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Crawling

After leaping 24 cents in March in anticipation of the new support price of \$12.07 on April 1, the Minnesota-Wisconsin price dropped to a crawl last month advancing only nine cents in spite of accelerated purchases of butter, powder and cheese by the Commodity Credit Corporation.

That nine cents brought the M-W for April milk testing 3.5 percent butterfat to \$11.68 — still far short of the support price. However, it does give you an inkling of the effort that will be needed to get to the support price in the face of increasing milk production and dwindling demand.

More on that later.

The \$11.68 does mean a Class I price in June for Order 2 handlers of \$13.93 (\$11.68 plus \$2.25, the Class I differential) and an April Class II price of \$11.59 (\$11.68 minus nine cents, the seasonal adjustment).

Your Class I price for April, determined by the February M-W, will be \$13.60 in Order 2. These Class prices are only pennies (two

pennies on Class I and five pennies on Class II) higher than March when your blend was \$12.08.

So, if you keep up your trend of the last five months of increasing productions and decreasing Class I utilization (not consumption) don't expect a better blend price for April. Your Louisville Plan take out will be ten cents higher in April than it was in March (and ten cents higher in May than in April).

What I'm saying is that your blend price will have a hard time making \$12.00 the next two months in Order 2 while you're setting new records in milk production.

Things to Come

If the first month of the new price support program was any sign of things to come, it will be a long uphill battle from now until October.

During the first three weeks of April, the CCC purchased 40 million pounds of butter, 46 million pounds of powder and five million pounds of cheese. But all that did was to raise the Chicago butter price four

cents, the powder price three cents and the cheese price two cents.

You're still six cents short of the support price of butter and three cents on powder and cheese. In addition, butter production in April jumped 16 percent over last year to keep ahead of the milk production and CCC was making purchases higher than anytime in the last 26 months.

Because CCC purchases only Grade A butter, the price of that grade was the only one showing price improvements while prices for Grade AA and B were dropping two and three cents.

All of this could be taken in stride if we weren't talking about April with May and June yet to come.

It isn't only your increasing production that makes the problem. It is

helped by many different economic problems facing you and the people who buy what you sell.

Seven percent unemployment nationally isn't helping you a bit and here in the industrial northeast it's hitting even harder. It not only affects your milk sales but lowers beef prices - reflected from low pork prices - discourages both culling and cheese consumption.

You can name a lot more like credit restriction, curtailed government spending and lots of other things that are happening at the same time you're increasing production for some of the same reasons. So the market is signalling lower prices while the support program is trying to increase them against some very heavy opposition.

Schuylkill 4-H'ers attend teen/retreat

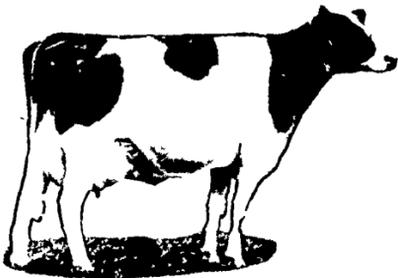
SCHUYLKILL — Seven area 4-H'ers had the opportunity to learn more about their environment during the Northeast 4-H Teen Retreat held recently at Stony Acres near Marshall's Creek.

The three-day experience was titled "Your World, My World," and according to Tom Ellis, Director of Pinchot Institute and instructor for the event, the program was designed to provide the teens with an opportunity to develop why our world is having ecological problems and how they can help.

Schuylkill County was represented by seven teen leaders from various parts of the county. The participants were: Theresa

Gahen, Mahanoy City; Christine Temple, R1 Hegins; Nancy Tallman, Tower City; Kathy Balmer of R1 Hegins; Danielle Carl, St. Clair; John Wilhams, New Ringgold; and Mike Temple, R1 Hegins.

Judi Keefer, 4-H agent, served as chaperone for the event and reports that the young people discovered it is essential that everyone helps in the task of keeping our environment healthy. The seven teens will be conducting a two-day camp at Camp Pine Grove, July 23-24 to share the experience they had with other 4-H'ers in the county. Plans for the two-day event include guest speakers on environmental safety, a nature scavenger hunt, hikes, and games.



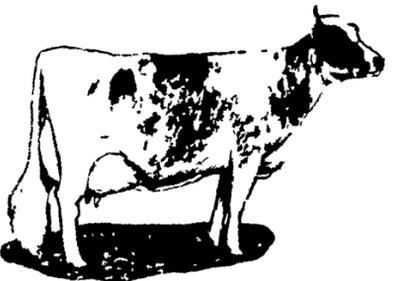
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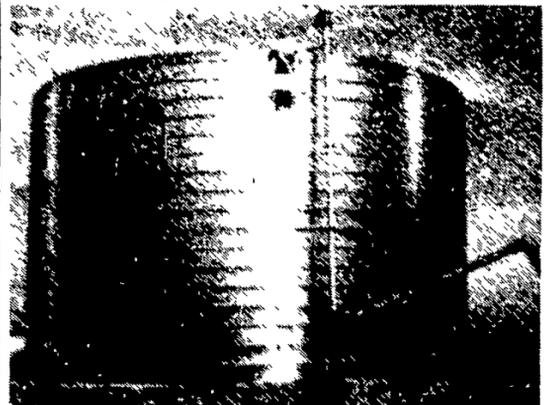


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