

Tired of being 'milked'

(Continued from Page 25)

give capital to management with a poor track record would be asking for a reassessment at a later date to recapitalize a deficient co-op. There is no room in milk marketing for shoddy management and/or workmanship. If, in fact, capital must be raised by farmers again such as was the case in 1933, 1974, and many other times, who's to say that within three years the 2½ million dollar recapitalization program won't need to be restocked with producers' money? The two million dollars for redemption of preferred stock is ideal for the older farmers who put their excess money and "faith" in preferred stock for their retirement; however, this is somewhat similar to our present Social Security Program in which those working have to support the retired (which I suppose is the way it will have to be). However, any paper issued today by Lehigh Valley will probably not be redeemable in the future unless another recapitalization program is carried out at some later date.

6. The efficiency of milk haulers, from farm to processing plant should be re-evaluated as milk is currently being hauled for as low as 32 cents per hundredweight, and as high as 42 cents, per hwt. for the same distance and volume of milk. The 32 cents hauler is a

small, independent trucker, whereas the 42 cents hauler is from Lehigh Valley. Is there a ten-cent cost difference to make the same pick-up and delivery in similar trucks? Perhaps the trucks should be made available through sale or lease to the drivers to let them share in the responsibility of repairs and tires, etc., but also in the profits as a separate co-op. More efficiency, more responsibility, means more profit—only the best drivers would dare stay.

7. If extraordinary expenses do occur, such as this recent strike, Lehigh should set up some way in which recovery of the losses can be made available from all sister co-operative members and other dairies who process their excess milk through Lehigh. Of course, this must work two ways, we then should be ready to help if the reverse would occur.

8. Lehigh Valley Co-operative Dairy could join the other dairies in asking the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board and/or the appropriate legislative body to set aside a sum of money over and above the current retail price, perhaps ½ cents per gallon on fluid milk, to be paid by the consumer, but to go directly to milk and milk product advertising, consumer nutritional education, and research for new products. The advertising and research for my truck, tractor, name brand feed,

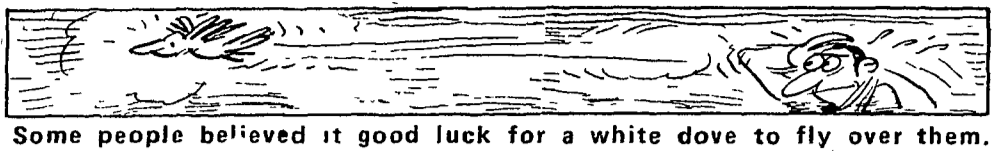
and for everything I've purchased was included in the sale price, so why not milk? This approach would act as a self-help aide to the whole milk industry.

I realize this is a rather lengthy but a most important subject for a great deal of your readers. The cities of Allentown, Lansdale, and Schuylkill Haven have very important stakes in the survival of the Lehigh Valley Co-operative Dairy in both jobs and in the economy of these respective areas. The 800 or so shippers to Lehigh also contribute to their areas' economy and thus create jobs in related industries. A better job must be done at a profit for all or else we will be seeing the last of Lehigh Valley Co-operative Dairy as we know it today.

In speaking out, I don't expect grassy milk, high bacteria, high leucocytes, oxidation, or antibiotics in my milk as retaliation such as has occurred in the "old days".

Sincerely,
Robert Dreisbach, VMD
Hamburg, Pa.

In the four years since enactment of the 55-mile-per-hour speed limit, average highway speeds have declined from 65 mph to 58 mph, the U.S. Department of Transportation reports.



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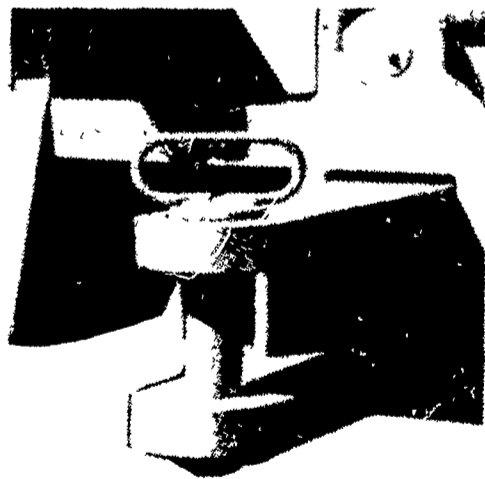
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IHC 4366	75.07
IHC 4166	74.55
Deere 8630	73.57
Deere 8430	74.60
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