

# Wool payments announced

An incentive payment rate of 61.1 percent on 1975 marketings of shorn wool has been announced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The announced payment rate is based on the difference between the

national average price of 44.7 cents a pound received by producers during 1975 and the previously announced incentive price of 72 cents a pound. Incentive payments to wool growers are required under the National Wool Act of 1954, which promotes wool production to meet U.S. minimum needs. The program is financed by import duty on imported wool and wool products.

The 1975 payment rate compares with the 1974 rate of 21.8 percent. Payments for 1975 marketings of wool will be about \$40 million compared to payments of \$15 million on 1974 marketings.

A grower's payment is determined by multiplying the net dollar return from the sale of wool by the payment rate of 61.1 percent. This percentage method encourages growers to improve the quality and marketing of their wool. In any marketing year for which incentive payments are made, the higher the price a grower receives for his wool, the larger his payment.

A payment rate of \$1.09 per hundredweight on unshorn lambs sold or slaughtered in 1975 was also announced by USDA. This payment compensates growers for the wool they market on live lambs rather than as shorn wool. The payment is based

on the shorn wool payments, rate, average weight of wool per hundredweight of lambs, and value of lamb's wool relative to the national average value of shorn wool.

Deductions of 1½ cents a pound from 1975 shorn wool payments and 7½ cents per hundred pounds of liveweight from 1975 lamb payments will be made to finance advertising, sales promotion and related market development activities. These deductions, provided for in the National Wool Act, were approved by an 85.5 percent favorable vote by sheepmen voting in a November 1974 referendum.

### What's New

#### New Climbing Accessory Secures, Stabilizes Ladders

A new ladder accessory designed to assist workers by securing and stabilizing conventional straight or extension ladders to trees, poles or beams is now available.

Called the Hugger, the new device attaches to ladder endrails. Two sturdy metal arms, controlled from the ground by nylon ropes, allow the worker to firmly secure or "hug" the ladder to the tree, pole or beam. Once secured, the worker has a solid, stable ladder to climb on, or work from at any level.

The Hugger can be used to assist climbing operations in such industries as utilities, park and ground maintenance, street and highway maintenance, the building trades, warehousing, agriculture and others.

Pre-engineered for strength and durability, the Hugger housing is solid aluminum. The arms, also aluminum, are equipped with stainless steel spikes. Its slide unit and screw shaft are cadmium plated steel. The line mechanism houses continuous filament nylon on impact plastic reels.

The basic unit is priced at \$85.00 and includes one set of arms and a ladder mounting plate for rapid installation and removal.

To order a Hugger, or obtain additional information, write Hugger, 9 East 40th Street, Mezzanine, New York, New York 10016.

# March milk summarized

ALEXANDRIA - A uniform base milk price of \$10.78 per hundredweight for March 1976 deliveries to Middle Atlantic order handlers was announced this week by Market Administrator Joseph D. Shine. The excess milk price is \$8.52 and the weighted average price is \$10.53. The base milk price is down 16 cents from February but is \$2.10 above the March 1975 price. Base milk accounted for 88.85 percent of March deliveries compared to 89.28 percent a year earlier. The butterfat differential for milk testing above or below 3.5 percent is 9.9 cents for each one-tenth of a pound of fat.

There were 8,182 dairymen delivering to Order 4 pool handlers during the month, and the average daily delivery per producer was 1,796 pounds, or 4.1 percent above February. Last March, the average daily producer delivery was 1,745 pounds.

The Market Administrator said that Middle Atlantic Class I sales of 8.14 million pounds per day within the marketing area during March, a 6.1 percent increase from the 7.67 million pound daily average during February.

Shine stated that 455.4 million pounds of producer milk with a gross value of 48 million dollars was included in the March pool. Handlers utilized 293.3 million pounds or 64.40 percent of the total

# Gov. honors 100-yr. old farms

HARRISBURG - The first certificates for Pennsylvania Century Farms were awarded by the Governor in a special ceremony this week. The ceremony was held in the Governor's Reception Room on Wednesday.

"The Century Farms Program is a co-operative venture among the Agriculture Department, the Historical and Museum Commission, and the Bicentennial Commission," Sec. of Ag. Kerstetter said.

"The concept of recognition for farm longevity was developed by the Bradford County Historical Society in 1950. We intend, through this program to emphasize the importance of family farms and rural tradition to Pennsylvania's heritage.

"To qualify as a Century Farm, the farm must have been owned by the same family for the last 100 years. A family member must live on the land. The farm must contain at least ten acres of the original holding or gross at least \$1,000 a year from the sale of farm products."

Three certificates were awarded at Wednesday's ceremony. Over 250 farm families have applied to this date. Applications are available through the Pennsylvania State Grange, Pennsylvania Farmers Association and the Pennsylvania Farmers Union.

This newspaper has its own way of recognizing farms which have been in the same family for 100 or more years, and features them from time to time within its pages. Owners of such properties in southeastern-southcentral Pa. who have not already contacted LANCASTER FARMING are invited to do so.

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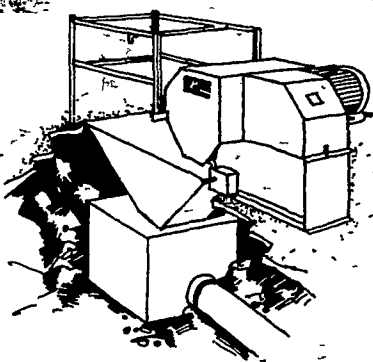
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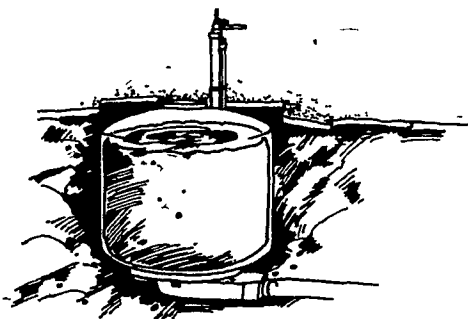
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