

## Covington updates Equity program

COLUMBUS, O. — The following is a report by Equity specialist Calvin Covington who recently addressed the 24th Annual Meeting of the American Jersey Cattle Club, National All-Jersey, Inc.

"During the past twelve months, 13 plants and co-ops have adopted milk buying plans that include payment for protein. This brings the total to over 60 plants and co-ops that are including protein in their payment plans. Ten of these 13 plants and co-ops implemented End-Product Pricing. This is the pricing plan we consider the best for manufacturing milk and which we hope to get in the Federal Order system. The states of Idaho, Iowa, Utah and Wisconsin have protein markets available to most all Jersey dairymen.

There are several interesting facts to point out concerning the plants that have adopted End-Product Pricing. Many are very large operations. One of the cheese plants is one of the largest in the United States. Ninety-five percent of the producers for these plants are Holstein dairymen. The boards of directors of the co-ops that have adopted End-Product Pricing have been mostly Holstein producers. This should help convince most people that Equity is not a breed issue.

Everyone, by now, knows of the additional money Equity is returning to Jersey producers. It is difficult to estimate the total amount because of the large number. We do know the additional money to Jersey breeders each year is in the millions. In Wisconsin, over \$900,000 is being returned yearly to Jersey dairymen. It is encouraging to be able to say to a prospective new Jersey breeder that the price of Jersey milk is 75 cents to \$1.00 per hundred-weight more than the price a year ago, while other milk prices are 10 - 25 cents/cwt, or more, lower than a year ago.

The Equity Program continues

to do as much as possible to keep its inventors informed about equitable pricing. This year, three regional Equity meetings were held across the country to gain input and new ideas from our investors. Several new Equity handouts were developed and widely distributed. Equity continued to advertise in major breed and trade magazines. The Equity library continued to advertise in major breed and trade magazines. The Equity library continues to be a national source for all kinds of people from dairymen to processors and also university professors to obtain information.

Progress has been made with the major co-ops. One large Ohio based co-op will begin a protein premium program January 1, 1983. Most co-ops are testing their members' milk for protein. Practically all co-ops with significant manufacturing operations are carefully considering End-Product Pricing.

Support of the Equity Program remains good. The number of investors is staying around 800. We are asking those dairymen receiving direct benefits from Equity to invest 6 cents per cwt or the cash equivalent.

Six cents is a small amount to pay considering the return they are getting. There are many dairymen now selling to Equity markets with whom we were not directly involved in establishing their market.

These dairymen think they do not have to invest in program because we did not directly help establish their market. It is true that there are some markets where we were not directly involved in and there will be many more. It is impossible to be involved in all of

them. What these people need to understand is that through our early efforts, promotion and starting markets, their own market has come into existence. We are like catalyst in that our work in one area is spreading to other areas.

Looking toward the future there is still much to be done. More cheese plants need to be contacted. More work needs to be done with co-ops. More of the national dairy leaders and organizations need to

be encouraged to promote End-Product Pricing. More research is needed in the feeding and breeding for protein.

Looking further into the future, hopefully we will have a simple and inexpensive test for casein. Equity money is now being used to develop one. By using casein instead of protein, it will make the buying plan more equitable and better for Jersey dairymen. We need to start thinking about how to receive additional money for

Jersey milk because of its manufacturing efficiency,

The cost per pound when making cheese from Jersey milk, even when paid for the extra yield, is less than average milk. This is due to the fixed costs being the same whether the milk yields 8 lbs. or 12 lbs. of cheese. Equity pricing is the best and easiest way to keep increasing the demand, value and strength of the Jersey organizations."

## Too much rain stresses Pa. crops

HARRISBURG — In contrast to early-May when crops were showing signs of stress due to lack of moisture, they are now beginning to show signs of stress due to excessive moisture, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

Statewide, only three days during the week ending June 20 were rated suitable for farm fieldwork due to wet conditions. These activities included spraying, making hay and haylage, mowing pastures, planting soybeans, transplanting tobacco, and harvesting green beans, strawberries, cherries and lettuce. Topsoil moisture was rated surplus by 74 percent of the reporters and adequate by 25 percent.

The Commonwealth's soybean crop is 80 percent planted, slightly behind last year at this time when 82 percent was planted. In the northern region 86 percent is planted, in the central region 70 percent is planted and in the southern region 85 percent is planted.

Corn averaged 12 inches high for

the state, one inch shorter than last year at this time. Corn in the northern, central and southern regions averaged 11, 12 and 14 inches respectively.

Statewide, barley is starting to ripen with 58 percent of the crop turning yellow and six percent ripe compared with last year when 48 percent was turning yellow and less than five percent was ripe. In the northern region 55 percent is turning yellow, in the central region 58 percent is turning yellow and eight percent is ripe, while in the southern region 61 percent is turning yellow and nine percent is ripe.

Sixteen percent of the wheat crop in Pennsylvania is turning yellow, slightly behind last year at this time when 20 percent was turning yellow. In the north 23 percent is turning, in the central region five percent is turning and in the southern region 20 percent is turning yellow. Lodging is reported to be a problem in some areas of the state.

The Commonwealth's oat crop is 47 percent headed compared with

53 percent last year. In the northern region 49 percent is headed, in the central region 34 percent is headed and in the southern region 57 percent is headed.

Wet conditions continue to wreak havoc on the state's first crop hay, with alfalfa 40 percent cut compared with 56 percent last year. Statewide, clover timothy stands are 19 percent harvested compared with 37 percent last year. The quality of hay made during the week was rated poor by 54 percent of the reporters, fair by 43 percent and good by three percent. The amount of feed obtained from pastures was rated average by 55 percent of the reporters, above average by 37 percent and below average by eight percent.



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