

# Dairy farmer expresses concern over prices

BINGHAMPTON, N.Y. - At a hearing here on September 20, Arden Tewksbury of Meshoppen, Pa., President of Eastern Milk Producers Cooperative, warned of the dairy industry's demise if unrealistic milk pricing methods are not changed. Appearing before the Dairy and Poultry Subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives Agricultural Committee, Tewksbury said that prices received by dairy farmers have been jumping around like Mexican Jumping Beans, while their costs of production climb ever-upward to record heights. The multi-state cooperative leader stated that prices paid by farmers have increased by over 26 percent since July 1973 and 86 percent since July 1967. He noted that blend prices paid to dairymen since 1967 have been averaging over \$1.00 per hundredweight less than what was needed to match the increase in prices paid by dairymen. Tewksbury testified, "Using July 1967 as a base period the actual blend price in that month was \$4.99. In July 1975, a blend price of \$8.33 was received by Dairy

farmers in the New York market while a price of \$9.28 was necessary to meet the increase in the cost of production. It is estimated the prices paid index may reach 190 by October. This index, when applied to the October, 1967 blend price of \$5.64, would yield a price of \$10.72 for October 1975. Most knowledgeable economists are predicting a blend price for October 1975 of between \$9.50 and \$9.60. These figures indicate that dairy farmers will be short-changed by \$1.16 per hundredweight to cover their increased cost of production. While these figures pertain to the New York-New Jersey Milk Marketing Order, similar situations are being experienced by dairy farmers throughout the Northeast. In the Spring of 1974, there developed a strong consumer resistance to some dairy products which further added to the farmer's plight. Much of this resistance can be traced to the cock-eyed formula on which milk is priced to the farmers. It is evident that farmers cannot live with a pricing formula which can drop \$1.75 in a few months time. It is further evident that if prices in-

crease by these amounts in a short period of time, the consumers' reaction in the market place is negative.

We need a pricing formula that will give dairy farmers a more adequate price that is related to their actual cost of

production. This kind of pricing formula would also prevent much of the consumer resistance in the market place.

On numerous occasions over the past four years, Eastern Milk Producers and others have proposed sensible pricing methods and attempted to get Administration Officials to call hearings to consider them.

In periods of rapid and continuing increases in cost of production, a price support established once a year cannot do the job for more than one month. In order to work as intended it must be adjusted more frequently. Legislation providing for quarterly adjustment which we supported was unfortunately vetoed by the

President and the Congress failed to override. In our view, the Congress either must exert pressure on the Administration for interim adjustments in the support level or adopt new legislation requiring at least twice a year adjustment and hopefully quarterly adjustments.

We hope that the Congressional Committees will find enough evidence during their series of hearings across the country to return to Washington to write a realistic farm bill that will enable dairy farmers to remain self-sufficient to stay in business and, at the same time, protect consumers from a threatened shortage of dairy products."

## Maryland FFA teams score well in judging

Maryland FFA teams from Frederick county duplicated twin victories by their 4-H counterparts from the Old Line State in dairy cattle judging at two regional livestock shows last month in Richmond, Va., and Harrisburg, Pa.

The Catoctin high school team from Thurmont ran away with top honors in FFA competition on Sept. 20 at the Atlantic Rural Exposition in Richmond, Va., and a team from Frederick high school took the top spot on Sept. 22 among FFA contestants at the twelfth annual Pennsylvania All-American Dairy Show in Harrisburg, Pa.

An Eastern Shore FFA team from Kent county high school at Worton placed second among 13 state teams competing on Sept. 13 during the Eastern States Exposition at West Springfield, Mass.

Ronnie Kling, 16, of Taneytown won over-all first-place individual honors for Catoctin high school in the Richmond contest. And teammate Mike Weimer, 18, of Thurmont was only one point behind in second place. Kling was also high individual contestant in Holstein judging, and Weimer was top individual in Ayrshires.

Kling has now reeled off three individual over-all first-place finishes during the past year in four FFA or 4-H dairy cattle judging contests at national, state and regional levels.

Other members of the Catoctin FFA team at last month's Richmond regional FFA contest were Barbara Ruby of Rocky Ridge and Naomi Weimer of Thurmont, Mike's sister.

The brother-sister duo were also members of the 1974 Catoctin FFA team which placed second in last year's 12-state North Atlantic regional competition during the Eastern States Exposition at West Springfield, Mass. Team

coach in both years was David W. Simpson, vocational agriculture teacher at Catoctin high school.

