

## Milk samplers attend refresher courses

HARRISBURG — In an effort to provide the finest quality product to the consumer, the state's division of milk sanitation is supporting refresher courses for bulk milk haulers to review proper sampling techniques.

State Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell said the courses being held throughout the Com-

monwealth in April were arranged in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board and Penn State University's Extension Service.

Hallowell said, "These meetings were designed not only to help maintain the high quality of Pennsylvania dairy products but to ensure that the farmer is paid

fairly for the milk he produces."

He pointed out that besides being checked for bacteria and chemical contamination and added water, milk samples are tested for butter fat content. The butter fat content is used to determine how much a farmer gets for the milk.

"If a milk sampler uses improper techniques," Hallowell

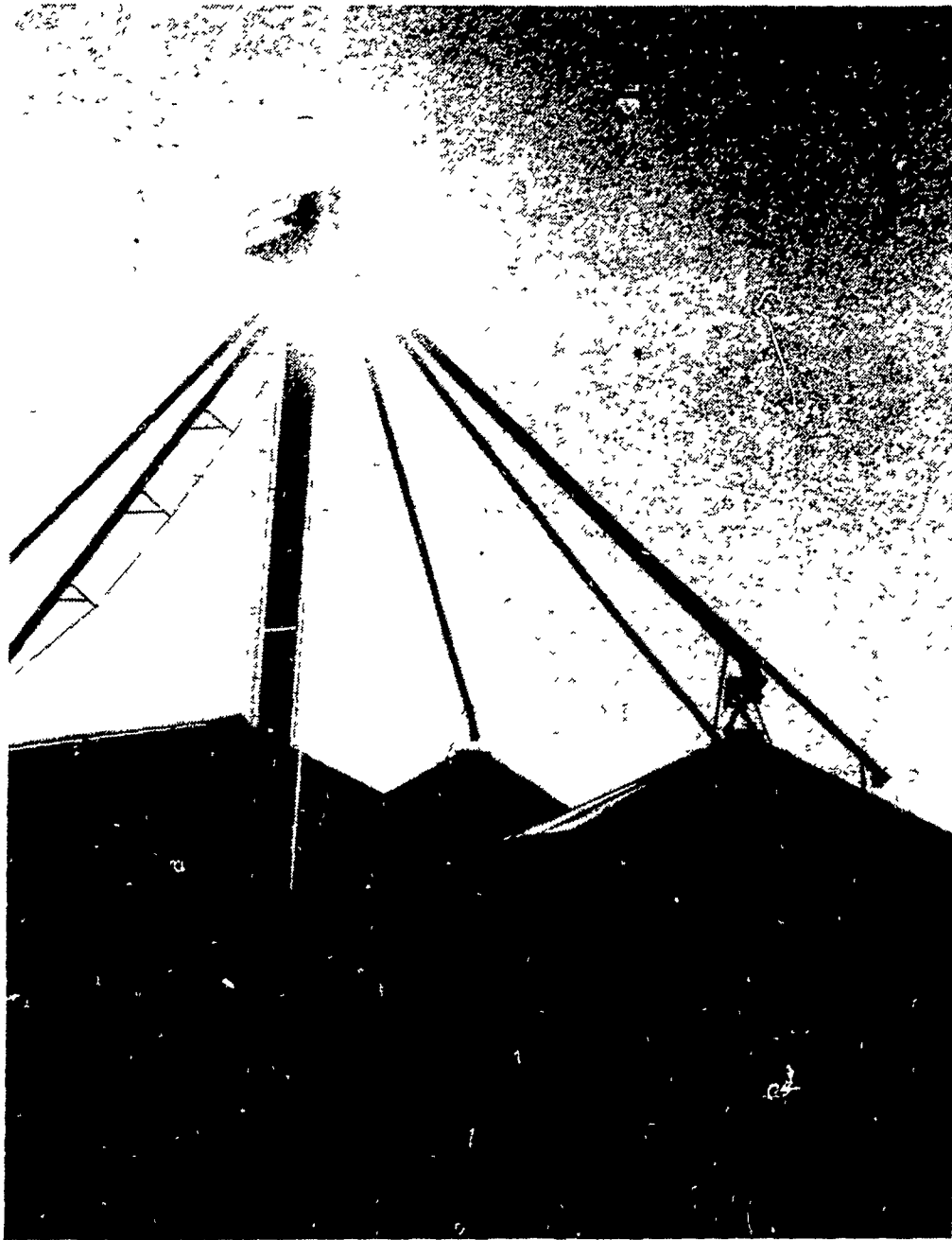
said, "such as not agitating the milk long enough before taking a sample, the butter fat content may test out lower than it really is, resulting in a lower price paid to the farmer."

"The required agitation time, correct milk temperatures and techniques like how to properly determine the weight of milk in the

bulk tank are all discussed and demonstrated at the meetings," he said.

Current milk marketing laws and regulations are also reviewed.

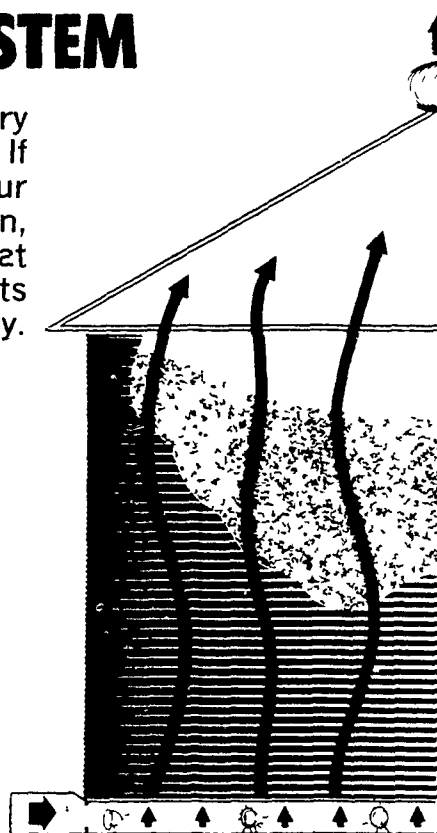
Hallowell said, "Pennsylvania's leading agricultural product is milk, now a \$1 billion a year industry. The 1600 licensed milk haulers in the state are keys to keeping the dairy industry."



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