

Lancaster Farming

Serving The Central and Southeastern Pennsylvania Areas

VOL. 24 No. 21 ~~22~~ 23

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, April 7, 1979

\$6.00 Per Year



Despite an unusual amount of testing, the dairy industry reports conditions as normal. At left, above, is Richard Alwine whose farm is within a mile of the nuclear generating plant on Three Mile Island. He is still smiling, confident that things are all right. At right is Jed Beshore, York County, whose farm is just five

miles away from the power plant. He too hasn't seen a need for a change in management. Samples of milk coming into the Department of Environmental Resources laboratory in Harrisburg show no evidence of contamination. Charles High, radiation protection specialist, accepts the samples, above, center.

Dairy business, shook but going steady

By DIETER KRIEG
HARRISBURG — The milk in southeastern Pennsylvania continues to flow in normal fashion, despite the consequences of an accident on Three Mile Island involving an atomic reactor. With few exceptions, dairymen are taking the

situation pretty much in stride and they're happy to know that no radiation has been found in milk samples. Federal, state and local testing laboratories are monitoring the situation daily.

There is some concern however, about consumers

being influenced by negative reporting and thus refusing to buy milk and other products which are produced in the counties surrounding Harrisburg. While consumers in southeastern and southcentral Pennsylvania are generally confident of the safety of Pennsylvania

products, consumers in neighboring states have expressed their doubts. A spokesman at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, as well as information from some dairy cooperatives, indicate that such negative attitudes are very much in existence.

In Maryland, for example, some stores put up signs indicating that their milk didn't come from Pennsylvania. Also, a cartoon appeared in Philadelphia, showing a boy at a breakfast table with a bowl of cereal and a mushroom cloud

coming out of the milk carton.

Such negative, unwarranted publicity irritate farmers and their marketing representatives, as well as officials within responsible agencies such as the

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Precautionary measures hurt meat plants

By KENDACE BORRY
ELIZABETHTOWN — "The most damage was done by rumors and fear" one meat processor located near Middletown summed up the results of the Three Mile

Island incident as it reflected on his business. "While there were no real problems and no product hurt by radiation, people just panicked. The results were that my sales have gone way

down—I just hope it's temporary."

The man was talking about his business which is located within the ten mile radius of the Three Mile Island plant.

"The uncertainty of what

we'll need is terrible," he noted. "I don't know what to order, and what meats to make. Either I'll run out of meats this weekend or I'll have too much."

His business was one of six

meat slaughtering plants which were told to temporarily cease their slaughtering of animals from Friday noon until 1 p.m. on Monday, strictly as a precautionary measure.

Also, the plants were to move no meat in or out of their plants, although they could sell what they had available. According to the

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Area consumers confident of food products

By KENDACE BORRY
ELIZABETHTOWN — As of Thursday night of this week, those consumers back in the area affected by the Three Mile Island incident were back to buying

groceries and food stuffs as normal, according to the comments made at area supermarkets.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Garber, Elizabethtown, told that they had never stopped

buying such things as milk, meat, and fresh vegetables.

"We have faith in what's being reported," they commented. "We would have been told if there was

something wrong with the food."

Mrs. Brenda Herr echoed their thoughts. The lady, who told that she lives in a development 3½ miles from Three Mile Island, thought

that the public would be warned if the milk might be bad. She added that she and her family had evacuated their home last Friday and were planning to return home as of yesterday.

"I heard a report that there was no identifiable problem," Jim Chafin said as he put milk cartons into his shopping cart. He added

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If you questioned that wind-driven tractor that appeared on page 1 last week, you can get the real scoop in the form of a full explanation by Dieter Krieg. And this time you can believe every word. It appears on page 120.

One of the oldest cows in the country is still going strong on a Perry County

farm. She's 26 years young and gave birth to her 23rd calf in February. Page 148 has all the details.

The Lancaster County Farmers Association went to Washington recently to meet with legislators. You may read about some of their discussions and concerns in an article beginning on page 140

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The Farmers' Home Administration has broadened its loan programs. Details are on page 52.

Solanco High School's FFA Chapter won a two-county milk products judging contest. Susan Kauffman reports on page 137.

Maryland Cooperative Milk Producers held their annual meeting on March 24. News from it still came in this week and we have it on pages 113-115.

Inflation may give a boost to the poultry industry, according to reports given at a recent Lancaster County poultry meeting. See page 37.