

Farm Calendar

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Wednesday, Feb. 9
 Dauphin County dairy barn meeting, Howard Kopp Farm, Colebrook Rd., Middletown, 1-3 p.m. Subject: mastitis.
 Purina Dairy business management meeting, Lancaster, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Harvest Drive Restaurant.
 Farm-City Breakfast slated for Lehigh County. Don Ace, Penn State dairy scientist, will discuss "The Incredible Food Producing Machine" at a 7-30 a.m. meeting at the City Vu Restaurant, MacArthur Road, Allentown. The program is sponsored by the Agriculture Committee of the Allentown-Lehigh Chamber of Commerce.
 National columnist John McManus, author of "The Birch Log," speaks at the Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, 8 p.m., on "Choosing the American Way."
Thursday, Feb. 10
 Adult welding class at New Holland High School, 7-9 p.m.
 Lancaster County Extension Service holds meeting on commercial pesticide certification, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Farm and Home Center.
 York County potato growers meeting, Centre

Presbyterian Church, New Park, 10 a.m.
 Purina Dairy business management meeting, Gettysburg, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 11
 Seminar on Estate Planning and retirement programs, Cumberland County Extension Service, to be held at the Embers Quality Inn, Carlisle, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Advance registration requested at the Cumberland County Extension office by Feb. 7.
 Wenger Implement, Inc., at the Buck, holds Open House, 9:30 a.m. to 3.
 Virginville Grange youth hold Sweetheart Ball, 8-11 p.m., admission two dollars.
 Pennsylvania Egg Marketing Association meets at the Sheraton Conestoga, Lancaster, 7 p.m.
 Purina Dairy business management meeting, Knoxville, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 12
 Chester County Beekeepers Association holds seminar on beekeeping, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Turner-Harris Home Economics Center, Cheyney State College, Cheyney, Pa.

Northern farms

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Jefferson and Lewis counties in northern New York being buried under tons of snow from blizzard conditions, continued York
 In some areas, milk tank trucks have been unable to transport milk off the farms in nearly a week, York commented. However, cows must be milked twice a day, he stated. Dairy farmers who have reached their holding capacity are having to dump thousands of gallons of milk, he remarked
 Federal assistance is imperative to help these dairymen who have come to the end of their rope, stressed York. "We can't shut the milk faucets off and

we can't stand by idly and watch these people succumb to nature's fury," he said
 Under these conditions it is only logical that the federal government offset these losses, explained York. No one in the dairy industry can stand such losses, least of which, the individual farmer or his co-op, he said. Moreover, both New York and Pennsylvania pay large sums in federal taxes and receive a disproportionate share of return on taxes paid, informed York
 Eastern Milk Producers Cooperative, alone, could lose in the neighborhood of one half million dollars when the final figures are in on the blizzard of '77, the co-op leader projected

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Dairy situation

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conversation with Lancaster Farming. He pointed out that changes since mid-week have been mostly for the better. The milder weather has allowed roads to be opened up and energy legislation is keeping ag industry supplied. Shelhamer initiated a program early in the week to aid the state's farmers.
 "It takes a lot of gas to turn powder into milk," Sumner said, expressing gratitude over Shelhamer's actions to put dairy manufacturing plants high on the energy priority list. The result has been that Pennsylvania's dairy industry has been hit with only

a minimum of problems. That's not to say, however, that there weren't any.

Although Inter-State did not notice a drop in production on their final tally sheets at headquarters, individual accounts throughout the state (especially western counties) indicate that cows' production was affected. A newspaper article appearing in Thursday morning's Morrison's Cove Herald in Blair County, tells of numerous difficulties dairymen had in that area. Manure on one farm was reported to have been piled up to a depth of 13 feet. There have been no reports of milk having to be dumped,



Jim Sumner

although that very well may have happened.

So far milk has been able to move to markets, in spite of cutbacks at processing plants and lost sales to schools. Sumner observed

that one of the advantages a dairyman has by marketing his milk through a cooperative is that the co-op has a number of buyers it can turn to if and when a problem develops. "It protects the market against a potential crisis situation," he said. In explaining the school milk program as it affects Inter-State, Sumner noted that five per cent of the cooperatives milk supply enters that market. That works out to 1.5 million pounds of milk per week.

Although some relief in the weather was seen for the past several days, more cold weather is being forecasted. So far, according to Shelhamer and Sumner, things have worked out pretty well considering the circumstances.

Efforts are continuing to keep agriculture from running out of gas and freezing.

Eggs counted

HARRISBURG - Pennsylvania layers produced 258 million eggs during December 1976, up four per cent from the previous month but twelve per cent below a year earlier, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

The December average of 12.8 million layers is up about one per cent from the previous month but eleven per cent below a year earlier. Egg production per

100 layers during December totaled 2,021 eggs, up three per cent from the previous month but one per cent below a year ago.

The nation's laying flocks produced 5.5 billion eggs during December, four per cent above the previous month and one per cent above a year ago. Layers on hand during December averaged 281 million compared with 280 million a year earlier.

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