

Sociologist compares American and Soviet farm women

HERSHEY — Rural sociologist Eileen Nutting compared American and Soviet farm women during her Tuesday luncheon slide presentation at the American Agri-Women meeting, held here at the convention center.

A fruit and vegetable farmer, Mrs. Nutting is a graduate student in the doctorate program at Michigan State University

and former state chairman of Women for the Survival of Agriculture in Michigan. As part of her studies, she's traveled to Poland, Czechoslovakia, Belgium, Switzerland and the Soviet Union, researching the roles of farm women.

Farm women everywhere are alike in many ways, she says, in that they all carry dual responsibilities, both working in agriculture and

carrying out the responsibilities of homemaking as well. Their contributions to agriculture go largely unrecognized in all countries, but all work close to nature and see taking their livelihood from the soil a "good life"

All farm women, adds Mrs. Nutting, carry a bit of a stigma for being rural, but especially in the Soviet Union society Soviet women carry the double burden of the peasant traditional rural woman, urged to

equality in work under the Communist ideology. However, that ideology is not fact.

Only a fourth of the Soviet Communist party members are women, and to even belong to the party, which pleads equality for all, individuals must be invited and closely screened. Two-thirds of the women work at jobs of hard physical labor.

Mrs. Nutting's research found that Russian women were historically dominated by males, to the extent of

some rather extreme cultural customs.

Marriage ceremonies once included a whip, passed from a young girl's father to her new husband to "keep her in line".

A husband could beat his wife and go unpunished. However, a wife who rebelled and murdered her husband, for whatever reasons, could be buried alive and left there to die.

Thus, while the present Communist system

proclaims equality, diehard traditions still see women as inferior.

Slides shown by Mrs. Nutting depicted Soviet rural women at work in the cooperative farms, tending the animals, harvesting the crops and preserving food for the use of cooperative members. Child care is readily available, cheap and encouraged by the government, which provides facilities to care for children for weeks at a time if parents desire -J.B.



Eileen Nutting, doctoral candidate in rural sociology, spoke to Agri-Women on the double burden of Soviet farm women.

Order 4 base price set at \$13.72

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Middle Atlantic Order Market Administrator Joseph D. Shine Tuesday announced an October 1980 base milk price of \$13.72 per hundredweight and an excess milk price of \$12.38.

The weighted average October price is \$13.72 and the butterfat differential for the month is 16.9 cents.

The base milk price increased 25 cents from the previous month and is 84 cents higher than last October's base price. The advertising withholding rate, which is deducted from

the base and excess milk prices only and not the weighted average price, was 12 cents a hundredweight this year compared to seven cents a year ago.

The gross value of producer milk during October was \$64.9 million. A total of \$569.2 thousand was deducted for advertising and promotion.

Shine said that producer receipts totaled 474.3 million pounds during October, a decrease of one percent from the previous month, on a daily basis and 6.2 percent above last October.

Class I producer milk totaled 262.3 million pounds and accounted for 55.31 percent of total producer milk receipts during the month, up from 55.11 percent in September but down from 57.83 last October.

Base milk accounted for 90.92 percent of total producer milk receipts in October, down from 92.32 percent a year earlier.

There were 7362 producers supplying Order 4 handlers during the month and the average daily delivery per producer of 2,078 pounds was down 31 pounds from Sep-

tember but was 78 pounds or 3.9 percent above last October. There were 160 more producers than a year ago.

The average butterfat test of producer milk was 3.72 percent for the month compared to 3.53 percent in September and 3.67 percent one year ago.

Middle Atlantic Order pool handlers reported Class I in-area milk sales of 7.2 million pounds per day during October, an increase of 51 percent from a year ago, after adjustment to eliminate variation due to calendar composition.

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