

NEBA delegates hold annual meeting

HAZLETON — "My impressions of the NEBA Cooperative is that it's a vibrant and growing organization. It has a sound financial picture and meeting all obligations to remain a stable cooperative," said Sire Power and NEBA General Manager, DuWayne A. Kutz.

Approximately 150 voting delegates, guests, directors, and personnel attended the seventeenth NEBA Annual Meeting, recently held at the Gus Genetti Motor Lodge in Hazleton.

General Manager Kutz was a principle speaker at the meeting. "We have programs to be proud of, and to progress in, for the 1980's and 1990's," said Kutz.

He discussed the young sire program at Sire Power and stressed how it is the obligation of the membership to continue to sample young bulls.

NEBA President, Gary Rickard reported another great financial year. "The net operating margin before patronage income was the largest ever in the history of the NEBA organization," said Rickard.

Rickard said, "The future of the cooperative looks bright."

John M. White, professor of dairy science at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, was the feature speaker. His presentation was titled "Looking Ahead In The Eighties."

White speculated on things he

believes will happen, and things that might happen, in the next decade of the dairy industry.

"Farmers can't afford to get behind in the fast moving dairy industry today," said White. "Managing a successful breeding program is especially important."

White pointed out how accuracy has been improved in calculating the Predicted Difference figures.

"New traits being calculated are calving ease, proteins/solids factor, and research is being done on susceptibility of mastitis," said White.

"Between 1973-1980, the bulls sampled in A.I. tripled," said White.

He also told the dairyman how the development of embryo transfer has become a practical reality in the 1980's. For this progressive development White reflected on how the 1970's showed a significant shift in evaluating pedigrees for performance and productivity.

White continued with a few things he is certain will happen in the 1980's.

"The DHIA program will definitely see a change because of the tremendous increase of people on test. The options may be bi-monthly or AM-PM testing. White pointed out that salaries are going to have to increase for DHIA supervisors to make a living.

"According to White, the current scale for type classification is 'awful'. "There is a real need for an equal distance scale for

evaluating genetic type accurately, he said. The difference between a 65 and 66 point cow can't be considered the same as the difference between an 86 and 87 point cow."

"Cow Index and milk composition has progressed tremendously. Improvements has been made in the BLUP Procedure as well as in evaluation of selection.

"The genetic base must change to be current and up to date with the dairy industry.

"There will be a better selection of bulls and more triple plus bulls. This can be attributed to a successful sampling program in the A.I. industry.

Looking ahead to the '80's, White reminded the group that Embryo Transfer was in its infancy stage. The research for cloning embryos is going on right now.

White said, "We must manage

and monitor embryo transfer so we don't degenerate the dairy industry. Each breed organization must develop its own guide lines for ET and cloning procedures.

"The danger of Embryo Transfer and cloning will narrow the genetic base," he said. "Inbreeding becomes a problem."

In conclusion, some things that White believes won't happen include the sexing of semen and determining the genetic value of newborn calves.

White passed on advice to remain flexible in thinking and become an early adapter. He said adopt new technology and go with it.

"Keep up to date; read Hoard's Dairyman, read your breed and dairy management magazines, and most important, learn how to learn and continue to learn," White concluded.

Margin Stout, NEBA Sales and Service Director reported the past year's activities, accomplishments, and statistics of the technician force. He congratulated and thanked the District Managers; Leighton Klingler, Willard Odenwelder, and Bob Parr, and all the technicians for another successful year.

The NEBA Board of Directors were elected as follows. President-Gary Rickard; Vice President-John Epler; and Treasurer-William Terhune. These men, plus Harold Leshar, make up the Executive Committee.

Also elected were Secretary-Margin Stout; Assistant Secretary-Henry Schragger; and Assistant Treasurer-Laura Klimas. The following Directors were elected. Hank Rudderow, Cliff Sands, Ray McMillen, Sterling Fabian, Gerald Parker, and James Howard.

Produce dealer ineligible

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — A Rhode Island firm, Al-Jacs, Inc., of Providence, has become ineligible to operate in the produce industry under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act as a result of its failure to pay a reparation award of \$7467.

The award had been issued by USDA in favor of a Connecticut shipper for potatoes shipped between February and April, 1980. The firm was given an opportunity to answer the charges but failed to respond, and USDA ordered payment of the amount claimed.

The firm may not operate industry under the PACA until the award has been paid. The firm's officers, directors, and major stockholders—Albert R. Jacavone, Albert J. Jacavone and Antonette Jacavone—may not be employed by or affiliated with any PACA licensee without USDA approval.

Charles Brader, an

official with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the act provides for damages to be paid by those who fail to meet their contractual obligations in buying and selling fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables. He said interstate traders must be licensed, and the law requires that their licenses be suspended if they fail to pay reparation awards.

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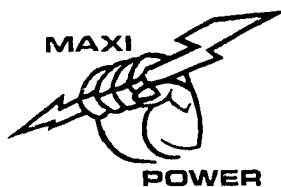
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