

Grangers set new position on Milk Security Fund

WILLIAMSPORT — Among the more important decisions taken by the Pennsylvania State Grange at its annual meeting here last week was a recommendation to split funding of a Milk Security Fund equally between handlers and producers.

Under the Grange proposal, both private handlers and most co-operatives would contribute to the fund.

The Grangers called for legislation to set up a producers security fund paid for by all dairymen producing milk in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania including dealers and processing co-ops, contributing at a rate of one cent per hundredweight each, until a separate fund is established of \$4 million.

Under the Grange proposal, dealers would be required to continue to be bonded or secured by acceptable collateral until the fund were established.

Previous Grange policy suggested co-ops set up a security fund on their own.

Their previous suggested level of funding was \$2 million. This figure was raised because a number of Grangers said they felt the \$2 million figure was inadequate in light of current volume of milk moved by some handlers.

The inclusion of co-ops in the funding of the Milk Security program should make private handlers happy. Handlers complained under the old recommendations the co-op got off scott free.

Under the latest proposal a handling co-op like Interstate would pay nothing into the fund. The dairyman producer would be assessed one cent per hundredweight. And the processor who purchased the milk from the handler co-op would pay the other penny per hundredweight.

In the case of a processing co-op like Lehigh Valley, both the dairyman and the co-op would pay one cent each.

Grange members said they felt if the co-op was going to act as a dealer it

should take on some of the dealer's responsibility, too.

The Grange Dairy Committee also recommended a survey be taken by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to determine the need for a producer security fund.

In other action, the Grangers asked for an increase in the maximum compensation level for a

dairy herd condemned by the state for health purposes.

They said despite increased culling of herds, production is up. They noted the prices of cull dairy cows have risen to record levels. Cattle replacements are up at record levels, also, the Grangers said.

With average prices for ordinary grade cattle

reaching the \$1600 area, Grangers said, they feel indemnities also should be raised.

They also recommended the Department of Agriculture propose a referendum for all producers to support an advertising program with a possible check-off per every hundred pounds of milk produced.

In other dairy action, the committee also encouraged all farmers in the state to participate in the vaccination program sponsored by the state for prevention of Brucellosis.

They also gave their support and encouragement to continued study of Northeastern marketing orders.

14th annual Md. Ag forum to be held

COLLEGE PARK, Md. - "Maryland Agriculture in the 1980s" will be the theme for this year's fourteenth annual Maryland Agricultural Forum.

The daytime event is scheduled Nov. 15 in the Firefighters Room at the Center of Adult Education on the University of Maryland campus in College Park.

Program sessions will run from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., according to Dr. Paul R. Poffenberger, associate dean for instruction in the university's College of Agriculture. Dr. Pof-

fenberger is forum coordinator again this year.

Registration fee of \$6.50 will include a noon lunch in the Founder's Room at the Center of Adult Education. Four Maryland residents will be presented the Honorary Certificate of Merit Award in Agriculture during the noon luncheon program. All interested persons are invited to attend.

Reservations may be made with Roy D. Porter, Extension coordinator of special communications, 0109 Symons Hall, Univer-

sity of Maryland, College Park, Md. 20742; phone: (301) 454-3712. Mail reservations should be post-

marked by Nov. 9; telephone reservations should be made not later than Nov. 13.

Grange plans corn husking bee

TRAPPE - Keystone Grange No. 2 is sponsoring the fourth annual old-fashioned corn husking bee at the Peter Wentz Farmstead, Schultz Road in Worcester. This event will be

held Saturday, November 10 from 8 - 10 p.m. It is free and open to the public. There will be prizes and refreshments provided for those attending. Please dress warmly.

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