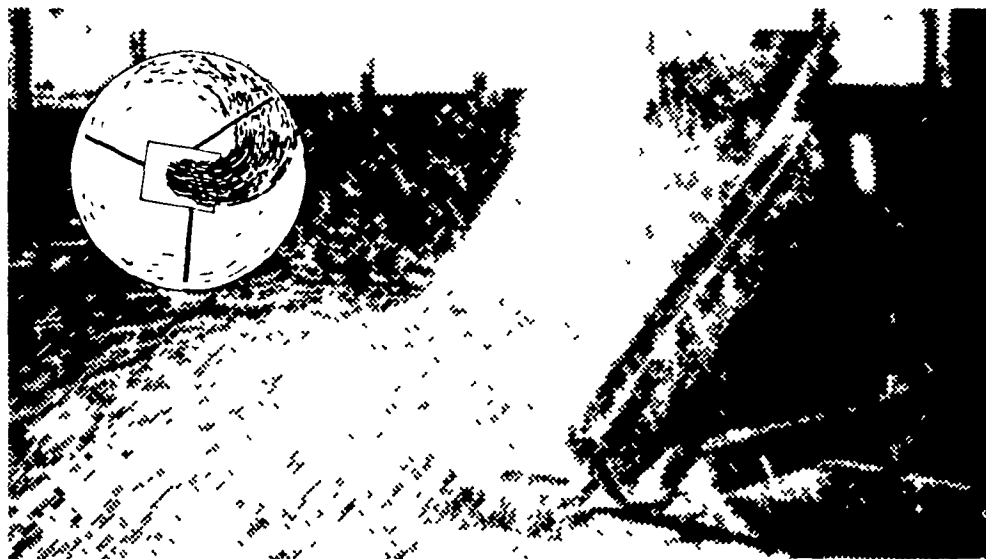
The field day was sponsored by the agronomy and agricultural engineering departments at the University of Maryland, along with the Cooperative Extension Service and the Maryland Turfgrass Council. Co-chairmen were Dr. Ross and Dr. John R. Hall, Extension management specialist.

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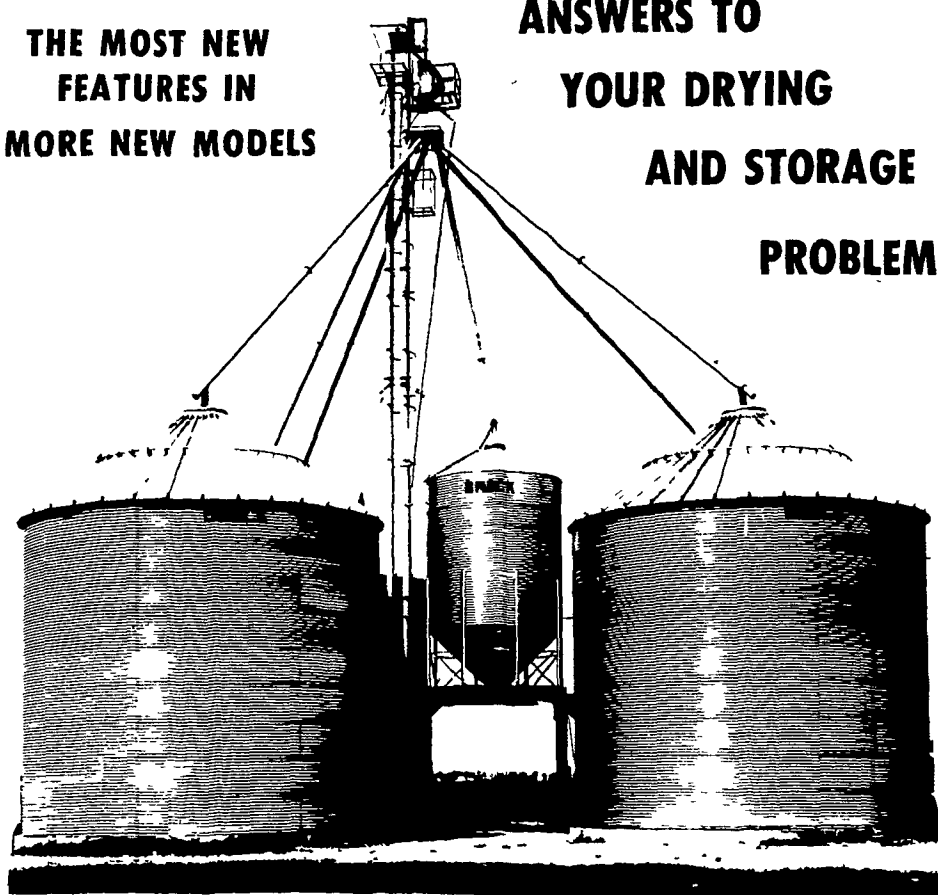
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