

# Eastern Co-op forms new local

NELSON — At a meeting held last Friday, at the Nelson, Pennsylvania Fire Hall, local dairy milk producers joined together to form a new local unit under Eastern Milk Producers Cooperative Association.

At this meeting Denis Owlet was elected President of the Cowanesque Valley Local.

Also elected were: Robert Finch,

Vice-President; Richard Rumberger, Secretary; John Beard, Treasurer; Craig Owlet, Delegate; Kenneth Palmer, Alternate Delegate. Also elected were Craig Owlet and Kenneth Palmer, District Delegate and Alternate District Delegate respectively.

This local has been formed by 40 local producers who have recently been released by Fiorlat Dairies

effective March 31, 1981. In commenting on the formation of this new local, Michael Donovan, General Manager of Eastern Milk Producers Cooperative, stated that he was extremely pleased to welcome these producers to the Eastern family.

He commented that while most cooperatives were not in a position currently to accept new members, Eastern could because of its milk marketing contract with Leprino Foods whose two local manufacturing plants will be a full capacity on April 1.

He also cited the recently expanded capacity at Eastern's Grover plant as another factor which allows Eastern to handle additional surpluses this spring.

Donovan went on to say the formation of this local, comprised

totally of new members, is significant in that it marks a reversal of the negative membership trend that most cooperatives have experienced over the past two or three years.

With the formation of this new local, and another New York local anticipated next week, Eastern is taking its first step toward regaining the membership totals which it has enjoyed in the past, he said.

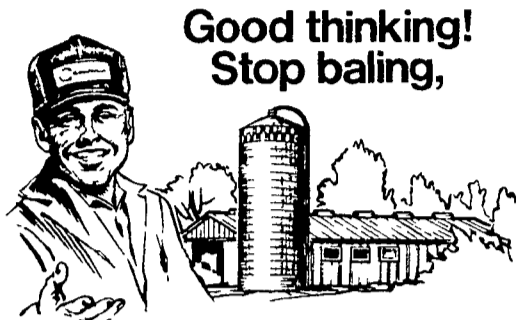
Donovan commended the Cowanesque Valley Local for recognizing Eastern's excellent local market strengths and for not being misled by the untrue rumor being circulated by various farm reporters and cooperative fieldmen that Eastern members would be subject to a large assessment.

Donovan observed that

Eastern's predicted membership growth and improving financial position is based on Eastern's exclusive long term fully supply contract with Leprino Foods.

Leprino is known nationally for its cheese products and enjoys supply contracts with major pizza chains and many leading food companies marketing mozzarella cheese.

Also attending this organizational meeting were Eastern District Director, Clyde Wilson, and Fred Carlsen, Supervisor of Field Membership, who were instrumental in assisting in the formation of this local.



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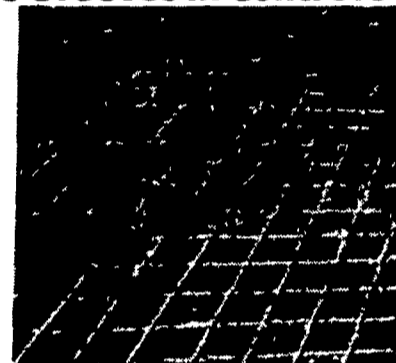
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