

NEDCO holds meeting on milk industry problems

By JANE BRESEE
Staff Correspondent
WAVERLY, N.Y. — Officials of the Northeast Dairy Cooperative Federation, Inc. hosted 24 directors and wives of the Penn-York and Empire-Keystone milk cooperatives at a dinner at Tomasso's Restaurant near Waverly, N.Y. recently.

The purpose of the meeting was to inform them about problems facing the milk industry and what their milk cooperative is doing.

Fenton Murphy, treasurer of NEDCO, and a member of the Penn-York Co-op, introduced Leo Briggs, vice-president of NEDCO; also National President of Drinc, Inc. (Dairy Research, Inc.) and a

director of National Milk Federation, Inc.

Briggs reported that on March 31, 1979 there was a net margin of \$477,289 after paying \$100,000 income tax.

Many deductions will not be available this coming year and more income tax will have to be paid, he surmised.

A decision to get solidly into "Direct-To-Farmer Supplies" has been made, he went on, and the venture is breaking even financially. Benefits will be passed on to the membership.

The Internal Security Fund now totals over \$700,000, he reported. The fund was called into use to pay NEDCO members for delinquent milk checks when the Grandview Dairy went

into bankruptcy. The board of directors must approve all payments from the Security Fund.

Briggs also reviewed national issues in which NEDCO as a member of the National Milk Federation is involved: a suit against the Food and Drug Administration to prevent the labeling of imitation products such as "cheese substitutes"; to prevent the hearings that the CNI is requesting the Department of Agriculture to have around the country about selling reconstituted milk as Class I Milk; and expansion of milk promotion programs in New York State and Pennsylvania.

Ralph Smith, education director of NEDCO, was the

second speaker. He reported that 2600 letters to the entire membership had been sent asking members to write to the U.S. Department of Agriculture asking that hearings not be held concerning the reconstituted milk issue.

A general increase in pounds of milk marketed was noted, he said, because 30 or 40 more producers have joined the cooperative.

Smith explained the need for expanding promotion of dairy products because the sale of Class 1 milk in Order 2 has dropped 6.1 per cent in the past year, and per capita consumption of milk fat is steadily decreasing because of the use of oleo and dairy substitutes.

Murphy noted this was the first information meeting to which wives of the directors had been invited. Since they are business partners they need to be kept informed also, he stated.

In conclusion Murphy remarked that he felt that as a whole co-op members do not pay enough attention to what their organization is doing. The battles fought by the leadership both locally and nationally can save or cost many more dollars than the members realize.

The Penn-York and Empire-Keystone cooperatives, together with 52 other similar co-ops, are affiliated with the NEDCO federation.
* Dairy Research, Inc.



Leo Briggs, left, vice-president of NEDCO; and Ralph Smith, education director, are optimistic about the financial condition of Nedco as they informed directors of Penn-York and Empire Keystone co-ops.

USDA seeks to raise cattle, swine indemnities

NEW YORK, N.Y. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture is proposing to change the federal indemnities paid for cattle and swine destroyed because of tuberculosis.

The department's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service says the proposed higher indemnities paid to owners of either affected or exposed cattle, as well as authority to pay compensation for swine

destroyed because of exposure to bovine tuberculosis, would serve to minimize financial difficulties faced by owners who must destroy their animals.

Maximum indemnities would be raised from \$350 to \$750 per head for affected cattle, and from \$100 for nonregistered and \$200 for registered exposed cattle to \$450 per head for all exposed cattle. Also, there would be a

\$200 per head maximum for TB-exposed swine.

The new proposal, based on recommendations of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, would help provide a more effective tuberculosis eradication program to protect the public.

For further information, or to submit written comments pertaining to the proposals, contact R. W. Bennett, USDA, APHIS, VS, Rm. 802, 6505 Belcrest Rd., Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

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