

Chester Co. Inter-State locals honor members

COCHRANVILLE — It was a full-house at the Cochranville Fire Hall last Thursday as District 11 members of the Inter-State Milk Producers' Cooperative's Oxford and Cochranville Locals, met to honor their 25 and 50 year members, quality producer, and to elect officers.

Receiving the 50 year award from Inter-State Director Horace Prange were Jesse and Martha Lair of R1 Oxford, Chester County.

The third generation Chester County farmer explained he is continuing the dairy operation begun by his father and grand father.

When William A Lair, Sr started shipping to the Cooperative, he was milking 16 head of Guernsey and Jersey cows, Jesse recalled. The operation continued expanding under the direction of William A Lair, Jr. And the present day dairy enterprise finds 74 head of milking Holsteins on the 206 acre farm.

The Waltons of Cochranville have been shipping to Inter-State for a quarter century.

Accepting the 25 year award on Thursday was son, Leslie.

He told how his father, Horace A Walton, built the dairy operation. In 1973, he turned the dairy business over to his two sons, Bill and Leslie, retaining ownership of the farm.

The 120 milking grade Holstein set up goes under the name of Walton Brothers these days. The sons farm 400 acres in and around West Fallowfield Township, raising mostly corn and hay for feed.

The only Quality Award presented at the luncheon honored Robert Crowl's dairy operation and his top record in the Inter-State Honor Roll. For 12 con-

secutive months, the Crowl's tests were under 10,000 ppm count for bacteria and under 500,000 for leucocytes.

In the election of officers, Elvin M Rohrer, Jr was chosen president of the Cochranville Local. Also serving in that organization will be Leshe Walton, vice president, Harry L Troop, secretary-treasurer, and Richard L Buckwalter and William O Parry, Jr, delegates. Alternate delegates are Stanley Rothenberger and Earl E Mast.

Officers of the Oxford Local include C Edward Lawrie, president, J Roger Moran, vice president, Hoopes T Yarnall, secretary-treasurer, and Ernest M Delp, Harold T Bryson, and James Pepple, delegates. Alternate delegates are Charles J Moore, David L Pierce, and Jordan M Reyburn, Jr.

Robert S Mason was elected to the Hauling Committee for District 11.

Making a short speech for milk was Chester County's Dairy Princess Yvonne King.

Yvonne is the daughter of Joe and Cathy King of R1 Cochranville. The 21-year-old student at Goldey-Beacom College in Wilmington, Delaware learned the dairy business on her parents' 180 farm, where she helped out with the chores involved with their 75 head of milking Holsteins.

"I'd keep the records on the cows and help with the milking," she said. Her experience in book keeping will be an asset for the dairy princess after she receives her degree in office administration in 1982.

Said the dairy princess, "After graduation next year, I'd like to go into marketing — perhaps with Inter-State."

King told the group she

enjoys her responsibilities as an ambassador for dairy farmers — her work began last May after her coronation.

And, if you don't know it, each Inter-State shipper supports the dairy princess program," she smiled. "It comes out of your milk checks each month."

In addition to their normal checkoff, the Inter-State members voted to make an additional donation to Ms King's cause.

The members were given an update on happenings in the dairy business and in Inter-State by several speakers.

Horace Prange brought them up to date on Holly Milk Cooperative's plight.

"Holly was in the black only three months last year. In December, the plant processed 40 million pounds of milk.

"There was too much milk to go through Holly, so Inter State shipped milk to Wisconsin, costing the Cooperative over \$4 a pound just for shipping. Needless to say, last year was our biggest milk production year."

Prange emphasized surplus milk could be one of the Cooperative's stumbling blocks. He warned the milk producers that although dairy producers are continuing to ask for 80 percent parity, over-production could raise a question in legislators' eyes.

If we keep producing milk, will CCC keep buying and stockpiling our surpluses? What they're suggesting now is parity with a trigger on it. Once the government stockpile reaches a certain level, the parity will drop."

Prange pointed out the cost of producing milk still exceeds the increase in cost to the consumer.

"The cost of milk went up 10 percent in the stores, but the cost of producing it went up 12 percent," he explained.

In closing, Prange reminded the Co-op members that Inter-State will be receiving their U.S. Public Health rating within the next several weeks.

A satisfactory rating is necessary in order to continue marketing milk," he said, and advised the producers to be careful about herd hygiene and barn cleanliness.

Wrapping up the session was William B Hastings, director of Field and Laboratory Services for Inter-State.

He too voiced his concern with milk over-production.

"Last year dairy farmers increased their herd size and production per cow. Two billion pounds of milk were produced with a value of \$270 million. That's a 14 percent price increase over 1979."

Noting 100 other non-farm industries only made a 12 percent increase last year, Hastings said the milk prices are close to holding with the inflationary spiral.

Hastings was quick to point out the over-production of milk by members cost the Co-op a quarter million dollars. This cost, he explained, was absorbed out of the Co-op's general fund and the farmers weren't assessed. However, the money in the general fund, he said, comes out of the



Elnora Crowl and daughter-in-law accept the Quality Award from Inter-State director Horace Prange. Elnora, and husband Robert, were on honor roll for their herd's quality milk for 12 consecutive months.



Jesse and Martha Lair were congratulated on the family's 50th year with Inter-State Milk Producers' Cooperative. They are the third generation to ship milk to the Co-op.

commission dollars members are now paying in.

Concerning the price of milk, Hastings had an encouraging word. He projected the price of milk to be \$17 for Class 1 by the end of 1981. His next projection brought a murmur of surprise from the group — Hastings said within the next 10 years the price of milk

will be up to \$30 a hundredweight.

Summing up, Hastings stressed 1981 will be the turning point for milk producers.

Over production will have passed the critical level. The milk glut threatens federal support and CCC purchases.

"Every industry has its ups and downs — the dairy industry is included. But if you plan for the down times, it makes the move easier."

In closing, Hastings recommended Inter-State members delay plans for herd size increases and avoid unnecessary debt loads — SM.

Penn State deer fence passes test for crop protection

UNIVERSITY PARK — Farmers in Pennsylvania are finding some electric voltage and improved fence designs can teach deer to avoid crops.

In early field tests, fences hardly five feet tall show promise for protecting crops with less expense and maintenance than incurred with conventional fences built eight feet tall and considered deer proof.

The tests are being conducted by a team of wildlife researchers at Penn State.

Tests feature an older design, called the New Hampshire Figure-Four, which has been modified with high-tensile smooth wire and two rows of posts.

A second design has one row of posts on which high-tensile smooth wires are

attached at relatively close spacings. This model is known as the Penn State Five-Wire developed especially for these tests by William L. Palmer.

Both electric fences are easily jumped by deer but few animals attempt to do so. Most farmers who used these fences one or two growing seasons report reduced damage in orchards, vegetables, small grains, alfalfa, and tree nurseries. The testing is being done at nine sites with past histories of heavy deer damage to crops.

In the case of these two fences, seeing them may not lead to believing.

"I'm often asked why they seem to be working," says Palmer. "We've found deer crawl under or through a

fence more often than attempting to jump it. In our tests, most deer are repelled by the shock.

"We are trying to modify behavior of deer and their feeding patterns. But we know it is not always successful."

"Our results are promising to date. However, we want more experience before we recommend these fences for general agricultural uses."

Funding the project are the agricultural experiment station at Penn State and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. The research is conducted by Palmer, Robert G. Wingard, and John L. George, authorities in the School of Forest Resources at Penn State.



Yvonne King, Chester County Dairy Princess, spoke to the Inter-State shippers on dairy promotion.