### Stonesifer views cooperatives as avenue for 'dairymen marketing power'

By JOYCE BUPP Staff Correspondent

UNION BRIDGE, Md. - "I have to belong to a cooperative," asserts Jim

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Stonesifer. "It's the only way to dairymen marketing power.'

Stonesifer and his wife Betty were recently selected Outstanding Cooperator couple by Maryland Cooperative Milk Producers, Inc., Baltimore. Chosen in competition at Host Farms in Lancaster from a slate of 13 dairy farm couples, the Stonesifers will represent their cooperative during the annual meeting of the National Milk Producers Federation, set for late November in Seattle, Wash.

Energetic and dedicated to family farming as a way of life, the Stonesifers enterted into partnership with Jim's dad after working for seven years with a Maryland Brown Swiss operation and one year as herdsman in a registered Holstein herd.

'We came home with two kıds, a 5-year-old car, our household goods and a thousand dollars," Betty recalls. "I worried about the initial \$15,000 we borrowed toward cows and some machinery. But after a while you get sort of accustomed to the increasing debt load and learn not to let it get you

Raised on a Carroll County him out of marrying her general farm, Betty laughingly suggests that Jim's friends tried to talk

"becaue they didn't think I'd make a satisfactory farm

But Jim is a young man who knows his own mind. He disregarded the would-be advice, based on a personal

philosophy that is the basic foundation for his success in the dairying industry.



Jim and Betty Stonesifer value highly their farm way of life and friendships made through the dairying industry.

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