

Eastern Milk Producers call for floor under Class I price

SYRACUSE, N.Y. - At its annual fall meeting on October 27, here, over 200 delegates, representing 7500 dairy farmer members of Eastern Milk Producers Cooperative, passed a resolution calling for the establishment of a "floor" under Class 1 (fluid) milk prices. This action was taken in an effort to stabilize sagging prices payable to dairymen this Winter and to offset further inflationary costs of production.

During a special meeting of Eastern's board of directors on the following day, the resolution was

ratified and a petition was mailed to the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture. In an effort to gain support in this matter, telegrams were sent to President Gerald R. Ford, Governor Jimmy Carter, (now president-elect), various U.S. congressmen and senators and commissioners of agriculture in the Northeastern states.

President Arden Tewksbury of Meshoppen, Pa. met with Assistant U. S. Secretary of Agriculture Richard L. Feltner on October 28 to brief him on Eastern's position and ask

for his indulgence in this matter of increasing concern to Northeast dairy farmers. An effort was also made to enlist support of all other cooperatives in the Northeast regarding Eastern's emergency action and subsequent petition.

After suffering an unprecedented cost-price

squeeze during 1974-1976, dairy farmers received some relief this Spring and Summer as milk prices improved. However, current indications are that milk prices during the ensuing Winter months will fall drastically from current levels and remain depressed through the first six months of 1977, unless some

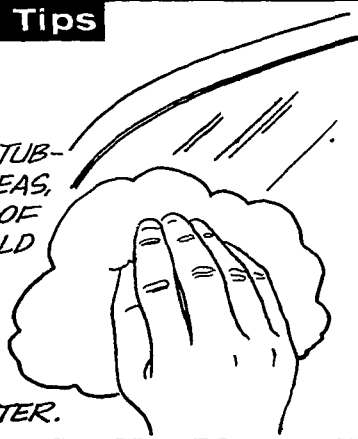
corrective action is taken under Federal and State milk marketing orders.

The action requested by Eastern would stabilize prices paid by milk dealers for milk used for fluid (bottling) purposes at not less than the levels which prevailed during October of this year. This temporary measure is intended to stay in effect through March 31, 1977.

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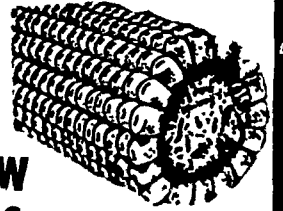
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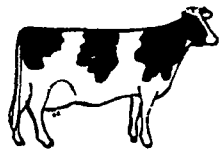
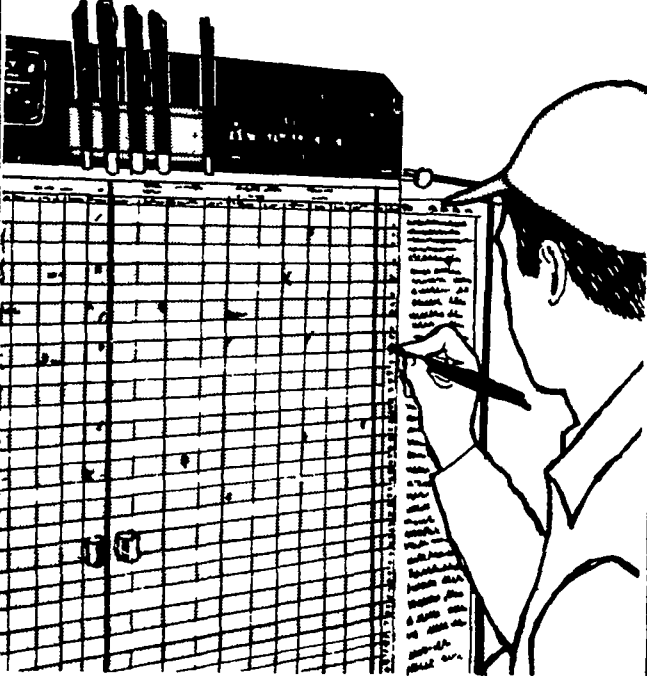


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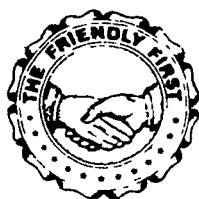
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