

Mt. Joy Co-op honors top producers

BY TRISH WILLIAMS

MT. JOY - Members and guests of the Mt. Joy Farmers Co-operative Association gathered at Hostetter's Dining Service for their annual meeting and election of directors.

Elected to serve a three-year term on the board of directors were: J. Ivan Hansen, J. Kenneth Miller and Joe C. Wivell. Hansen farms 250 acres and has a herd of 35 cows plus 60 heifers and steers. Miller is active in the Holstein Association, and milks a herd of 70 cows. Wivell farms 300 acres, milk 105 cows and was named Outstanding Young Farmer for Pennsylvania in 1981.

Paul Hostetter, general manager of Mt. Joy, recognized the "Big 13." There were 13 producers who shipped over 1 million pounds of milk in 1983. Topping the list was Kenneth Zurin with 3,455,687 pounds of milk. Irvin Engle was second high producer with 2,497,222 pounds of milk. Risser Brothers shipped 2,491,455 pounds of milk and ranked third.

Hostetter also introduced eight producers who joined Mt. Joy this year and reported there are four more dairymen considering membership.

Six members were named Honor Roll award recipients. To be on the Honor Roll all the milk shipped by

the producer during the year must meet stringent standards of quality and sanitation. Recipients were, Richard Alwine, Jay Nissley, Albert Fry, Lamar Witmer, Clair Miller and the Risser Brothers.

"Fiscal year 1983 was a quiet year for the co-operative," reported Ray Bucks, Mt Joy auditor

The most significant figure in the auditor's report was a drop in the operating profit from \$40,216 in 1982 to \$10,714 in 1983. Bucks said the drop in the operating profit was the result of a decision to return the earnings to producer-members rather than retain the capitol. It was intended to mitigate the loss of income resulting from the \$1 assessment dairymen were forced to pay for every hundredweight of milk they shipped. Bucks said the co-op is paying over \$60,000 a month to the USDA for the assessment.

Mt. Joy has a contract with Atlantic Processing Incorporated that guarantees API will purchase 100 percent of the co-op's milk. Mt. Joy also has equity in API. API had a very good financial year last year, which subsequently profited Mt. Joy.

Bucks said a 12 percent increase in pounds of milk shipped help to

cover increases in expenses due to inflation.

Roy Alger, president of Mt Joy, represents the co-op on the API

board. Alger reported API had sales of 1285 million in 1983, but said profits this year are not expected to be as high as they were

last year because of the purchase of a bottling plant in Baltimore. The plant was bought from a
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Six Mt. Joy producers were awarded plaques for honor roll production. Recipients of the award are, from the left, Clair Miller, Don Risser representing Risser Brothers, Richard Alwine, Jay Nissley and Lamar Witmer. Missing from the picture is Albert Fry.



Board members serving the Mt. Joy Cooperative in the next year are, from the left, Kenneth Miller, Joe Wivell, Henry Garber, J. Ivan Hansen, Robert Brandt, Roy Alger, and Don Risser.

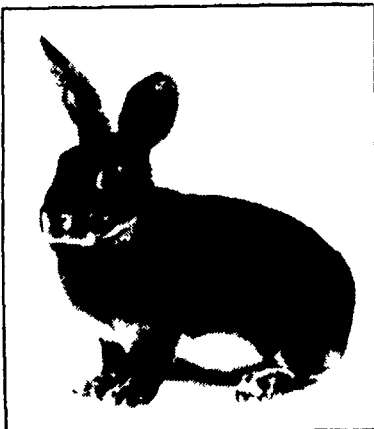


Paul Hostetter, Mt. Joy general manager, stands proudly between two decorative milk cans given to him by the co-op's milk truck drivers. The can on the left depicts modern milk transport, a tractor-trailer, the can on the right depicts milk transport of yesteryear, a horse drawn carriage.

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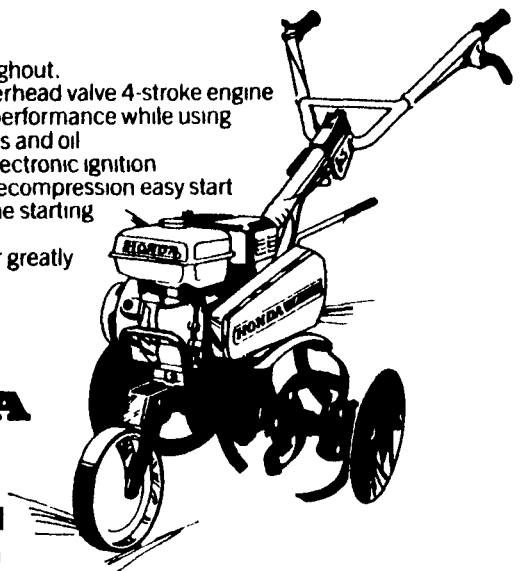
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