

Cooperatives offer support during tough times

BY SALLY BAIR
Staff Correspondent

LANCASTER — Atlantic Breeders Cooperative President David Slusser told directors and members at the Cooperative's annual meeting Wednesday in

Lancaster that "these times are truly challenging. It is great to have the opportunity to be a leader in these times where you can do the most good."

In his report, Slusser looked at the industry from a human point of

view and said, "We are people. We are a people industry. We've got what it takes to handle what needs to be handled. We've got the strength and the leadership as an industry. The youthfulness, the intelligence and the thoughtfulness of the crowds attending agricultural meetings is impressive."

Slusser said he feels some farmers will not make it through this rough period, but feels the loss will be less in the Northeast where dairymen are close to their market and where there are not as many alternatives to dairying.

He reminded the dairymen that cooperatives were born in the Depression and farmers relied on cooperatives during those troubled times. He said cooperatives offer the same support now. As for Atlantic, Slusser said, "We offer bulls at prices people can afford. Our member business has grown and will continue to grow."

General Manager David Yoder in his report said, "There will be fewer cows in the national dairy herd - that is a fact." Atlantic will face the challenge of more competition and lower prices for milk.

He, too, recognized the support of young dairymen, saying, "Never before have we had as many young, fine, good



President David Slusser, left, welcomes two new members to Atlantic's Board of Directors: Frank Yost, center, and Richard Rhoades.



Atlantic Breeders Cooperative President David Slusser, left, presents a plaque to retired Dairy Extension Specialist Herb Gilmore and his wife, Clara, in recognition of his efforts on behalf of the Pennsylvania State Dairy Herd Improvement Association.

dairymen." He added, "A cooperative can only survive if it has the full support of those it serves."

Retired Penn State Extension Specialist Herbert Gilmore was honored with a plaque presented by Slusser on behalf of the Cooperative "for his tremendous contribution to the dairy industry." He was cited most specifically for his work with the

state Dairy Herd Improvement Association, and for the growth of that organization which contributes significant information for the AI industry.

Gilmore headed the organization through the centralization of the milk processing and milk testing laboratory, and through the computerization of data processing.

During the business meeting Secretary Norman Sollenberger seated the five directors who were elected during the 35 district meetings held for members in February. Elected were: Paul Weaver, Royersford; Harold Bollinger, Newmanstown; Clyde Robison, Coal Center; H. Donald Allison, Clymer; Richard Rhoades, Emlenton. Seated also was Frank Yost, Newville, who was appointed to serve the one-year term remaining for Kenneth Zeigler who resigned.

At the re-organization meeting of the directors, the following officers were re-elected: David Slusser, president; James Kreider, vice-president; Norman Sollenberger, secretary; John Paxton, treasurer.

Participating in the annual meeting were 45 members who were elected by members to serve on the resource and promotion committee. These members serve a one-year term, offering input to the Cooperative as well as serving as spokesmen for Atlantic.

Penn State Agricultural Economist H. Louis Moore told the dairymen at the annual meeting that there is no quick fix to the current dairy surplus situation. In fact, he realistically said they must expect "alternating periods of feast or famine." He noted that other agricultural enterprises have these fluctuations, with

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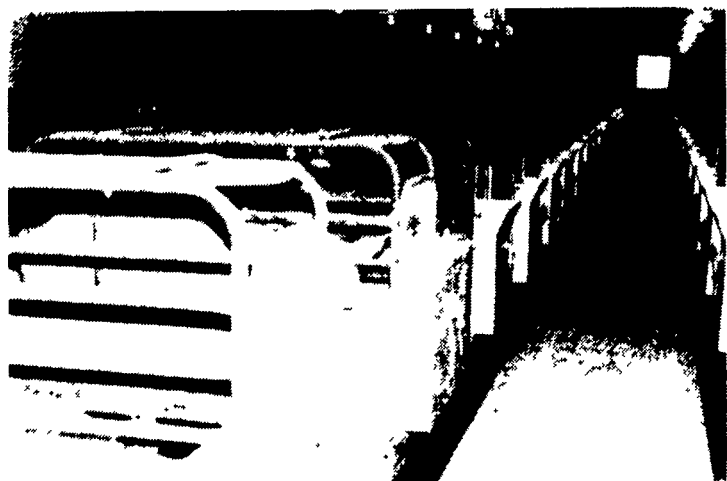
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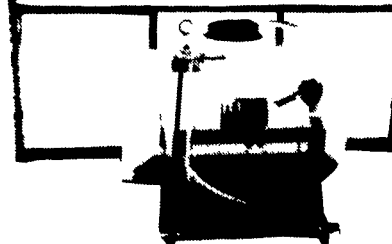
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