

## Order 4 milk price \$12.91 for December

ALEXANDRIA, VA. — Middle Atlantic Order Market Administrator Joseph D. Shune Monday announced a December 1979 base milk price of \$12.91 per hundredweight and an excess milk price of \$11.35. The weighted average

December price was \$12.76 and the butterfat differential for the month was 15.0 cents. The December base milk price was down 14 cents from November 1979 but was 88 cents higher than last December.

Order No. 4 prices are announced for 3.5 percent milk f.o.b. plant location within 55 miles of Philadelphia, PA and also within 75 miles from the nearer of Washington, DC or Baltimore, MD.

There is a 6-cent direct-delivery differential applicable to producer milk received at plants located within 55 miles of Philadelphia.

Shine said producer receipts totaled 449.9 million pounds during December, up 1.7 percent from the previous month, on a daily basis, but slightly below last December.

Class I producer milk totaled 240.6 million pounds and accounted for 53.46 percent of total producer milk receipts during the month, down from 58.53 percent in November and also below the 55.19 Class I utilization percentage last December.

Base milk accounted for 90.48 percent of total producer milk receipts in December, down from 92.26 percent in November.

There were 7118 producers supplying Order 4 handlers during the month and the average daily delivery per producer of 2039 pounds was 2.7 percent higher than a year ago.

The average butterfat test of producer milk of 3.75 percent was down from 3.83 percent last December.

Middle Atlantic Order pool handlers reported Class I in-area milk sales of 6.8 million pounds per day during December, down 2.6 percent from November and 2.2 percent below December 1978, after adjustment to eliminate variation due to calendar composition.

During the 12 months of 1979 a total of 5.39 billion pounds of producer milk was pooled under Order No. 4, a 0.5 percent decline from the previous year.

The gross value of this milk was \$665 million in 1979 compared to \$593 million in 1979.

Class I producer milk totaled 2.9 billion pounds and accounted for 53.91 percent of totaled pooled milk during 1979.

The average daily delivery

per producer was 2046 pounds in 1979, 80 pounds or 4.1 percent above the average daily rate the prior year.

The Order No. 4 base milk price averaged \$12.45 per hundredweight during 1979, an increase of \$1.39 over the previous year, while the average excess milk price of

\$10.86 was \$1.33 higher than in 1978.

The weighted average 1979 price was \$12.29 compared to \$10.92 a year earlier. The Class I milk price averaged \$13.55 in 1979, up \$1.48 from the 1978 average, while Class II milk prices averaged \$10.93 during 1979 and \$9.60 in 1978.

## Maryland Grangers not 100% for embargo

THURMONT, Md. — C. Rodman Myers, Master of the Maryland State Grange, Maryland's oldest Farm Family Organization, stated the organization reluctantly supports President Carter's grain embargo.

While the state Grange does not agree 100 percent with the president's decision, we must try to find ways to alleviate this problem and find new sources of trade incomes or subsidize to protect the grain farmers and all other segments of the economy affected by the embargo.

Just recently the Carter administration bailed out the Chrysler Corporation with a sizeable loan, Myers said.

Now the American farmer is confronted with machinery costs 15 percent higher, and fertilizer for this year's crops 20 to 35 percent higher, fuel costs substantially higher and all other overhead higher than 1979. Farmers will wait and see if the government will help them with no red tape involved.

The Federal Government, before the embargo, accomplished very little to encourage private enterprise to enter the gasahol field, now they have allocated money, and energy saving tax credits to individuals or corporations hoping to use some of our excess corn supply.

These gasahol plants, if credit it obtained, will not be in operation until 1981.

Myers also stated many grain farmers start now to obtain a line of credit for 1980. Some maybe forced to diversify their farming practices while others with creditors looking at a less stable market may be forced to have sale.



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### USED TRACTORS

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NH 510 single beater	850.00
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NH 717 w/1-row head	2,195.00
NH 717	1,175.00
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MF 620 w/2 row and pickup	2,450.00

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