

Order 4 base decreases because of record production

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Middle Atlantic Order Market Administrator Joseph D. Shure last Friday announced a March 1981 base milk price of \$14.06 per hundredweight and excess milk price of \$12.51.

The weighted average March price was \$14.02 and the butterfat differential for the month was 16.9

The weighted average price declined five cents from February, marking the first monthly decrease in almost one year. The March base milk price dropped 12 cents from the February level.

The advertising withholding rate, which is deducted from the base and excess milk price and not the weighted average price, was 13

cents a hundredweight and the amount withheld totaled over \$672 thousand.

The gross value of producer milk during March was \$72.4 million, compared to \$61.2 million a year ago.

Shure said producer receipts totaled 517.0 million pounds during March and were at a record high level, exceeding the previous high by over 11 million pounds.

Milk production was up over 42 million pounds or nine percent from last March. Production increased seasonally by almost two percent from February, on a daily basis.

Class I producer milk totaled 253.1 million pounds and accounted for 48.96 percent of total producer milk receipts during the month, down from 49.93 percent in February and 51.64 percent last March.

Base milk accounted for 88.98 percent of total producer milk receipts in March compared to 85.35 in February and 90.14 percent a year ago.

There were 7371 producers supplying 65 Order 4 pool handlers during the month. The number of Order 4 producers was up by 211

from last March.

The average daily delivery per producer of 2263 pounds was 124 pounds or 5.8 percent above a year ago. The average butterfat test of producer milk was 3.75 percent for the month, compared to 3.80 percent in February and 3.74 percent one year earlier.

Middle Atlantic Order pool handlers reported Class I in-area milk sales of 214.7 million pounds during March, a drop of 0.9 percent from last March, after adjustment to eliminate variation due to calendar composition

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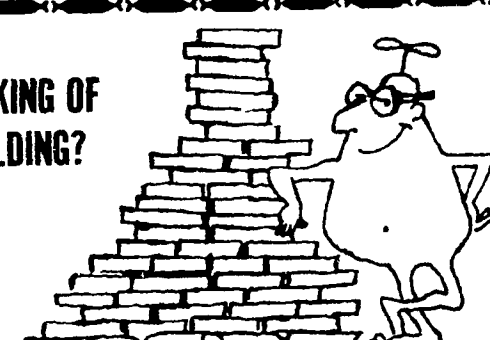
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