

Milk processing plant okayed



A 25-year MCMP membership award is presented to C. Robert Kilgore, left, by District Director Eugene Kilgore. Both men are from Airville.

(Continued from Page 1)

Administration of the manufacturing facility would involve setting up a board of directors drawn equally from the boards of the two present cooperative structures. The cost of the plant would be shared on a 50-50 basis by the Maryland and Inter-State cooperatives. During peak production times, the proposed facility could

handle up to two million pounds of milk daily. Touching on other areas of concern in his report, President Wessel told the dairymen that, "MCMP continues to be strong financially - this year was one of the best." A total of \$360,000, including dividends and refunds, has been returned to members this year, representing a return of 5.8 cents per hundredweight shipped.

Wessel warned of a trend in the patterns of production that he is observing, based on past history of milk production in the nation. As production climbs, prices historically drop. The saw pattern reverses when amounts of milk shipped slack off, causing a price rise. "Dairy farmers are really turning it on!" commented the MCMP president. He projected that the climbing

production results from low meat cow prices, a currently favorable milk-feed ratio and the narrowed margin between Class I and II prices.

Other recent board action noted by Wessel was the cooperative's voting to boost the present five cents per hundredweight advertising checkoff to seven cents in the Federal Order 4 area. The decision to vote for the boost was based on higher Class I sales in the Mid-Atlantic region than in many surrounding areas. The Board felt that the sales jump was a direct result of the increased advertising over the area.

During Manager Strock's report, he also detailed the rising milk production nationwide. The major dairying state of Wisconsin, in spite of suffering through the worst drought in the country, has boosted milk output by 14 percent over 1975. Prices have begun to decline, reflecting the increased supply. At the same time, there is a decrease in consumer purchasing of dairy products, due to climbing retail prices.

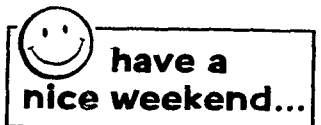
Strock predicted that the September hundredweight price will probably drop from \$11.77 to a December figure of about \$10.84. He expects prices to remain at near support levels until the Fall of 1977.

"Quality Milk - What Is It?" was a visual program presented by MCMP's assistant manager and secretary, Boyd Cook. The presentation reminded dairymen of the need to produce a bacteria-free, pleasant tasting product which will pass Food and Drug ratings, as well as win consumer's continued acceptance. Proper milk cooling and paying strict attention to production procedures were stressed.

Cook pointed out a number of problems arising from recent FDA-Public Health inspections. Cleanliness headed the list, both on all milk contact surfaces and inside the dairy house. Water

supplies and farm sewerage systems are causing some problems as well.

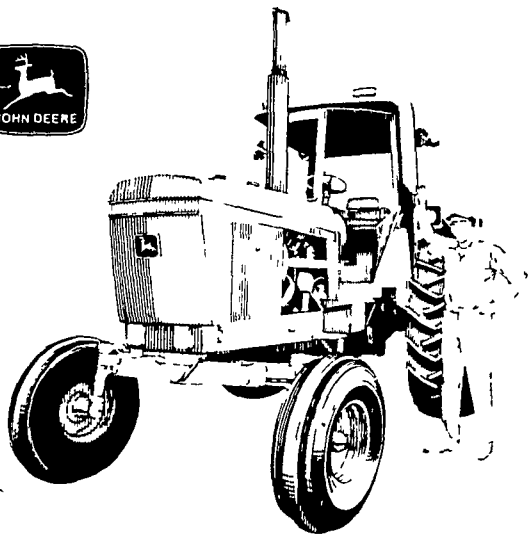
"For failing Public Health inspections, you receive second class price milk for 90 days," Cook reminded the shippers.



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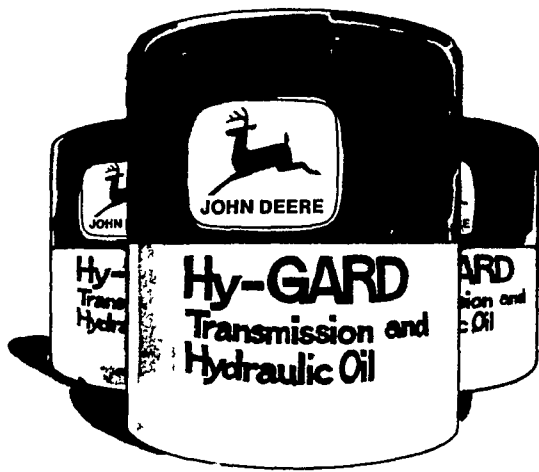
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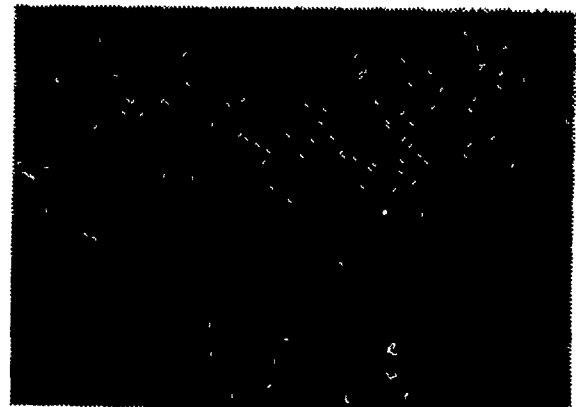


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