

Inter-State District 6 holds annual meeting

BLUE BALL — Members of Inter-State Milk Producers' Cooperative's Gap, Paradise and New Holland-Leola locals held their annual meeting Tuesday evening at Blue Ball.

Members heard a report from Co-op General Manager James E. Honan, elected new officers, and honored two long-time members.

Honan told members that the Board of Directors is recommending Co-op dues be increased by two cents to 12 cents per hundredweight.

He said Inter-State is one of the lowest equity per hundredweight co-ops in the United States.

"If all goes well that will be no problem," he said.

But the Board said it wants to increase the current 22 cent per cwt equity the Co-op now carries. Honan said the Board can reverse itself later if the equity position is raised to satisfactory levels.

By comparison, Honan said, most Northeastern co-ops are carrying equity positions of 40 cents to 80 cents per cwt.

The newly formed New England co-op, Agri-Mark, will be required to carry 94 cents per cwt in equity.

Maryland-Virginia has \$1.34 per cwt in equity funds.

Honan also said the Board will ask members to decide whether to opt out of the new Pennsylvania milk security fund kitty.

Members also will vote on a proposed state advertising and promotion budget.

Honan told farmers they have \$4.6 million equity in

the Co-op. That is about \$1500 per farmer member.

Honan said the money, which includes value of buildings and the like, is being put to good use for the members.

The cost of marketing milk for members increased to four times last year's level.

Honan said that was due to the amount of excess milk

Inter-State had to move this past fiscal year. He said most of the losses could be traced to 10 days around Easter and Memorial Day weekends.

He said there would be no added assessment to members to cover the quarter of a million dollars lost.

Holly Milk Cooperative also turned in some red ink: \$390,000. That compares to \$345,000 last year.

Honan pointed out last year's figure covered only from April to July of 1979.

This year's losses cover the period from July 1979 to the start of 1980. At that time a resolution was passed saying Holly Co-op could lose no money.

As a result, any losses are paid by the two owner cooperatives, Inter-State and Maryland Cooperative Milk Producers.

Net margin for the year

for Inter-State was \$690,000, about \$60,000 below the goal set by delegates.

Honan said the Co-op was in good financial shape.

He predicted Class I milk prices for the coming year at about \$15 to \$15.25 and said ten years from now the price could be \$30 per cwt.

In the election of officers, members of Gap local chose J. Kenneth Hershey as

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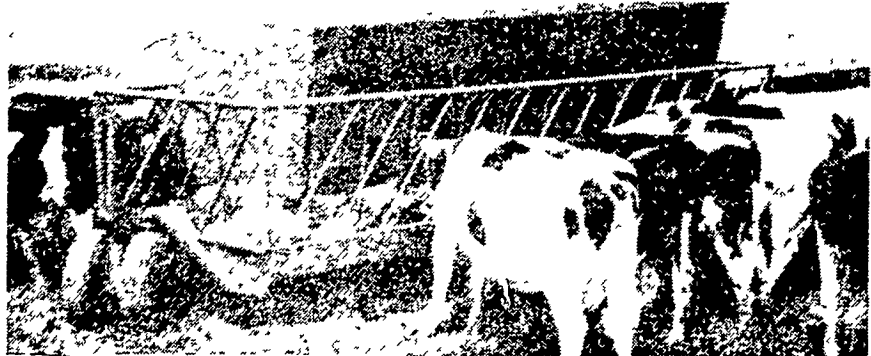


Henry E. Kurtz, left, of the Gap local was given a 25 year membership award by Director Roy H. Book.



Mr. and Mrs. John R. Groff of Inter-State's New Holland-Leola local were presented a 50 year membership award by Director Roy H. Book, right. The Groff family has shipped to the Co-op for 50 years.

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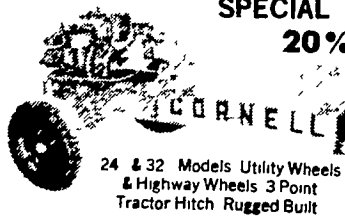
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