

Nutritionists continue to tell us that we eat too much junk food, that we consume a lot of empty calories, that we're overweight, overfed and malnourished. What a sorry state of affairs. No doubt our lack of good nutrition affects our daily lives, but most of us don't know that, so we go along eating and drinking as we do, hoping everything turns out all right. After all, good nutrition is a problem only for mothers with small children, 1sn't it?

Remember when Mom used to make us drink all that milk and then when we got big enough we started drinking those greattasting other drinks and we forgot all about milk. So here we are, the best-fed nation in the world according to government statistics, and yet our nutrition is a disaster.

The dairy industry tries and tries to convince the consuming public that milk is good for us. We never

outgrow our need for milk, so the slogan goes. Milk is a natural, the advertisement says, and yet when we pause for that refreshing beverage most of us reach for something else.

If milk were sold in pop-top cans and if it were called something very modern sounding, would we drink more of it? But milk is milk and by law it must be sold that There isn't much the way. processor can do to change it. Things can't be added to it or taken away from it to give it a different flavor or a different look, and I guess it can't be packaged in any form other than the current styles. Dollar for dollar there just isn't

any comparison between milk and the myriad of soft drinks. Milk supplies protein, calcium, B vitamins, plus vitamins A and D which are added to most milk products. In fact, it's difficult to get calcium from sources other

than milk and it's needed not only to develop strong bones and teeth, but also to help in muscle development and coordination, the transmission of nerve impulses, and to help the body fight infections and improve blood clotting.

And what does a soft drink do for you? Or a beer for that matter. Consider the tough, macho man drinking his foaming beer in a TV commercial. Now compare that to a guy drinking milk. Somehow the image just isn't there, even though the nutrition is.

Maybe milk's whole problem is its packaging. If it could be bought in six packs, maybe the kids would start drinking it again. Then we could find cans and bottles along the roadside that say milk instead of all those other beverages. And you could stop at a service station and get it from a machine and find it readily available in restaurants and other eating and drinking places.

As good as milk is for you, it does have a couple of inherent problems that producers, processors, and die-hard consumers must constantly consider. And that is the whole process of keeping it pure and fresh. The industry has pretty much licked the off-taste problem that used to be so common in milk things like onions and garlic The matter of freshness is still a problem. You buy one pint of milk on its way to going sour and you're not apt to want another one real

soon. Milk does have a certain shelf life and nowadays that information is stamped on the container. But still you can bring home a gallon that won't make it through the week.

The technology is available to extend the shelf life of milk up to several months, even without refrigeration. But so far that hasn't caught on. Before the beverage consuming public is going to get too excited about a return to milk, that whole freshness problem will have to be licked. Milk drinkers are entitled to the same uniform flavor in every container that the soft drink consumers get. They're also entitled to containers that are easy to open and that don't leak

concerned about the gypsy moth,

you'll have several opportunities in

February and March to learn

about the status of the insect and

plans for its control in Delaware

The University of Delaware

Cooperative Extension Service and

Delaware Department of

Agriculture are cosponsoring three

educational meetings on the

The meetings will be held as

Feb. 7 – 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.,

Feb 9 = 7.00 nm - 8.30 pm

this year.

subject.

follows:

Hartley Fire Hall.

One final thought on America's milk drinking. Efforts to cut the cost of milk consumption by adding powered milk and other products that hurt its flavor are self-defeating. I once listened to a skillful homemaker describe how she was able to mix dry powdered milk with fresh milk in a blend that her children were hardly able to detect. What a triumph! This was a lady with a substantial family income who could well afford the price of fresh milk, but in some kind of economy move she foisted off on her children this mix that saved a few pennies and probably ruined their concept of what milk really tastes like I'll bet her children don't drink milk at all anymore

Gypsy moth meetings set NEWARK, Del. - If you are

Townsend Fire Hall

March 1 - 7:00 p.m - 8:30 p.m., Glasgow High School Auditorium

These meeting sites were selected because they are located in areas most likely to experience severe tree defoliation in 1984. At each meeting, entomologists and public officials will discuss gypsy moth identification and control, the scope of the problem in Delaware, the state's control plan in 1984, impacts of the planned control program, and control options for property owners Discussion will be encouraged throughout the meetings.

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