

Fire destroys powdered milk at Holly plant.

BY TRISH WILLIAMS
CARLISLE — A fire in a stainless steel storage bin destroyed \$50,000 worth of non-fat dried milk powder Monday at the Holly Milk Cooperative. The fire was detected about 9 a.m. by the plant manufacturing manager, Mike Maust, who smelled the powdered milk smoldering. According to Kathy Gill, Inter-State spokeswoman, the fire was contained in the stainless steel storage bin by efforts of the local fire company. Over 3000 gallons of water was sprayed into the bin to cool the powder. "Fortunately the storage bin was only about half full, containing

about 50,000 pounds of non-fat dried milk powder," said Ms. Gill. "If the bin had been full there would have been a real danger of a flash fire spreading to the rest of the plant." "We believe the fire started from spontaneous combustion," Ms. Gill reported. "The hot and humid weather over the weekend may have contributed to the powder overheating. Our insurance company will be investigating the fire later to determine the cause and damages." The Holly manufacturing plant was shut down Monday for half a day due to the fire, but was able to be back in partial operation by 2:30

p.m. Monday afternoon. Some milk had to be diverted to other plants Monday for processing, but by just after midnight Tuesday morning the plant was in full operation. Although the stainless steel

storage bin that contained the fire must still be cleaned to determine the damages to it, there was minimal damage to the plant and bin. Holly Milk Cooperative is owned by the Inter-State Milk Producers,

and manufactures powdered milk and butter. An average of 3.5 million pounds of powdered milk per month are manufactured at the plant. 50,000 pounds of powdered milk was destroyed by the fire.

Grange supports truck bill

HARRISBURG — The Pennsylvania State Grange is urging state lawmakers to support legislation allowing 102-inch wide trucks to travel on Commonwealth roads. The provision is contained in H.B. 5, recently approved by a House and Senate Conference Committee. The bill now goes to both legislative bodies for ap-

proval of the committee compromise.

State Grange Master Charles Wismer said, "Since most farm hauling flats are 48 inches in width, the increase in truck width to 102 inches will allow farmers to haul flats adjacent to one another. The result will be conservation of time, energy and travel costs. Penn-

sylvanians farmers need this efficiency to survive financially."

Wismer noted that all standard school and commercial buses are 102 inches in width and are currently permitted on Pennsylvania rural and urban roadways.

N.W. Pa. Colored Breeds

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to take an active role in planning the All-Breed Calf Sale held each Spring at the fairgrounds in Meadville.

The N.W. Pa. Colored Breed Assoc. selected two directors from each of the five colored breeds and elected officers from among those ten people.

New officers will be elected each Fall following the fair. Officers who will serve until this Fall include: president, Earl Nicolls; vice president, Jeff Peters; treasurer, Paula Kunz; secretary, Janet Peters.

The presidency and vice presidency will be limited to two consecutive one-year terms, but secretary, treasurer, and directorships may be reelected repeatedly if voted in by the members of the association.

The newly-formed group met originally to improve the quality of

the open class colored breed shows at the Crawford County Fair and have already initiated a few changes.

This year, the open class colored breed shows will begin at 9 a.m. rather than 8:30 to allow exhibitors time to prepare their cattle. Also, it is hoped to slow the show so everyone will enjoy it more.

Another improvement will be the addition of premier breeder and premier exhibitor awards for each of the five colored breeds.

The Colored Breed Association members also picked committees to plan arena decorations and to organize the annual colored breed picnic at the open class show.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 28, at 8 p.m. at the Crawford County courthouse in Meadville. All owners of colored breed dairy cattle in Northwestern, Pa. are welcome to attend.

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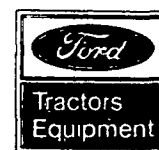
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