

Dairy

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Gathering here for their annual meeting, the District 12 dairymen were also told that the importation of dairy products is not a significant problem anymore due to the combined efforts of various milk producing and marketing groups across the country.

But just because things are looking a little rosier now than what dairymen have been accustomed to in recent years, this is no time to sit back and relax, Jones hinted. The Cooperative's promotional efforts, for example, have worked out favorably, and he advised members to keep up a good advertising program. "We need promotional programs to keep good consumer relations," the dairy leader stated. "We have to get the consumer to take our product so that dairymen can make a profit."

Expanding on the public relations issue, Jones advised the group to stay in touch with Congress. Three issues currently confronting government officials in Washington which should be of interest to farmers are:

Import quotas - although currently under control, they are reviewed from time to time and things could change. Jones notes that only Congress can change these quotas, therefore it is

important for government to know how farmers feel.

The parity level for milk will have to be reconsidered by Congress after it was vetoed last week by President Ford. The requested level was for 85 per cent, which Ford did not accept because of it being too expensive and inflationary. Congress upheld the veto by a vote of 51 to 37 on Wednesday. Some dairy leaders themselves had considered the 85 per cent parity request to be too high, because it would have a tendency to arouse consumer resistance. If the bill had passed, it would have raised the present floor on Class II prices by about 40 cents.

The third item which should concern farmers is the Capper-Volstead Act, around which the farmer cooperative movement revolves. Cooperatives are currently being threatened by powerful groups - both in and out of government - and their very existence could depend on how well farmers will defend their organizations, Jones warned.

In other activities at the meeting, three members were honored for 25-year memberships and three 4-H'ers were cited for their achievements with their dairy projects.

Donna and Linda Akers, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Curt Akers, Quarryville, received the first and third place awards in 4-H dairy project work, respectively.

The second-place winner was Doug Herahberger.

Twenty-five-year membership plaques were presented to Jason Weaver, Arlene Longenecker, and George Reinhardt.

Jay Ranck gave the delegate report from last November's annual Inter-State meeting, which was held at Lancaster's Host Farm Motel and Resort. He noted that this year's meeting would be held in Philadelphia, but Lancaster has already received the nod for meeting sites after 1976.

Other remarks were presented by Charles Rohrer, president of the District 12 membership, and Curt Akers, director.

Tunisia

Tunisia, the tiny North African country, was settled by the Phoenicians and Carthaginians in ancient times. It was part of the Roman empire until the Arab conquest of 648. It was ruled by various Arab and Berber dynasties until the Turks took it in 1570. Tunisia was a pirate state for much of its history, raiding Mediterranean shipping.

Garden applications due

HARRISBURG - People interested in growing vegetables on state lands have until Feb. 15 to submit their requests to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Rural Affairs.

As part of the Governor's Bicentennial Gardens Program, land at state institutions operated by the Department of Public Welfare will be made available to prospective gardeners on a first-come, first-serve basis.

A total of about 125 acres at 25 institutions scattered throughout the state is available for the program, the same amount of land as last year when the Governor's Anti-Inflation Garden Program was initiated.

Last year some 3,000 people gardened on the 30' x 30' plots measured off at the state grounds. Greater use is expected this year.

The Bureau of Rural Affairs is handling seed orders for the program as well as

coordinating the use of land at the various state hospitals and youth development centers. Seeds are being distributed to organizations in packets of ten varieties including, cucumbers, lettuce, beets, carrots, turnips, radishes, sweet corn, peas, green beans, and zucchini.

Last year a total of 174,809 packets of ten seed varieties were sold.

For additional information concerning the garden program, individuals are asked to contact the Bureau of Rural Affairs, 2301 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120.

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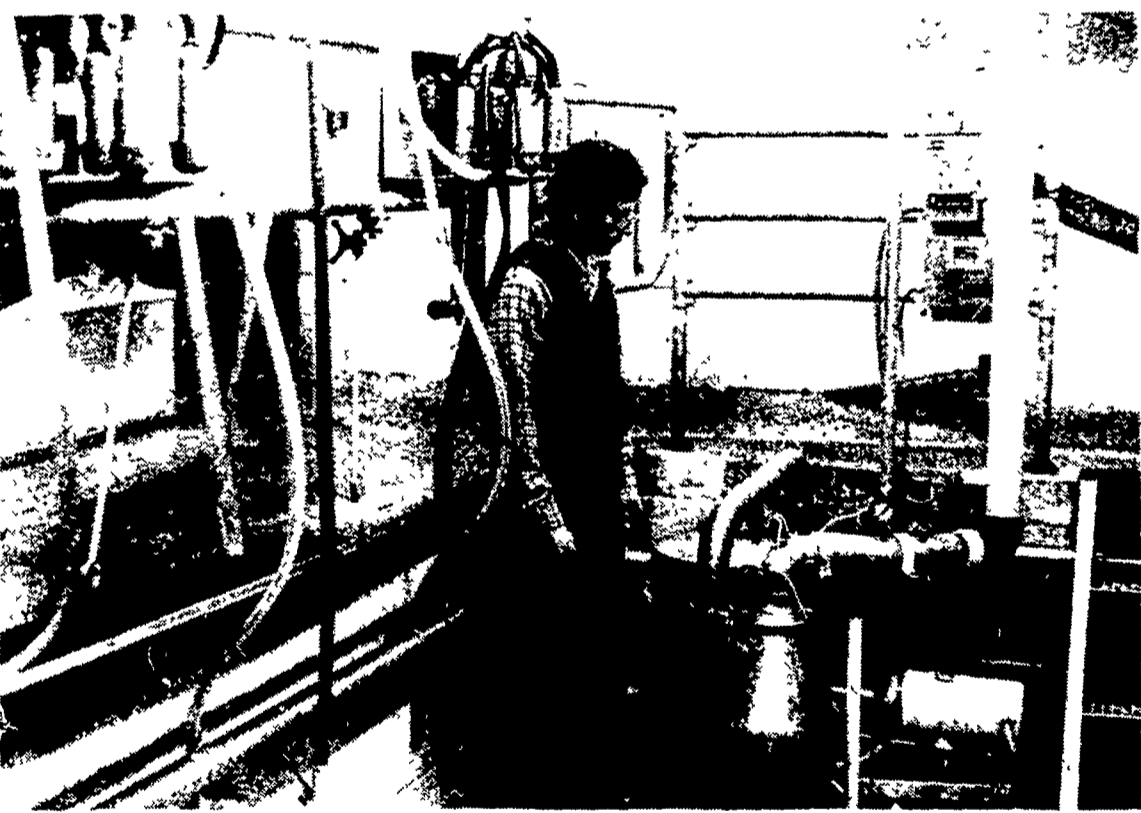
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