

# Dairy

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many of the dairies around the country — large and small — are finding it increasingly advantageous to have cooperatives supply their milk, rather than operate their own pick-up system.

If the federal government weren't taking up seven per cent of current milk supplies, the milk price would surely fall, Johnstone explained to the dairymen at the Farm and Home Center this week. He believes that the cause of the problem can be traced back to late 1976 when higher support prices encouraged production.

Love, who last year personally opposed an increase in support prices, agrees. He considers last April's and October's support price hikes as having been mistakes and hopes that the same mistake won't be made this year. USDA will take action on the matter later this month and the new prices become effective April 1.

To illustrate the surplus situation, Johnstone noted that the U.S. government as of Jan. 1, 1978 held 149 million pounds of butter, 50 million pounds of cheese, and 638 million pounds of non-fat dry milk.

According to some reports, some of the surplus dairy products have been in storage so long that they're being channeled into animal feeds.

The surplus has nearly everyone in the dairy industry worried. However, they are optimistic about being able to solve the problem. What it takes, say co-op officials, is confidence in the cooperative and some individual initiative and input.

Robert Barry, president of Lehigh, measures the growing strength of his cooperative in terms of its members and also financial statements. He pointed out that during the last fiscal year, Lehigh paid \$1.2 million in interest on investments and an additional \$700,000 on principle. Both he and York are confident of Lehigh having a secure place in milk marketing in the Northeast.

Officials at Eastern and Inter-State are also optimistic and confident. But they point out it'll take more than their directors to solve the problems of surplus production. Dairy farmers themselves will have to begin doing something about it.

Johnstone concludes: "Time is short and the problem severe."

# Thomasville 4-H meets

THOMASVILLE — The Thomasville 4-H Community Club met on February 28 at the 4-H Center, near Bair. Joey Welsh gave his demonstration "Sound Off." It was an informative presentation on the different types of smoke detectors, their advantages, where to place them, how to test and maintain them, and an explanation of the procedure of drawing up and practicing a fire escape plan.

The club will be having an exhibit for the 4-H Expo at the York Mall on March 10-11.

Roxanne Price, Youth Extension Agent, guided members in filling out IBM forms for projects for the year.

Bonnie Wire reported on the Valentine's Party program held at Pleasant Acres.

Reports given included: County Council, Tommy Welsh; Ice Capades, Nancy Eisenhart; News Reporter Tour and Lock-In, Joey Welsh; 4-H Family Movie, Mike Welsh; Roller Skating Party, Roy Thompson; and Horticulture Club, Cheri Serfass.

Joanathan Myers,

president, announced the following coming events: March 13, 4-H Roller Skating Party at Roll-R-Way West at Delco Plaza from 7 to 10 p.m.; March 17, Junior Fun Night for 4-H members 8 to 13 years old at the 4-H Center from 7 to 9:30 p.m.; and March 18, Officers Training at the 4-H Center 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

## Improve your vegetable I.Q.

SCHUYLKILL HAVEN - With Spring just around the corner, the Schuylkill County Cooperative Extension Service will conduct a special workshop entitled "Improving Your Vegetable IQ" on March 20 in the Boscov's auditorium in the Fairlane Village Mall. The afternoon session will begin at 1 p.m. with a repeat in the evening from 7 to 9 p.m.

Included in the program will be "Growing Unusual Vegetables" by Dale Moyer

and Maria Herrity of the Schuylkill County Extension Service staff. Mrs. Carol Ernst, director of Consumer Services, Weis Market, will present "Selecting Vegetables for the Family," and demonstrations on cooking "Vegetables That Say More" will be presented by the Extension nutrition aides.

The public is invited to attend these sessions. There is no fee or registration required.



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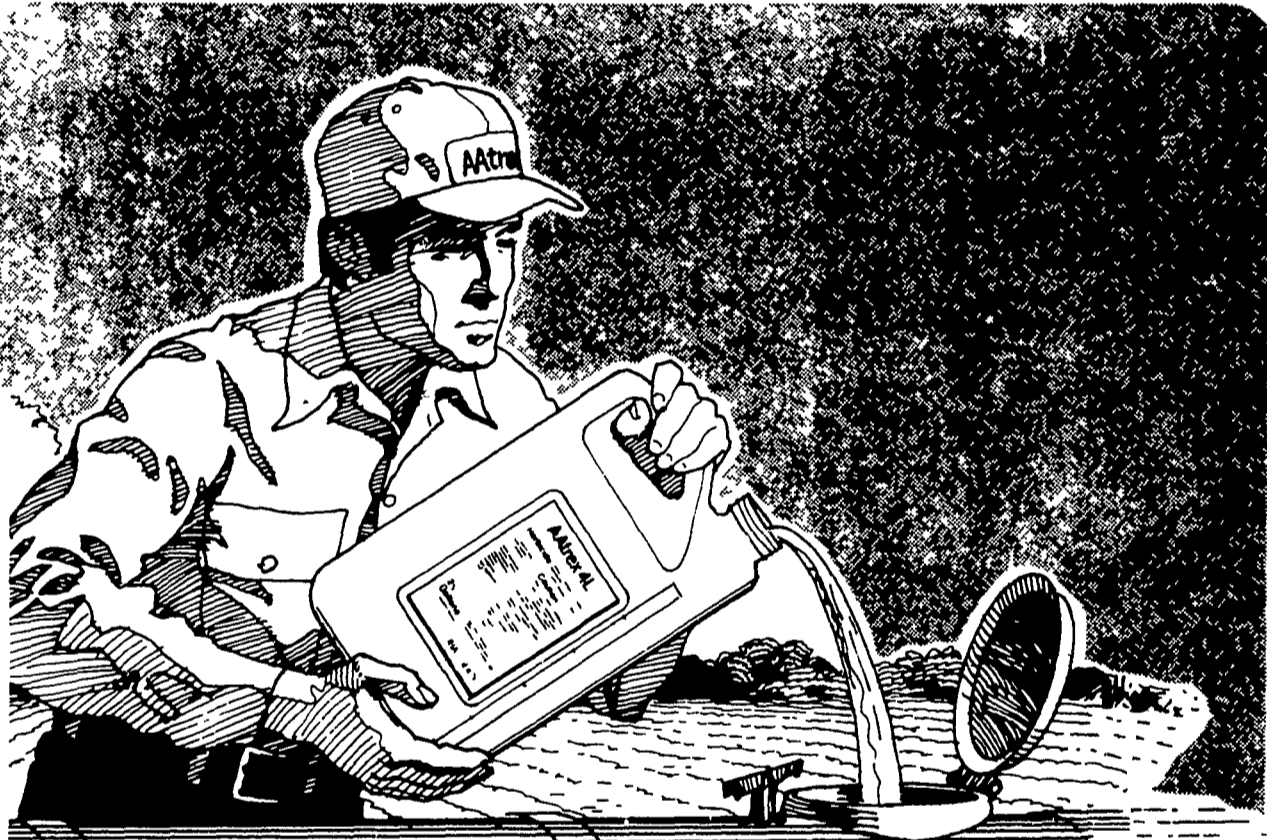
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