

## Milk spiral

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\$164 per ton, up \$15 (10 percent) from a year ago, but unchanged from mid-March.

Meanwhile, prices of major feed ingredients did not increase as much as dairy ration prices. In mid-April, No. 2 yellow corn at Chicago was quoted at \$2.61 per bushel, 3 percent above a year ago, while soybean meal (44 percent protein, Decatur) averaged \$153.50 per ton, down 18 percent.

Baled alfalfa hay in mid-April averaged \$68.50 per ton, up nearly 30 percent from a year earlier.

It is still early to have any firm indications of feed supplies and prices for the next crop marketing year. Farmers reported on April 1 that they intended to plant 82 million acres of corn, about 3 percent more than in 1979, with feed grain (corn, sorghum, barley, and oats) planting to total 120 million acres, 2 percent above a year earlier. Intended planted acres of soybeans, at 71.3 million, are down less than 1 percent from 1979.

With expected large ending stocks of soybeans and large crop this fall, soybean meal prices are expected to be below year-ago levels for the rest of 1979/80. Meanwhile, corn prices are expected to remain above last year due to strong demand and the removal of corn from the market through the reserve program and Government purchases. On balance, dairy feed ration costs are expected to be up, due mainly to increased processing and marketing costs for feed.

The milk production expansion, which started in early 1979, is expected to continue, at least through the rest of 1980. First quarter production was up 41 percent (2.9 percent on a daily average basis), and second quarter production will likely be up 3 to 4 percent. Thus, assuming little change from second-half 1979, a gain of 1.7 percent has already been ensured for 1980. However, economic conditions should remain relatively favorable for dairymen in the second half

and milk output is expected to be up somewhat.

Feed prices are not likely to be significantly higher than a year ago during second-half 1980, while farm milk prices will advance from last year. Thus, milk-feed price relationships are expected to be fairly advantageous, implying that more concentrates will be fed per dairy cow. However, nonfeed production costs are expected to increase substantially.

Milk output per cow was up a substantial 4 percent during the first quarter, and is likely to be up 2 to 4 percent in the April-June quarter. Year-to-year gains in milk per cow during second-half 1980 will likely taper off as this year's output per cow is compared with the large increases posted in the last half of 1979. Grain feeding rates at that time were up nearly 7 percent, an increase not likely to be matched this year. In addition, last year's very favorable weather and the resulting pasture conditions, which were very conducive to high milk output per cow, are not likely to be repeated. Dairy pastures as a percent of normal, averaged 83 percent in 1979 for the April 1 to November 1 period,

compared with an average of 78 percent for 1969-78. This year April 1 and May 1 ratings were equal to the 1969-78 average.

Dairy cow numbers during early 1980 have exhibited an unusual pattern changing little from January, and on average have equaled year-earlier levels. Dairymen will probably return to more normal culling rates, and thus the 1980 decline in cow numbers may be similar to the 1/2 percent decline in 1979.

Dairy farmers marketed a record 121 billion pounds of milk in 1979, up 2 billion (1.8 percent) from 1978. Last year's marketings were 9 billion pounds larger than 1973, the low point in marketings for the 1970's.

Whole milk sold to plants and dealers continued account for nearly all of total milk production — 96.7 percent in 1979, compared with 96.5 percent in 1978 and 93.5 percent a decade earlier. Meanwhile, sales of farm-separated cream continued to decline, down 22 million pounds (21 percent) from 1978, and less than 0.1 percent of total milk production. Direct sales to consumers were nearly unchanged from 1978 and continued to be only 1-1/4 percent of milk output.

Use of milk on farms

where produced in 1979 at 2.5 billion pounds was 2 percent of total production, down 0.2 billion from 1978 and 1.8 billion from a decade ago. The use of milk on farms has continued to decline because of fewer people on farms and the increased use of milk replacers in feeding calves.

Milk eligible for the fluid market (Grade A) in 1979 was 83 percent of all milk sold to plants and dealers, unchanged from 1978 and up from two-thirds in 1960. In recent years, the percentage of milk eligible for fluid use has grown about 1 percentage point per year, but 1979 broke that trend. In the past, the growth in the share of fluid grade milk has resulted from a decline in total Grade B production, while Grade A production has tended to increase. Some of the increased Grade A production has been due to a conversion from Grade B to Grade A.

In 1979, total Grade B milk marketings were up 0.4 billion pounds, an increase of 2 percent. California doubled its marketings of manufacturing grade milk. As in the past, more than three-fifths of the 20.5 billion pounds of Grade B milk sold during 1979 was in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa.

## Farm Calendar

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farm, Elizabethtown; 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 10

MD Institute of Cooperative Education; Summit Lake, MD.

Lancaster 4-H Dairy Club meeting at Robert Rohrer farm; Lancaster; 7:30 p.m.

Lancaster County Holstein Club barn meetings; at 1 p.m. at Russel L. Kline farm; R2 Denver; 7:30 p.m. at Neff Bros. Farm; R2 Ronks.

Wednesday, June 11

Swine meeting; Cumberland County Extension Office, Carlisle; 8 p.m.

Fruitgrowers meeting; Worby's Nursery; old Route 15 North of York Springs; 6:30 p.m.

Lancaster 4-H strawberry roundup at the Farm and Home Center, Lancaster; 9 a.m.

Thursday, June 12

PA Flower growers short course; Penn State through Friday; Keller Conference Center.

Friday, June 13

NACD conference; Washington, D.C.; through Saturday; rural conservation.

PA Egg Marketing Association; Sheraton-

Conestoga Village; Lancaster; social hour p.m.; meeting 7 p.m.

Saturday, June 14

Adams County Dairy Princess Pageant; Biglerville High School; Biglerville; 8 p.m.

MD Junior Angus preview; Montgomery County Fairgrounds; Gaithersburg, Maryland.

Dairy farm openhouse; Kanach Bros.; Route 514 near Reaville, New Jersey; 1 p.m.-5 p.m.

Berks County basic sheep skulls clinic; Leesport Auction.

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There was considerable change in the production of many manufactured dairy foods during the 70s. Most striking is the 86.5 percent increase in total cheese output from 1.99 billion pounds in 1969 to 3.71 billion pounds in 1979. Butter production was down 11.9 percent during the decade, and there was a 37.5 percent drop in the production of nonfat dry milk for human food. Ice cream production was up 6.8 percent



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