

The Milk Check

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County Agent



Program Costs

As soon as the dairy price support program came under attack as the first target of the Reagan economic recovery program, the air was white with reports from dairy groups pointing out that its cost was minimal to the government.

Rather than the \$1.3 billion for the 1980-81 marketing year reported by the Commodity Credit Corporation as the net cost of the program (purchases minus sales), Washington was bombarded with information showing that the cost was much less. Figures all the way from \$1 billion to \$315 million were offered as the "real" net cost.

It's true that if you take credit

for all the CCC dairy stocks used for everything from school lunch programs to welfare programs to overseas give aways plus the cost of casein imports and value the present CCC inventories at current prices, you can have a pretty low figure on the bottom line. However, it seemed like no one in Washington was listening.

Just don't worry about the confusing amounts that you will hear about the "real" costs because it depends on who's pushing the pencil and what they're trying to prove. It's all good information and should be used but it may be "water over the dam" as far as Congress is concerned.

The figures that may be of more interest to you (and to Congress) is what will be a drop in the support price cost you. You already know that a drop to 75 percent of parity will cost you 88 cents a hundred as it did on April 1. You can double that if the support goes to 70 percent making the drop \$1.76 a hundred. After that, it doesn't matter much. If you get no support price, the best guess is you'll lose about \$2 a hundred and won't have to worry about 65 percent of parity.

Smart Money

While most of us were hoping you would get the April 1 adjustment before Congress acted to stop it, the smart money among buyers was betting there would be no increase.

At least that's the way it looks because butter, powder, cheese and the Minnesota-Wisconsin prices barely moved from February to March. Usually with a support price adjustment expected the commodity prices take a jump the month before, but not this time.

Butter prices stayed the same while powder and cheese prices dropped a fraction of a cent and the M-W gained only one penny. The manufacturing grade milk price was still 24 cents below the support price.

With a March M-W of \$12.67 you'll have a Class II price in Order 2 for that month of \$12.62 or six cents less than February. Your

Class I price in March will be \$14.89 which is three cents better than February, but won't make up for the six cent drop in Class II milk. In addition there will be a 20 cent deduction from the pool for the Louisville Plan, so don't look

for a blend price much over \$13.00 for the first month of your Spring flush.

This looks like a bad month for good news in milk marketing but it looks like things may get worse before they get better.

Farmers Union honors retiring county agent

FARRAGUT — More than 60 local farmers honored retiring county extension agent Paul Rothrock in the fifth annual Farm/City banquet held Wednesday night at the Farragut United Methodist Church.

Rothrock was honored for his outstanding accomplishments over many years to area farmers. The Farm/City banquet is an annual affair hosted by the Lycoming County Farmers Union.

The local organization president, Verus Shaner, presented Rothrock

a handmade Pennsylvania slate wall clock as a gift.

Guest speaker at the dinner meeting was Orville Carver, State Director of Pennsylvania Green Thumb.

Also attending Wednesday evening were Reverend Sam Reed of Avis, and Leonard Zemaitis, Director of the Pennsylvania Farmers Union.

