

Optimism

[Continued from Page 1]

are better now for him than they had ever been. But the expenses he has bothered him nonetheless. "Machinery is a lot higher than I ever thought it would be. I don't see how we can get a whole lot less for our milk and still keep people milking," he said.

When asked if he had thought of quitting, Thumma's answer was a lightning-fast and emphatic "No." He works with a 100 per cent home bred herd and hinted that he wouldn't be milking 85 cows if he hadn't raised them all himself.

Sam Long, Peach Bottom, works with approximately 50 cows and considers that size herd ideal for him. He enjoys working with his cows, considers the price of milk to be very fair and has no complaints. He does wish, though, that dairymen would maintain their herd sizes on a more even keel rather than expand hurriedly each time the price of milk looks more favorable. That's what causes the market to break, opinionized Long.

One former independent dairyman in the area expressed both satisfaction and

dissatisfaction over the dairy business. As far as his own work and income is concerned, he's happy. He was very disappointed, however, about having been forced to take a lower milk price after having received no choice on whether or not to join the Federal Order 4 marketing area. As far as he and his wife are concerned, the free enterprise system lost some ground when the Federal Order widened its authority in the area. Their monthly losses after the changes exceeded \$600 at one time. What's more, they had to build a base. In spite of these setbacks, they remain optimistic.

Another dairyman interviewed during the past week stated that things look good, "but the government should keep its nose out of it. We'd be a lot happier dairymen if the government were out."

We're still behind other businesses in our profits, the dairyman continued, but the price was satisfactory just the same. Over the past 24 years during which he had been in business he's increased his herd from 12

cows to 125. Several construction programs were being undertaken at his farm at the time of this reporter's visit.

A recent new member of a dairy cooperative, the dairyman claimed that his expenses have increased somewhat since he joined but that overall he considers himself to be better off than before. He has no predictions on how the dairy business will continue, claiming that he couldn't even guess what next month was going to be like.

A 17-year old Chester Countian exclaimed that the dairy future was "bright." His family operates a 700-acre grain and dairy farm with 115 cows. The only negative remark the youth had about his line of work was that calf prices were poor. An optimist, he figured they would improve in time.

Another dairyman commented "dairying is about as good as any line of farming . . . it's more even . . . not as rough on ups and downs as other lines."

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Awards were presented at the annual banquet of the Cedar Crest Young Farmers at the Schaefferstown Fire Hall.

Glenn Wenger won first place for corn grain yield with 154.2 bushels per acre, and Art Krall came in a close second with 153.4 bu-a. The hay contest was won by Arnold Acres with second place going to Allen Nolt. Jay Ault was presented a cash donation from the Young Farmers for his upcoming Work Experience Abroad Program. Jay is an FFA member at Cedar Crest who will be on an exchange program working on a farm in Norway.

The past president's award was given to Dick Kreider by the awards committee chairmen, Amos Balsbaugh.

Mr. Leroy Geesemen brought greetings from the state association. Leroy is the present Public Relations Director for that organization. Also speaking were Dr. Marlin Kessler, Superintendent of Cornwall-Lebanon School District and Don McNutt, advisor to that organization. The two speakers summarized the past years activities.

The banquet committee consisted of Dick Kreider, chairmen, Frank Riest Jr., Elwood Houser, Albert Moyer, and Ron Lentz.

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