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PennAg Suggests PSU Rail Study

Speaking before the Ag Advisory Council of Pennsylvania State University's College of Agriculture, Donald W. Parke, Executive Vice President of Penn Ag Industries Association, suggested that a University-sponsored research project on the community impact of rail service loss would be money well spent.

Parke stated that much of PennAg's work in the past year has concerned railroads and the adverse effects threatened abandonments could have on Pennsylvania's agricultural community and the state as a whole. "In every way we can," Parke stated, "we are trying to show the importance of rail service to rural Pennsylvania. We are not convinced that many agricultural leaders appreciate the consequences of no rail services; we are quite certain the consequences are not appreciated by rural businessmen."

The occasion for Parke's talk was the semi-annual meeting of the Ag Advisory Council. The Council includes associations

representing all facets of the agricultural community, such as farmers, mushroom growers, agri business,

Christmas tree growers, etc. Its object in an advisory capacity to the College of Agriculture. It hears reports

New Fee Schedule For Market Grading

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced a new schedule of fees for the voluntary Federal meat grading service, based on current cost of performing the work.

The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 requires collection of fees approximately equal to the cost of the service rendered. Therefore, effective November 3, the fee will be \$14.60 per hour for work performed between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Friday; \$17.60 per hour for work on Saturday and Sunday and between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. Monday through Friday; and \$29.20 per hour for work on national holidays. The basic hourly fee will be increased by 80 cents.

According to USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), which administers the grading service, the changes are necessary to reflect rising salary and operating costs. A salary increase becomes effective October 13, under Public Law 92-210. Additionally, costs for space rental have increased as a result of a change in Government policy which requires a direct rental charge to Federal agencies for federally-owned office space previously provided without charge.

Regulations governing the meat grading service are being amended to provide for the new schedule of fees. The amendment will be published in the Federal Register.

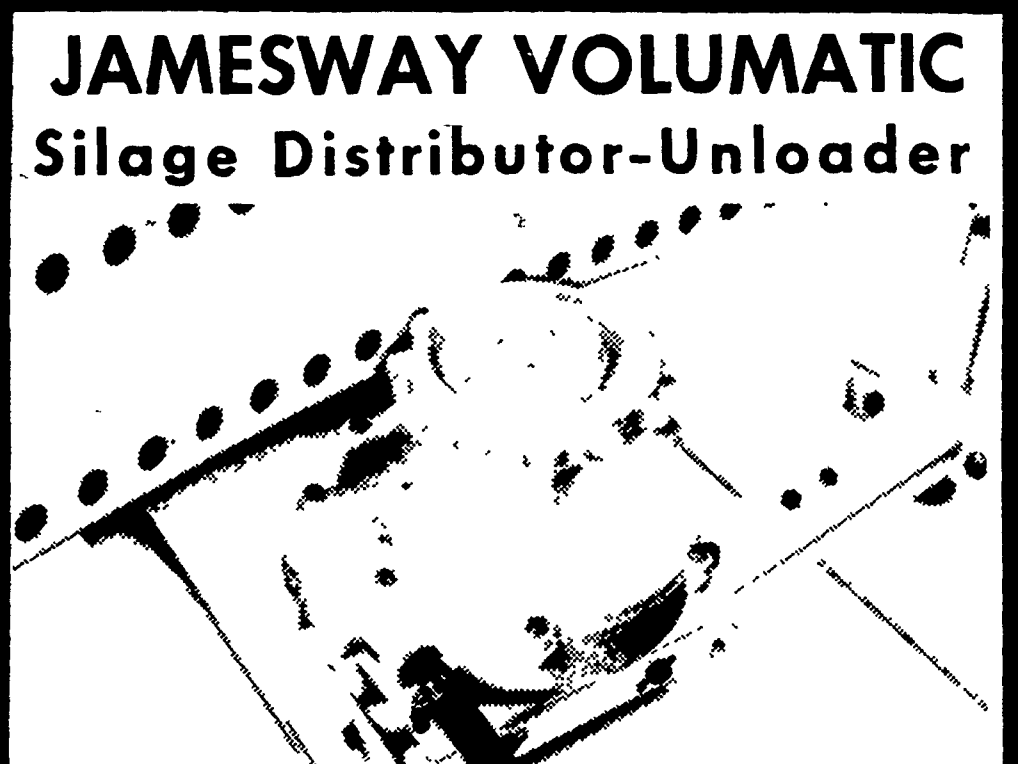
on college enrollment, extension activities and research.

The Penn Ag executive, a member of the Board of Directors for the Council, was speaking as part of a new information program for the Council meetings. The object of the program is to familiarize the college staff and other members as to what the different associations do.

Parke stated the history of Penn Ag, started 97 years ago by Pennsylvania millers to protest discriminatory freight rates given by railroads to western millers. Parke stated ironically, "In the 97 years which have passed since that date, things have progressed to the point where today, not only are we still fighting railroads, but we are spending more of our staff time just trying to maintain rail service. That's real progress!"

PennAg is a statewide association that represents agri-businessmen who sell to and buy from farmers.

Amos Funk, of Lancaster, President of the Advisory Council, officiated over the meeting which also included talks given by Kenneth G. Beachley of Beachley-Hardy Seed Company, Camp Hill, Pa., representing the Pennsylvania Seedmen's Association and Henry Geisinger, Harrisburg, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Association of Milk Dealers.



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Order 4 Milk Price Rises 21¢ In Sept.

The September uniform price for base milk increased 21 cents from the previous month. Excess milk showed an increase of 26 cents according to Andrew A. Marvin, Ephrata, local field man for Inter-State Milk Producers Cooperative. In comparison to September levels one year ago base milk was up 1 cent and excess down 22 cents per hundredweight. The base milk for Order 4 was priced at \$8.48, excess milk was listed at \$6.78, and the butterfat differential was \$0.078.

The weighted average price for the market was decreased 10 cents, below September 1973.

A total of 379.4 million pounds of producer milk was pooled in September of which 63.34 percent was sold as Class 1, showing an increase of 4.12 percent of deliveries made in August, and a 2.73 percent decrease under September a year ago. 7731 Order No. 4 producers provided 12.6 million pounds per day to dealers during September, averaging 1636 pounds per day per farm. Total value of producer milk was set at \$31,192,994.16 for the month.

According to Marvin Inter-State Cooperative members received a 28 cents per hundred weight premium over Order 4 price.

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