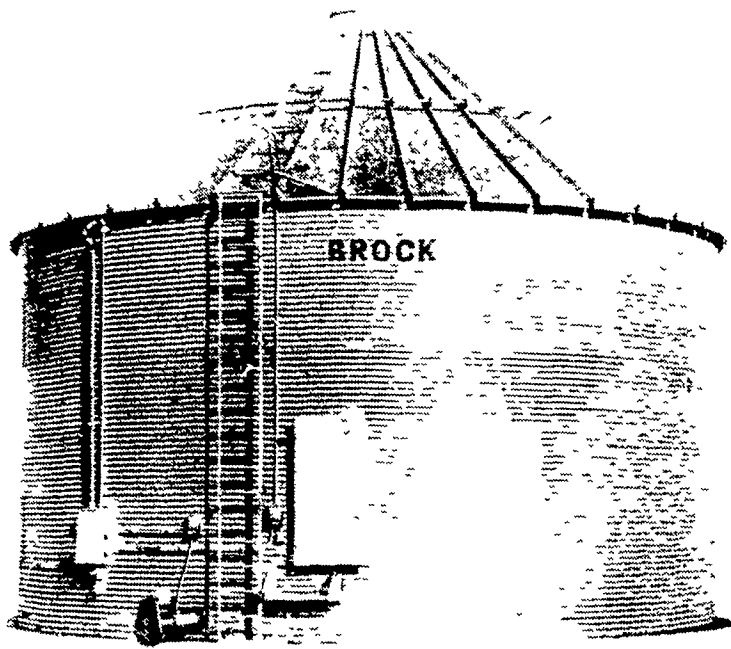
The Farm/City banquet culminated several days of farmers union membership activities in the area.

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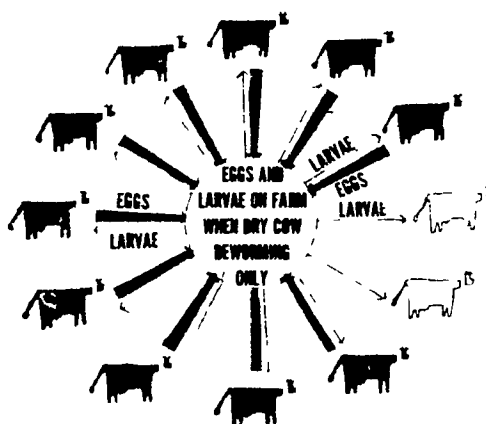
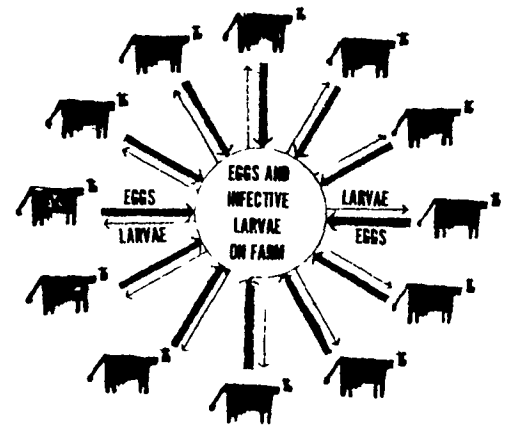
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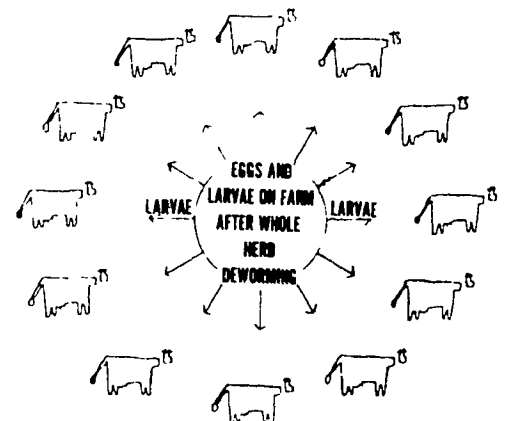
THE LOGIC BEHIND WHOLE HERD DEWORMING

In an unwormed dairy herd, all animals deposit worm eggs on the farm and all animals are subject to further recontamination from infective larvae as herd parasitism continues unchecked.



In a herd dewormed only at freshening, an average of 10 out of 12 animals have not been dewormed. Because egg deposition has not been significantly reduced, and because of infective larvae already present on the farm, all animals are subject to heavy further recontamination.

After whole herd deworming with Baymix, egg deposition is dramatically reduced, and as a result herd recontamination is also significantly reduced with herd productive efficiency maintained. In fact, a recent study shows a benefit of 4.8 lbs./milk/cow/day average when cows are dewormed as late as 200 days into lactation despite the fact they were dewormed at freshening.



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