Ronnie Lenhart and his cousin, Harold Lenhart, Jr., both from Lewistown, were the major cogs in Frederick high school's FFA team victory at the Harrisburg, Pa., contest on Sept. 22.

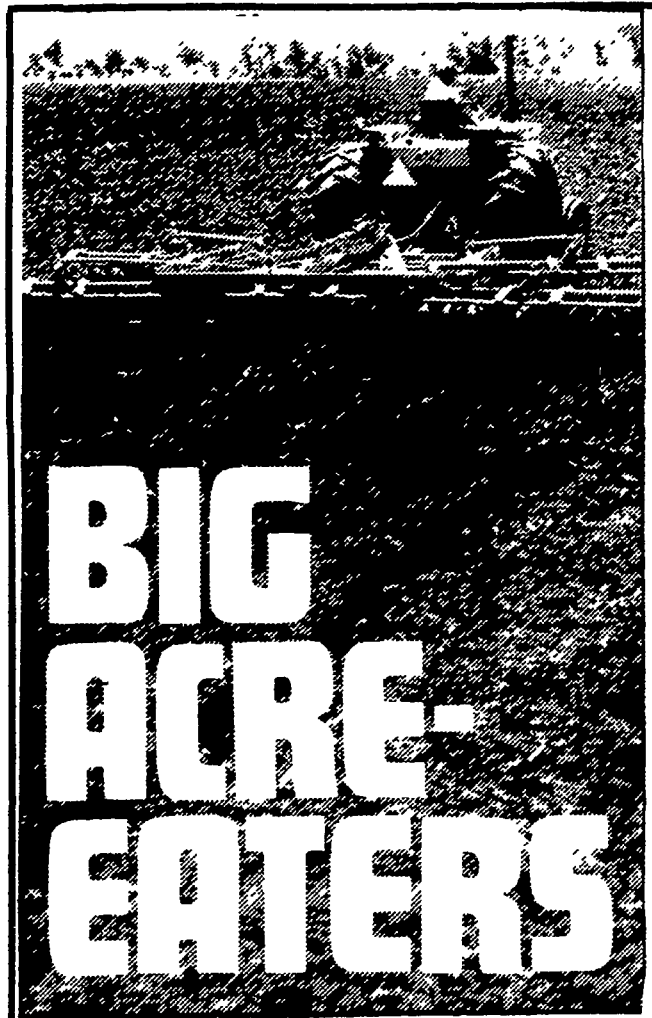
Ronnie was high individual over-all, and Harold ended up in sixth place after initially being announced as placing third. Harold was first in total reasons, as well as in judging Brown Swiss and Jersey cattle.

The team was also first in judging both Brown Swiss and Jerseys.

Other team members were Steve Wilcom and Ralph Ward, both of Urbana. Team coach was George Linticum, vocational agriculture teacher at Frederick high school.

A pair of girls led the way for Kent county high school's second-place finish in last month's 13-state FFA North Atlantic regional dairy cattle judging competition at West Springfield, Mass.

Third member of the team was William Sutton of Worton, a junior. The team coach was Madison Brown, vocational agriculture teacher at Kent county high school.



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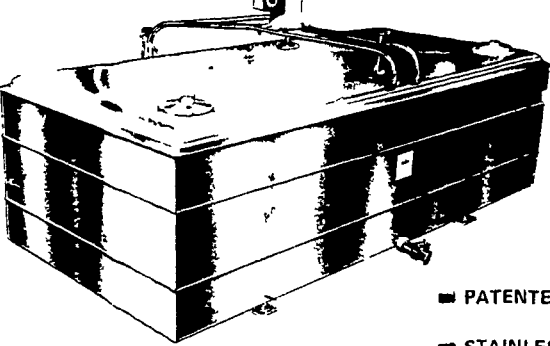


  
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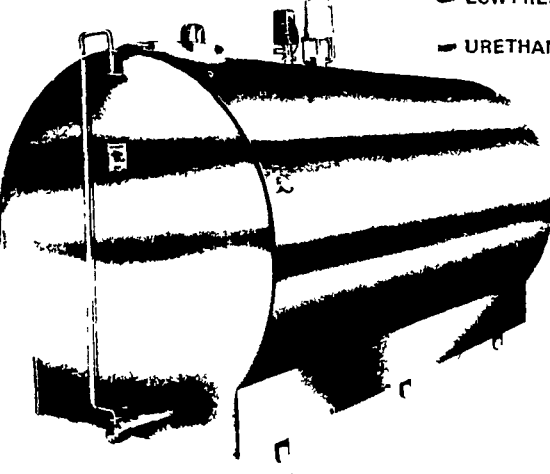
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