

Md. Milk Producers

(Continued from Page 1)

return in 1980, he added, calling it a "giant step toward independence and one that will mean much to you in the years ahead."

To help clear up remaining portions of the cooperative's losses on the 1979 Holly operations, Strock says he'll recommend to the board of directors that the levy an assessment on members' December milk payment. That assessment would be in the range of 25 to 30 cents per hundredweight to balance the remaining red ink and start the new decade in the accounting black.

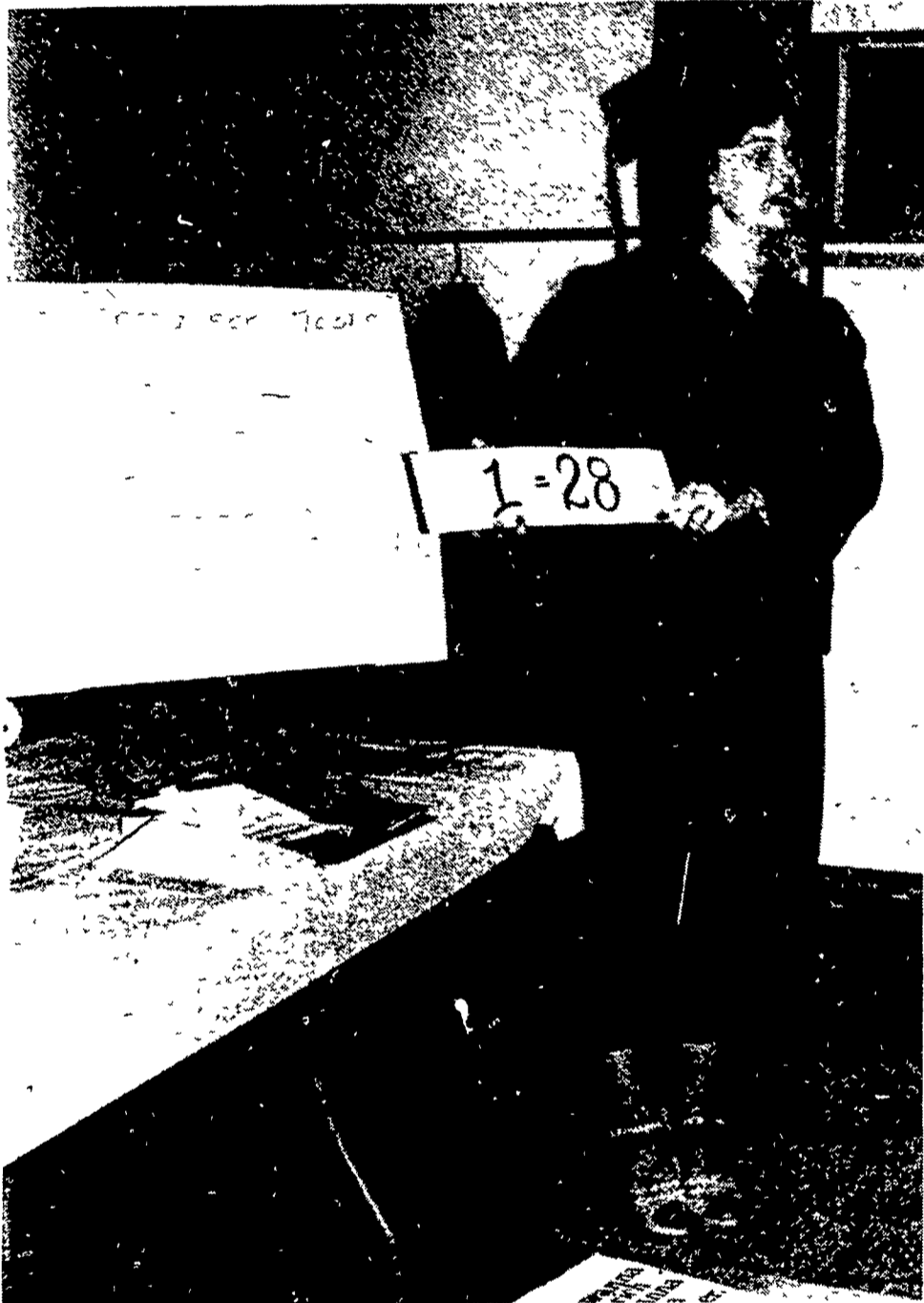
An estimated ninety million pounds of milk

during the flush production months have been processed and sold through the powder plant, alleviating the need for management to scour the country finding buyers. About \$200,000 of the \$230,000 fire losses at Holly have been recovered through insurance payments. Strock noted that the largest financial losses, slightly over \$300,000, came from having to sell some milk at distressed prices.

Antibiotics for cattle health problems also came in for some attention at the session. Food and Drug rulings on allowable residues are becoming increasingly strict. As of July, 1980, the

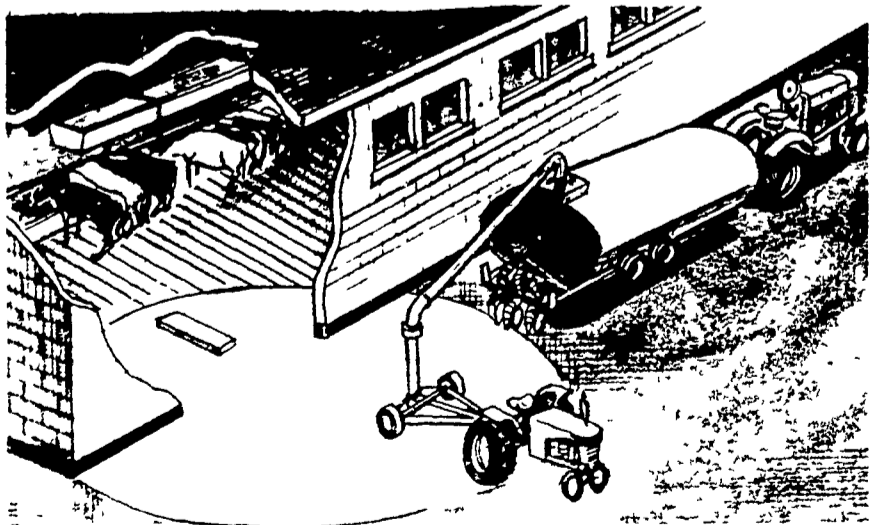
"Delvo test" will become the official antibiotics screening device, and there will be penalties levied on offenders. Current withdrawal times on many over-the-counter drugs will have to be extended, with the newer test ten times more sensitive to antibiotic residues. Even uterine medications, such as sulfa boluses, are traceable with the Delvo sampling.

Maryland Cooperative's president, Herbert Wessel, Jr., of Hampstead, Maryland, also touched on several issues threatening the economic stability of the dairying industry. Heading the list was the continuing energy headache.



Since when does 1 equal 28? It does when Princess Carol Druck figures the amount of calcium in one quart of milk compared to other foods — like 28 oranges. Carol is the school-age professor whose dairy promotion was part of the Maryland Co-operative District 7 annual meeting.

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"Dairying is an energy-intensive operation the whole way," he reminded. "We haul milk, cool milk,

heat milk, dry milk, freeze milk - and that all takes energy," Wessel warned that keeping pace with the

spiraling fuel costs may dictate a hauling rate increase in the future, but that (Turn to Page 23)

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