

Lehigh Valley holds session in Lancaster

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program. Through the slogan, "We Need Milk, Come Grow With Us," supplemented with a videotape highlighting the cooperative's activities, Sumser said Lehigh plans to reach over 2,000 prospective members.

General manager William Stout said in his report that Lehigh is making progress in meeting milk needs. Also, the cooperative is paying more attention to milk quality, he said.

Stout briefed the 650 members attending the meeting on the milk producers security act which states that "the marketing of milk by producers requires prompt payment by handlers and processors."

The bill, Stout said, provides that cooperatives be deemed a producer and not a dealer; transactions would be filed with Pa. Milk Marketing Board; and a bond providing 75 percent coverage for 40 days would be necessary.

Lehigh Valley Farmers supports this bill, Stout said, stating, "We believe this is a good bill and should be supported by the House and Senate. We would like to see it effective June 1."

Lehigh president Alpheus Ruth remarked on another recent legislative bill, the milk diversion program.

"The low sign-up on the milk diversion program is upsetting," Ruth said. "I think the problem was a matter of timing - there was



Honor plaques for a somatic cell count of 300,000 or less are presented to Lehigh Valley Farmers members, first row from left, J. Edgar Gish, Isaac Geissinger, Dick Hann, James Martin and Eugene Smucker; second row from left, Grant J. Krall, Frank Jurbala, Henry Kohler, J. Edwin Rohrer, Wilmer Rush, Alfred Wanner Jr., John Wheeler Jr. and David Smucker.

not enough time to inform the farmers, and farmers would be locked into a 10-month contract."

What happens if milk production is not reduced? "I expect the price support to lower to \$11.50 per hundredweight," Ruth said, "and the 1985 Farm Bill won't be written by farmers."

These thoughts, shared by Ruth and Lehigh dairymen as well, lead to the meeting's theme, "Watch the Store in '84." Ruth said in a time of surplus problems, milk diversion programs, promotional concerns, world unrest and the

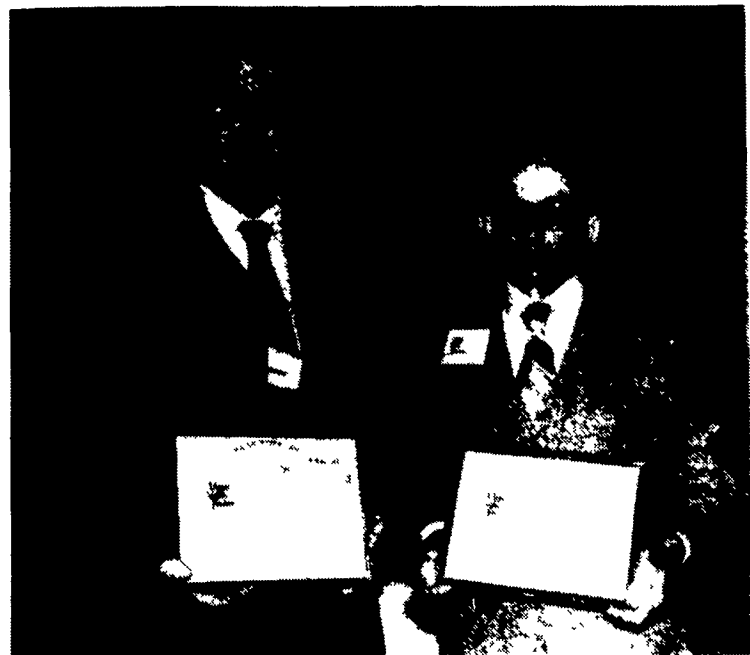
presidential election, dairymen must watch the marketing aspects of their milk.

Running concurrently with the business meeting was a separate ladies' program. Guest speakers were Doris Thomas and Jan Allen, Lancaster County home economists, and Patti Hudson, a consultant to the extension service.

In a luncheon session following the meeting, honor plaques were presented to members achieving a standard plate count of 8,000 or less and those maintaining a somatic cell count of 300,000 or less.

Members achieving the honor roll each month for 1983 were also recognized.

Guest speaker was Patrick Healy, chief executive director of the National Milk Producers Federation, Washington, D.C. Lackawanna County extension agent Thomas Jurchak was master of ceremonies.



Henry Kohler, left, and Harold Fabian are among six Lehigh Valley producers receiving honor plaques for a standard plate count of 8,000 or less.

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