

MILK MARKET NEWS

Order No. 4 Base Milk

Price \$13.76 For December

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Middle Atlantic Order Market Administrator Joseph D. Shine, January 10, announced a December 1983 base milk price of \$13.76 per hundredweight and an excess milk price of \$12.05. The December weighted average price was \$13.74 and the butterfat differential for the month was 16.5 cents. The base milk price was down 18 cents from November and the excess milk price dropped 45 cents. The weighted average market price was 22 cents lower than November and down 25 cents from last December.

The advertising withholding rate, which is deducted from the base and excess milk prices but not the weighted average price, was 14 cents a hundredweight and the amount withheld totaled \$719.9 thousand. The gross value of producer milk during December was \$70.5 million compared with \$72.7 million a year ago.

Shine said that producer milk receipts totaled 514.2 million

pounds during December, a drop of 6.1 million pounds or 1.2 percent from a year earlier. This is the first month that Order 4 milk production has been below the previous year since April 1982. Class I producer milk totaled 250.9 million pounds and was down only slightly from last December. The Class I utilization percentage was 48.80 compared to 48.31 in December 1982. Base milk accounted for 90.94 percent of total December production compared with 89.14 percent last year. There were 6,981 producers supplying pool handlers in December, 25 more than in November but down 247 from a year ago. The average daily delivery per producer was 2,376 pounds for the month, 54 pounds or 2.3 percent above December 1982. The average butterfat test of producer milk was 3.87 percent in December 1983 and 3.78 last year.

Middle Atlantic order pool handlers reported Class I in-area milk disposition of 213.9 million pounds during December, an increase of almost one percent from

a year ago, after adjustment to eliminate variation due to calendar composition.

In 1983 a total of 6.14 billion pounds of producer milk was pooled under Order 4, almost 97 million pounds or 1.6 percent more than during the previous year. The gross value of this milk was \$849 million in 1983, up from \$832 million in 1982. A total of \$8.6 million was deducted for advertising and promotion during the year compared with \$8.5 million in 1982. The average daily delivery per producer was 2,392 pounds in 1983, an increase of 82 pounds or over 3.5 percent from the 1982 average. The volume of Class I producer milk totaled 2.9 billion pounds in 1983 and increased almost 93 million pounds from a year earlier. The Class I utilization percentage averaged 46.98 during the past year compared to 46.20 in 1982.

The Order 4 base milk price averaged \$13.86 per hundredweight during 1983 compared with \$13.81 a year earlier while the average excess milk price was

\$12.38 in 1983 and \$12.37 in 1982. The weighted average price in 1983 was \$13.85 or 5 cents higher than the previous year's average.

Class I milk disposition in the Middle Atlantic marketing area by Order 4 pool handlers totaled 2.4 billion pounds during the past year, an increase of over 40 million pounds or 1.8 percent from 1982.

NY-NJ December Milk collects \$13.07

NEW YORK — Dairy farmers who supplied milk plants regulated under the New York-New Jersey marketing orders during December will be paid on the basis of a uniform price of \$13.07 per hundredweight (28.1 cents per quart). Market Administrator Thomas A. Wilson also stated that the price was marketwide weighted average of the value of farm milk used for fluid and manufactured dairy products.

The seasonal incentive plan does not affect the uniform price for the month of December.

A total of 17,135 dairy farmers supplied the New York-New

Jersey Milk Marketing Area with 956,620,683 pounds of milk during December 1983. This was an increase of 3.8 percent (about 35 million pounds) from last year. The gross value to dairy farmers for milk deliveries was \$128,959,988.26. This included differentials required to be paid to dairy farmers but not voluntary premiums or deductions authorized by the farmer.

Regulated milk dealers (handlers) used 393,575,932 pounds of milk for Class I, 41.1 percent of the total. This milk is used for fluid milk products such as homogenized, flavored, low test and skim milks. For December 1983, handlers paid \$14.77 per hundredweight (31.8 cents per quart) for Class I milk compared with \$14.81 a year ago.

The balance (563,044,751 pounds or 58.9 percent) was used to manufacture Class II products including butter, cheese, ice cream and yogurt. Handlers paid \$12.17 per hundredweight for this milk.

The uniform price is based on milk containing 3.5 percent butterfat. For December 1983, there was a price differential of 16.5 cents for each one-tenth of one percent that the milk tested above or below the 3.5 percent standard.

All prices quoted are for bulk tank milk received within the 201-210 mile zone from New York City.

Tree seedling deadline

CHAMBERSBURG — January 27 is the last day to order tree seedlings from the Franklin County Conservation District.

Species available this year are Scotch pine, Austrian pine, white pine, red pine, Norway spruce, Colorado blue spruce, Canadian Hemlock, Chinese chestnut, sugar maple, red maple, and American arborvitae. We are also offering crownvetch this year.

Seedlings come from a state certified nursery. Seedlings can be purchased in multiple lots of 5 with a minimum order of 5 seedlings. There is no use restrictions on these.

The seedlings are expected to arrive the middle of April. Those ordering seedlings will be notified of the dates and pickup areas.

Order forms can be obtained by calling the Franklin County Conservation District office at 264-8074 or by stopping by their office at 550 Cleveland Avenue, Chambersburg.

Wayne agent takes leave

HONESDALE — Extension director John Creighton has announced that Agriculture and 4-H Agent Tom Callahan will be taking a leave of absence from his position at the Wayne County Extension Office for a period of one year. The agent plans to work on his Master of Science degree in Horticulture at Penn State.

Callahan's work will involve inducing strawberry plants to bear in the greenhouse during the off-season with alternative lighting. The study, partially funded by Ben Franklin Contract, will hopefully provide Pennsylvania fruit producers a market and attractive sources of income during the Thanksgiving and Christmas season. The small fruit market is established, could compete with Florida and California crops. Callahan plans to return in January, 1985.

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