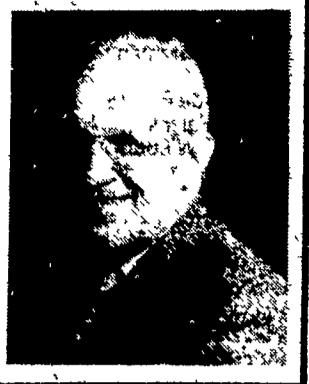


The Milk Check

TOM JURCHAK
County Agent



No, Virginia
If you were looking for Santa Claus in your milk check this month, forget it. The uniform price for farmers shipping to Order-2 handlers in November was \$12.62. That's two cents less than October and just \$1.08 better than last year. That \$1.08 increase was the smallest for any month this year compared to a year ago.

You were doing better (compared to 1978) back in the Spring during the New York city Teamster strike when the difference in the blend was around \$1.40 a hundred.

The highest difference was \$1.70 in February. Then it slid all the way down to \$1.19 in October, and now \$1.08 in November.

And, unless you're making a list and checking it twice, there isn't anything I can see that indicates it will get any better this winter. However, if you're looking for a little stocking stuffer to make you happy, you did get 29 cents from the Louisville Plan fund this month. Ho, Ho, Ho!

Christmas Turkey
So, what happened to all those prices you've been fattening up all year to enjoy over the holidays? Basically, increasing production nationally since last Spring is catching up. You saw your

Basic Formula Price peak in September and slide off even with the new support price in October.

The Louisville Plan added about 44 cents to your blend in September and October then dropped to 29 cents last month, which is about normal. But it makes your November blend look 15 cents smaller.

In December, there won't be any Louisville Plan payback and there are no signs of improvement in product prices. So it looks like more of the same.

But cheer up. It could have been worse for November if you hadn't cut back on production in Order 2. In November, you shipped, on the average, 400,000 pounds less milk per day than in October and a million pounds less per day than in September or August. So it was a real switch.

Your Class I sales in Order 2 were much better than September and just slightly under October.

With lowered production and pretty good fluid milk sales, your Class I utilization has improved from 47.3 percent in September to 50.8 in October to 51.2 in November.

So, be glad something's moving in the right direction when you carve the Christmas turkey.

Mitchell to retire as Potter County agent

COUDERSPORT — Garner P. Mitchell, Potter County Extension director on Penn State's extension service staff, will retire December 31 with 25 years of service.

A native of Susquehanna County, Mitchell received his bachelor of science degree from Penn State in 1951, majoring in dairy production.

Following service in the U.S. Army, he was appointed to the extension staff in 1954 as an assistant Clinton County agent. He was promoted to associate agent in 1958 and was named Potter County agent in 1960.

In Potter County, he has conducted farm finance clinics for young farm couples, focusing on how to obtain credit and how to work out business agreements.

Mitchell assisted in organizing the Potter-Tioga Maple Producers' Association. Through the efforts of this organization, the Potter-Tioga Maple Festival was organized and is now a major tourist attraction in the area.

The retiring extension agent has worked closely with county dairymen in developing a promotion and advertising campaign to sell breeding cattle.

Using forage test results, he developed a system to compute a balanced ration for cattle and has conducted Ration Preparation Workshops for dairymen to figure their least-cost balanced rations.

With assistance from the County Commissioners, Mitchell was instrumental in organizing the Potter County Planning Commission. The organization serves as a valuable tool in charting proper land use for county residents.

He has been chairman of the Potter-McKean Council of Farmer Cooperatives. He helped organize one-day

farmer cooperative seminars and assisted in the selection of delegates to attend the Pennsylvania Association of Farmer Cooperatives Summer Youth Institute.

In 1976, Mitchell received a Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents for his service to agriculture.

He has served as president of the Pennsylvania Association of County Agricultural Agents.

Mitchell is married to the former Marian Sunday, of Scranton. They are the parents of a son and a daughter.

Citrus sale successful in Lehigh

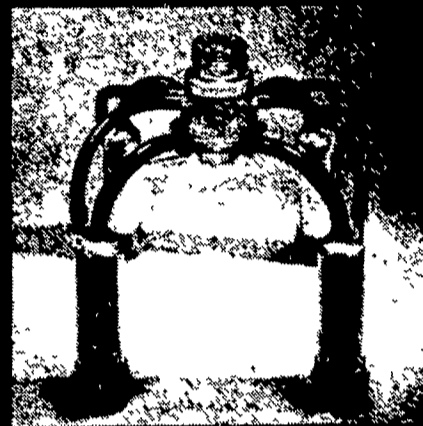
ALLENTOWN — The members of the Lehigh County FFA Chapter have concluded another very successful citrus fruit sale.

An approximate total of 5000 cases of fruit were sold. The chapter members participated in the unloading and distribution of five tractor trailer loads of fruit.

The top salesmen for 1979 are John Creveling, Nick Mainier, Ronald Haas, Donald Haas, Chris Gunkel, Jim Tretter and Cory Held. They sold a total of 1,275 cases of fruit.

The Lehigh County FFA Chapter received a trophy for selling the most citrus fruit in 1978.

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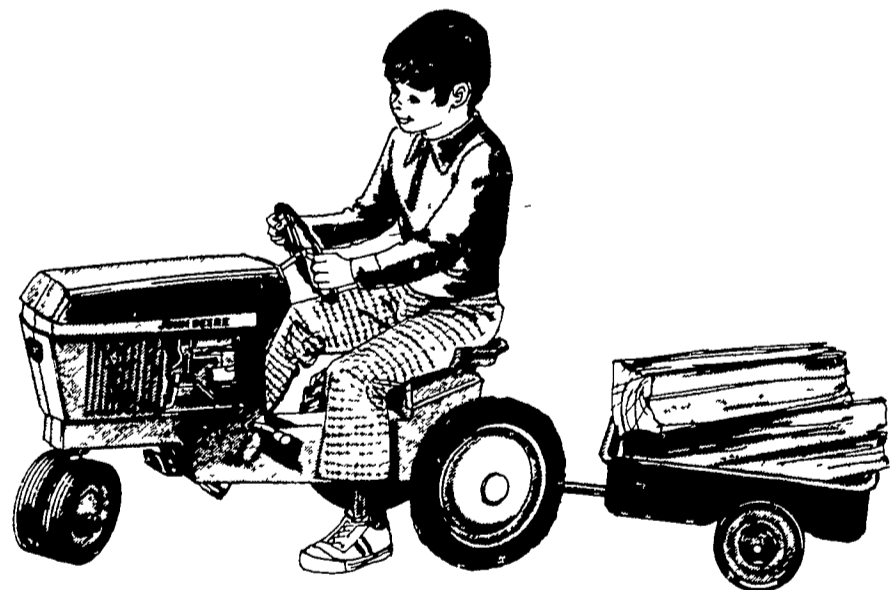
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