

Lancaster Farming

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Dairy parity will stay at 80 per cent

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The House Agriculture Committee approved legislation Thursday to allow support prices for milk to remain at 80 per cent of parity through Sept. 30, 1981. And there won't be a trigger clause, says Judson P. Mason, director of economics for the National Milk Producers Federation.

The Department of Agriculture had proposed an escape clause to establish a less than 80 per cent of parity level if the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) purchases climbed beyond a predetermined level. However, the House Agriculture Committee decided to delete that portion of the bill. U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Robert Bergland has said that he believes the bill might be vetoed by the President if the trigger clause isn't a part of the proposal.

Some observers say that even though there may be grumblings from the White House, a veto isn't a likely possibility.

Mason and others closely associated with dairy
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Eastern says it's 'on the climb in '79'

By DIETER KRIEG

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Eastern Milk Producers Cooperative Association, Inc., headquartered here, is celebrating. Indications from the management are that their business has been turned around and things are looking up.

According to office spokesmen, Eastern realized earnings of \$600,000 for the year ended March 31, 1979, and the management anticipates a \$700,000 net margin by the end of March, 1980. The figures have not been audited, however. At any rate, the cooperative's management is glowing with satisfaction and considers its contract with Leprino Foods to be wise and secure.

Eastern is supplying the giant cheese producer with milk under agreements which are to last 20 years, thus assuring members with a market. To this end, Eastern has purchased two dairy plants in southcentral New York and is leasing them to Leprino. Both plants are undergoing extensive renovation and expansion. Production at both plants continues while the improvements are going on.

Eastern met here at the Hotel Syracuse this week for its 57th annual meeting. The cooperative has had numerous set-backs in recent years, including stunning publicity on matters involving financing, directors' actions, its connections with Leprino Foods, and a court suit. But if any of that has Eastern down, it wasn't evident at the meeting here. It was business as usual, with all the trappings and festivities.

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A dairy economist speaks candidly...

Higher prices won't solve all the problems

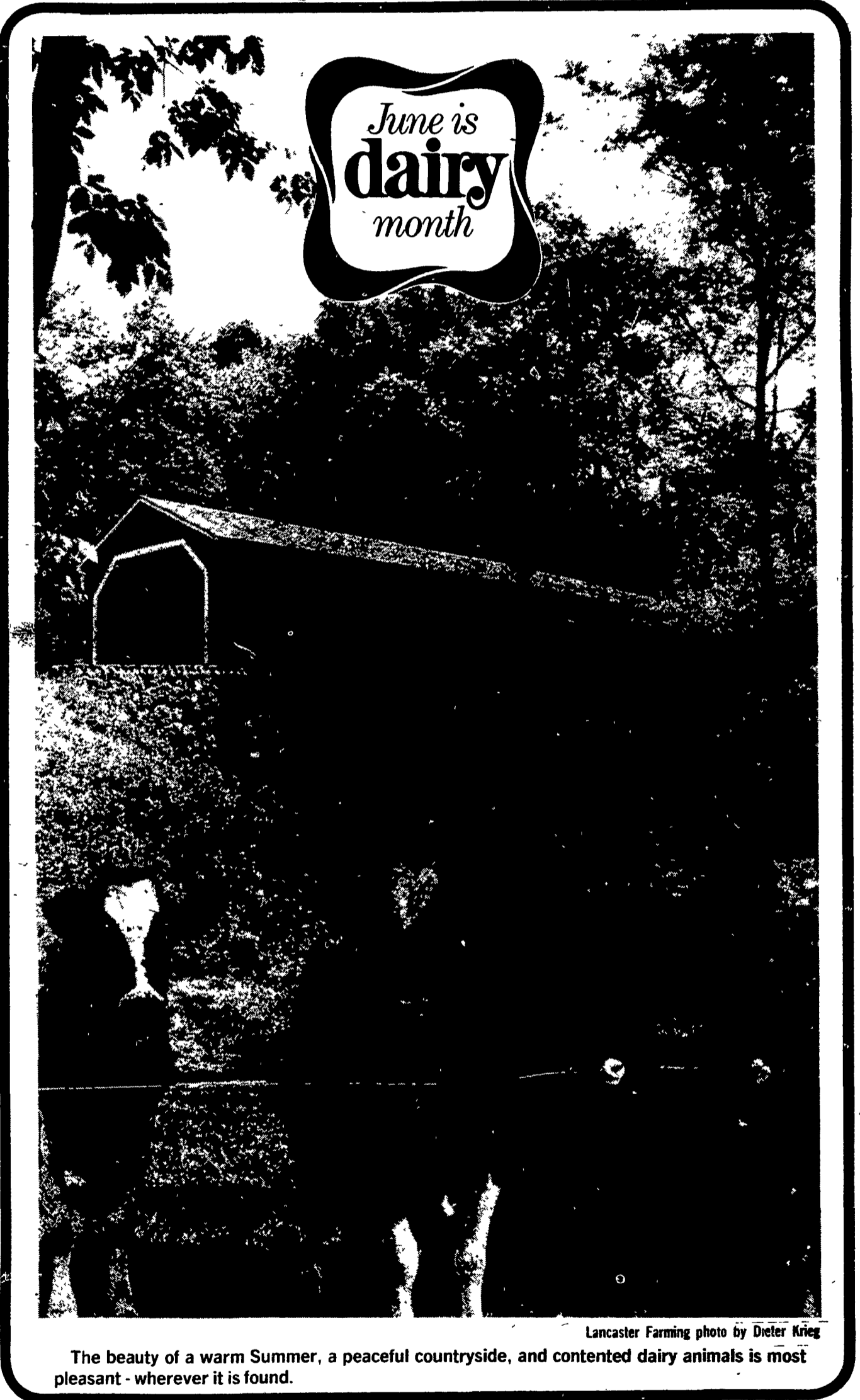
By DIETER KRIEG

SOUTHAMPTON — Dairy farmers can look forward to a dollar per hundredweight increase in prices for manufactured milk, beginning Oct. 1, says Inter-State Milk Producers' economist Dr. Paul Hand. But lest anyone count his profits for 1979 prematurely, he emphasizes that costs are escalating too. "I wouldn't say that this is the best year in history for dairymen," he commented, noting that last year looked like a terrific year too, but in the end it wasn't "that great."

"There isn't any let-up in prices," the economist said, naming fuel and fertilizer as two of the most costly items. "We're a fuel oriented industry," he continued, "if we don't pay now, we'll pay later."

Inter-State's well-known and respected economist is not a pessimist by any means, however. Rather, he might be

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Lancaster Farming photo by Dieter Krieg
The beauty of a warm Summer, a peaceful countryside, and contented dairy animals is most pleasant - wherever it is found.

A man and his cows ... looking through some 100 year old Baer's Almanacs reveals some interesting information. Page 160 has the details.

Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Sandy Miller shares some of her favorite recipes on page 125.

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A little imagination and creativity can go a long way with the dairy equipment you thought was useless. Pages 140 and 162 tell more.
Modern egg facilities not only help boost production, they may help public relations as well. The story appears on page 155.