

Maryland Milk Producers to study merger

COCKEYSVILLE — Merger or consolidation with another cooperative or group of cooperatives will be studied during the coming year by the board of directors of Maryland Cooperative Milk Producers.

A resolution calling for the study, which was introduced by the board, was approved Saturday at the MCMP annual membership meeting.

The resolution, more general in nature, was approved over another introduced from District 8, which called for specific development of a plan of merger or consolidation with Inter-State Milk Producers' Cooperative.

The District 8 resolution would have called for a report to the membership within six months.

The approved resolution reads:

"Be it resolved that the members of Maryland Cooperative Milk Producers, Inc. support the general consensus of the District 8 resolution with reference to merger or consolidation and support board activities to develop long-range goals for submission to the membership at or before the 1981 annual meeting, such activities to include but not be limited to consideration of merger or consolidation with a cooperative or group of cooperatives."

The annual meeting, attended by more than 600, also featured warnings from MCMP officials that continuing rising milk production and declining consumption will be at the center of problems looming in the future for dairymen.

Although production increases in the Middle Atlantic Marketing Area in the last half of 1979 have been less than half the national rate, according to R L Strock, business manager, there is evidence that things are changing.

"MCMP member deliveries, which for 1979

were one percent below a year earlier, posted a four percent daily gain in February and March deliveries are showing a gain of 5 to 5½ percent," he said.

Milk production in the U.S. is up three percent over a year ago and production hikes in major states show Wisconsin up one percent, California up 8 percent and Pennsylvania up 9 percent.

Strock outlined continuing declines in the consumption of fresh whole milk as compared to rising per capita sales of skim and low fat milk.

This is of special interest, Strock said, in view of efforts to exempt milk made from the reconstitution of skim milk powder from the pricing provisions of Federal Milk Orders.

Such factors as changes in age and racial composition, as well as declining population in some segments of the sales areas, will have an on-going effect on milk consumption, he said.

H.W. Wessel, Jr., president of the cooperative, directed attention to government support costs.

"At the April 1 level," he said, "it is estimated that the government may have to spend over one billion dollars in 1980."

Wessel gave the opinion that proposed budget cuts at the federal level would surely apply against the dairy support program.

"If any counter-price action is taken by the Administration or Congress, I don't believe it will result in lowering of prices but there may be extreme pressure against any increases in the near future or until use comes more in line with demand," he said.

The cooperative's biggest plus for the year was the addition of Holly Milk Cooperative, according to Wessel.

"I am convinced that Holly now has the worst behind it and it is about

ready to go and will be a real asset to all MCMP and Inter-State members in the 80's," he said.

It was reported that due to the rising milk production rates higher quantities would be available for Holly.

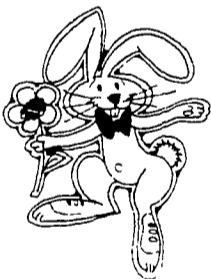
In May, it is expected that MCMP will have 25 million pounds available for Holly. An equal amount may also be available from Inter-State.

A number of awards were presented at the meeting honoring veteran membership in the cooperative and the production of quality milk in 1979.

Three families were honored for 50 years of continuous family membership. Honored for the half-century achievement were Robert and Phyllis Bassler, New Windsor, Md.; Charles H. Streett, III, and C. Howard Street, Jr., of Edge Hill Farms, Inc., R1, Quicksburg, Va.; and Charles and Zita Huffard, Sparks, Md.

Recipients of the Excellence Awards for quality milk production included Howard and Geneva Barkdoll, Boonsboro, Md.; Claude and Kevin Cooper, New Freedom, Pa.; Glenn and Dolores Daugherty, Greencastle, Pa.; Robert and Norma Grove, Greencastle; George and Emma Herdon, Jr., Keymar, Md.; Hans and V. L. Wortman, Purcellville, Va.; George and Helen and Carl Owings, Westminster, Md.

Also, Martin Poole, Thurmont, Md.; Raymond and Mabel Schrock, Grantsville, Md.; Robert and Donald and John Smith,



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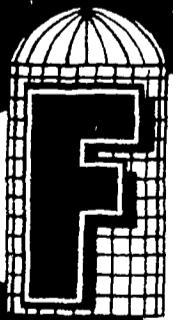
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