



The Milk Check

TOM JURCHAK
County Agent

Wrong Direction

It would seem that the government was selling dairy products instead of buying them because the Minnesota-Wisconsin price series went in the wrong direction last month.

After gaining 24 cents in

March in anticipation of the new support price, it increased nine cents in April to \$11.68 with the help of CCC purchases of 55 million pounds of butter, 61 million pounds of powder and 11 million pounds of cheese.

In May CCC purchases

were even higher, going to 60 million pounds of butter, 88 million of powder and 27 million of cheese. In fact they were the largest since 1971.

In four months this year, the government has bought the equivalent of nearly three billion pounds of milk. That's a third more than all the purchases in 1979.

In spite of all this, the M-W price dropped two cents in May to \$11.66, reflecting the amount of milk coming to market and being diverted to butter, powder and cheese.

At \$11.66, the M-W is still miles away from the support price of \$12.07 even though cheese and powder prices are within a cent of the

support prices and butter is lagging by 3.7 cents.

That 24 cent jump back in March will give you a Class I price of \$13.84 for May in Order 2. That's 24 cents better than April.

Your Class II price will be \$11.54. That's five cents less than last month.

Your Louisville Plan take out will increase 10 cents over April to 40 cents for May. So in spite of a much better Class I price, you had better look for another blend price below \$12.00, especially if your Class I utilization drops below 40 percent.

Lessons to Learn

There are certainly lessons to be learned from

HURRY!

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Amount of each payment	\$13,041.78
Finance Charge	\$14,167.12
Total of payments	\$52,167.12

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the \$500 assessment of Eastern Milk Producers' members to cover the \$2 million in losses suffered by the co-op when five proprietary handlers went through bankruptcy.

Everyone should realize that the dairy industry is a high volume, big money, slow paying business and handlers (or co-ops) can lose millions in no time at all. Constant vigilance by everyone, including producers, is needed to avoid big problems.

Part of Eastern's problem is collecting the money, is owed by the New York state security fund. Because of all the bankruptcies, the fund is getting low. Payments to producers and co-ops are taking much longer. Some may have to wait for new revenues to replenish the fund.

But expenses continue and producers pay.

The first lesson is to try harder to get a security fund in Pennsylvania to cover our producers more adequately.

Another lesson may be to take a harder look at both states to see what may be needed to make a fund more effective.

For those who are interested, it may be the example needed to get two cents a hundred in the pot instead of one cent. It may also make the Pennsylvania promise of 75 percent payment when the fund is low look pretty good compared to some zero payments in New York.

Certainly something is better than nothing — in Pennsylvania or New York. I don't think there's anything wrong in learning from someone else's problems.

Penn Manor 4-H meets

MILLERSVILLE — Election of officers filled the recent meeting of the Penn Manor 4-H Club.

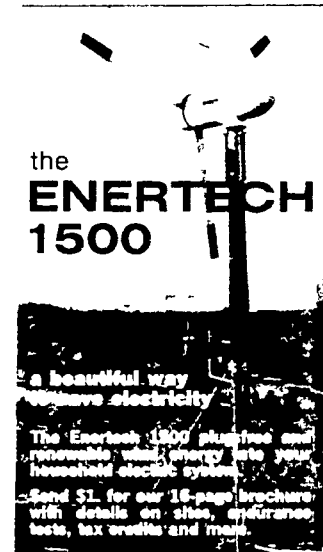
This year's president will be James Stauffer. Backing up the president will be Melissa Greider, the new vice-president.

Jodee Worry is the Penn Manor Club's new secretary, and Virginia Smith is the new treasurer.

Other officers elected for the year include: Debbie Martin, news reporter; Yvonne Eshelman, song leader, with Melissa Greider and Debbie Martin assisting; and Mary Anne Beale, Tom Charles, and Oliver Smith, game leaders.

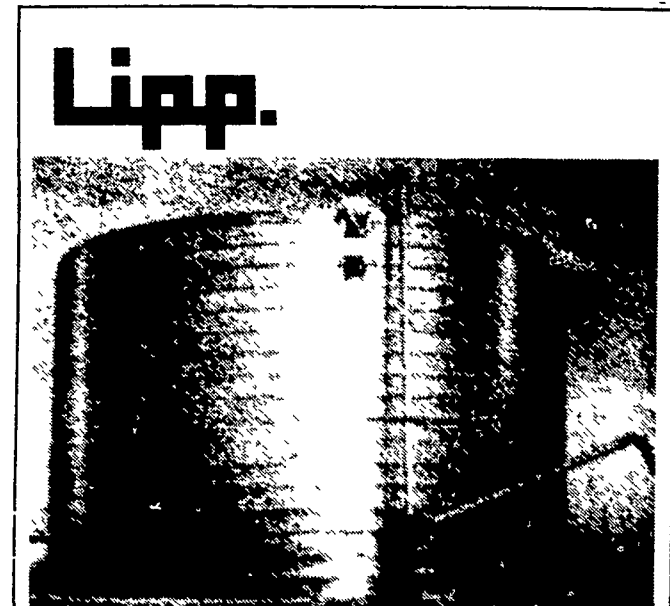
The members were reminded that Tuesday, June 17 is Fun Night.

Looking ahead, it was announced this year's round-up will be held Thursday, August 14. It will begin at 6 p.m. at Safe Harbor Park.



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