

Maryland to End Flock Inspection

With sheep scabies apparently eradicated among Maryland sheep - the last case was reported here ten years ago - the Maryland Department of Agriculture has announced that it is terminating its annual flock-by-flock inspection for this disease.

Dr. Hugh E. Binks, Chief, Animal Health Section, of the state agency, said that

while the disease is "apparently eradicated," it could be reintroduced by outside sources. Therefore, state and federal personnel will continue to make a thorough investigation and examination of any sheep or flocks with any suspicious skin condition even remotely resembling scabies. Anyone having knowledge of any such condition should report

it to the Animal Health Section, Symons Hall, College Park, Maryland 20742, telephone 301-454-3831.

There are approximately 18,000 sheep in Maryland, with heaviest concentrations in Garrett and Baltimore counties.

In January, 1973, the United States Department of Agriculture declared the entire United State "scabies

free." The last known case occurred in New Jersey, in January 1970. First signs of this disease generally appear in winter. The scabies eradication program began on a nationwide basis in 1905 and was accelerated in 1960, with 23 states still then infected.

Psoroptic scabies has probably been the most costly disease to sheep growers in recent times. It results in extensive loss of wool, loss of weight, emaciation and death to a great many of the animals affected.

Commenting on the discontinuance of the flock-by-flock annual inspection, Dr. Binks said that his staff, while remaining constantly on the alert for signs of the disease, would now be able to devote more time to other animal disease programs, such as the control of Equine Infectious Anemia.

Order 4 Nov. Milk Price Up 22¢ from Oct.

The November uniform price for base milk in Federal Order 4 increased 22 cents from the previous month. Excess milk showed a decrease of 6 cents, according to Andrew Marvin, Ephrata, field for Interstate Milk Producers Cooperative. The base milk price was \$8.87-cwt., the excess price was \$6.85, and the butterfat differential was 7.9-cents per point above or below 3.5 percent.

In comparison to November levels one year ago base milk was down 20 cents and excess down 10 cents.

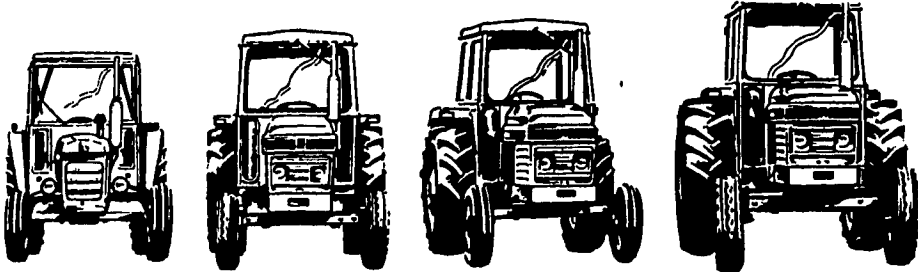
The weighted average price for the market was down 25 cents compared to November 1973.

A total of 370 million pounds of producer milk was pooled in November of which 66.23 percent was sold as Class I, showing a decrease of 0.24 percent of deliveries made in October, and a 3.09 percent decrease below November a year ago. 7647 Order No. 4 producers provided 12.4 million pounds per day to dealers during November, averaging 1613 pounds per day per farm. Total value of producer milk was set at \$31,722,917.04 for the month.

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Plan Now To Review Farm Partnerships

There are a number of advantages to establishing farm partnerships, but an annual review of the agreement and its meaningfulness in relation to current needs is essential.

The following are suggestions for those who have entered into farm partnership agreements.

Once a farm partnership is drawn up, the agreement should be reviewed at least once a year. This should be done for two reasons. First, to see how well each of the partners is meeting his obligations... and secondly, to carefully evaluate the agreement to see if it is doing its intended job.

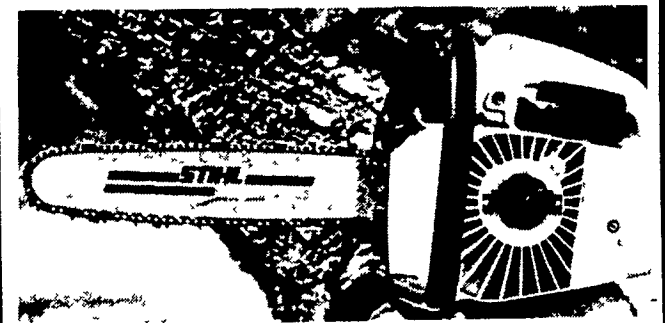
Then too, farming is a rapidly changing business. Don't be surprised if the agreement you set up just a couple of years ago isn't entirely adequate to meet the needs of today.

So, review that agreement carefully. If the agreement doesn't quite measure up to current needs, plan to make the necessary changes before 1975 rolls around.

By Jay W. Irwin
Associate County Agent

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