

Lancaster Farming

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Lower milk prices predicted

By DIETER KRIEG
BLUE BALL. - The prices farmers receive for milk are expected to remain "fairly good," but a drop of 60 cents per hundredweight is being predicted for Class 1 milk. Dr. James Honan, general manager of Inter-State Milk Producers Cooperative, made that announcement here on Tuesday during the annual meeting of District 6 of IMPCO.

This is likely to take place

in spite of the fact that the support price for milk was raised by the government recently, effective October 1. The support price is now \$8.26 per hundredweight, compared to \$8.13 previously.

Honan noted that the price of milk has been "pretty good" during the past year, and that costs weren't "quite so high." Next year costs may be up a little and prices not quite so good," he con-

tinued. He also pointed out that the prices of cheese and butter have fallen recently and that a peak for Class 1 milk sales has been reached. Nevertheless, he is optimistic about the kind of prices that will be paid during the next six to 12 months and he is confident that the blend price will remain above \$10 per hundredweight.

Turning his attention to the need for promotion and

advertising, the cooperative leader said that Class 1 sales could be improved. New, revised, deductions from members' milk checks for the purpose of advertising have been proposed but were defeated on an unofficial ballot. Honan is hopeful that enough support will have been drummed up when the measure comes up for an official referendum later.

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Farmers pleased with crops

By DIETER KRIEG
THE CROP situation throughout southeastern Pennsylvania continues to look very good, causing most farmers to express pleasure in what they've been harvesting so far this season. Reports also indicate that soybeans are coming along well and good yields should be forthcoming in a few weeks.

A few farmers in Lancaster, Berks, and York counties have begun to

harvest their corn for grain and all indications are that a better than average crop is forthcoming. In Lancaster County, Director of Extension Services, Max Smith predicts that some individuals will meet and ever surpass the 200 bushels per acre mark.

The only weak spot in the crop outlook as of this date is that some of the later planted corn and soybeans were slowed down a little due to the lack of rain several

weeks ago. But even these fields look good, nonetheless.

With mostly pleasant weather conditions throughout the month of September, many farmers have their silos filled. Nobody has been heard to complain about the kind of crop they had. The ears as well as the stalk are generally big, producing, on the whole, more tonnage per acre than what has been seen for the last several years.

The hay situation has also

improved in spite of frequent rains throughout most of the growing season. But it's the rain which made the good harvest possible in the first place, and although plenty of hay must have gotten wet, everyone contacted by LANCASTER FARMING notes that he was able to get most of his crop in dry. Nevertheless, prices remain relatively high in spite of the apparently abundant crop.

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4-H benefited Kevin Rohrer

By JOANNE SPAHR
MANHEIM, Pa. - After 10 fulfilling years in 4-H, Kevin Rohrer's career is coming to an end. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Jay H. Rohrer, Manheim R7, Kevin is 19 years old now, and it is time for him to step aside and make room for younger members to expand and grow. But, when he leaves the organization, Kevin will take much more with him than he leaves behind.

"4-H has benefited me in many ways," the articulate

and serious young adult pointed out, "it helped me with my farming, but it has also helped me with my public speaking skills."

As president of the Red Rose Beef and Sheep Club, of which he has been a member since he was nine years old, and treasurer of the Lancaster County 4-H Council, Kevin has many opportunities to work on parliamentary procedure and eloquence skills. While County Council treasurer is a relatively high position in the

organization, being president of his club has seemed to require more oratory skills on his part. Compared to a small club where getting and keeping the members' attention is not too difficult, Kevin's club is made up of 117 members this year. So, the need for a commanding speaker is obvious.

Probably the biggest help in developing these skills for Kevin was livestock judging. This is the fourth year, now, that he has been chosen to

the judging team, and this year, he was a part of the winning team at Penn State.

"Judging gives you the expertise of choosing the right terms, saying your reasons smoothly, and handling yourself with poise," he explained.

As for other benefits, Kevin feels that judging will be a definite asset in his farming career for the selection of replacements in his breeding stock.

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Jeff Martin shows top steer

By SALLY BAIR
NEW HOLLAND - Jeff Martin, New Holland R3, showed his Angus-Charolais crossbred steer to the grand championship at the New Holland Community Fair on Thursday.

A steady rain forced the 4-H show indoors at the New Holland Sales Stables, but spirits were high as judging continued on schedule.

Reserve championship went to a Hereford shown by Dale L. Hershey, Ronks R1.

According to Judge Tony Dobrosky, York County agricultural extension agent, he chose the Martin beef for the top spot because it was "long and uniform, and I liked the covering. It seems

to be uniform overall." He chose the Hereford for reserve honors because it "more nearly follows the type of the champion." He said he liked the length of rump and called both top animals outstanding.

Showing a champion was not new for Jeff. He's been in the New Holland Community 4-H club for seven years and when he was 12 he showed the grand champion at the Fair. Three years ago he showed the reserve champion. Furthermore, last week he showed the champion mediumweight steer at the Ephrata Fair. He said he had high hopes for a Simmental-Angus cross he showed at Solanco two

weeks ago, cross he showed at Solanco two weeks ago, and he was first in his class but not champion. So this time he didn't have such high hopes.

Martin, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Martin, said he felt "pretty good," but

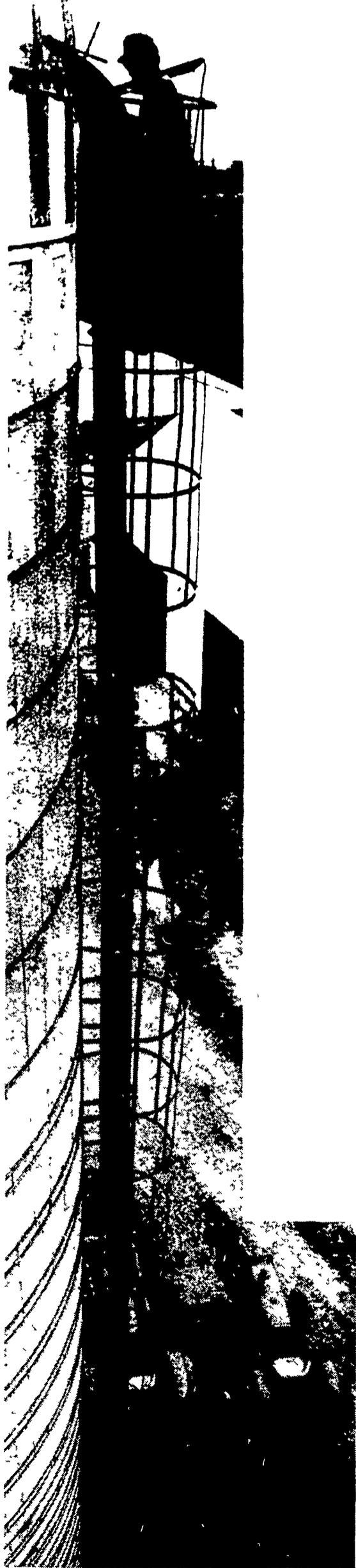
added, "It is a surprise. I worked hard. Sometimes I had to stay home on weekends to work on my animal."

Champion showman for the event was 15-year-old

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P. Robert Wenger, Quarryville, gets ready to close up a silo after filling it last week.

PHOTO BY DIETER KRIEG