

Raw milk producers stress education need

BY ROBIN PHILLIPS
Staff Correspondent

WEST GROVE — The Pennsylvania Raw Milk Producer-Distributor Association held its annual meeting on March 13, at the Red Rose Inn, West Grove, and made plans to update advertising literature and continue to educate consumers on raw milk.

The speaker for the day was Roland Woodward, director of Kennett Laboratory. He stressed that farmers are more interested in defending a way of life and let the business side of farming slip too often. According to Woodward, farmers let everybody else run their business for them because of their long hours and pressures. Because of this, his conclusion was that direct sales to the public are "the only way to go."

Upset by "shoddy journalism", Woodward said, "raw milk producers are constantly victims of bad press." He encouraged better consumer education as to the benefits of raw milk. The most important element of raw milk is the natural enzymes in it. These are killed by heat - or pasteurization. "Enzymes are extremely important to our health," Woodward stated.

Saying that he is not against

Woodward told dairymen that there are five kinds of cholesterol. One kind is damaging to health. Of the others, two are necessary for developing the brain and brain functions. Consumers can take advantage of these kinds by eating eggs and drinking milk. Many things are blamed on milk unjustly, according to Woodward.

According to the officers of this association, there is a lot of prejudice against raw milk. There was discussion on improving and updating the educational literature of the association. Paul Daniels, Pineville, is chairman of this committee and also the vice president of the association. The Daniels dairy distributes to the Philadelphia and Allentown health food markets. Because all the members are involved in direct selling, the importance of

educating the public remained a priority for this association.

The meeting was conducted by President Joseph Stump, Stump Acres Dairy Farm, York. It was noted that there are 110 raw milk permit holders in Pennsylvania and — the largest number of any state in the nation. Among the members, herd sizes ranged from 100 cows to 12 cows and milk prices ranged from \$1.25 per gallon to \$5.00 per gallon for goat milk. The average price of the member's milk was in the \$1.50 to \$1.60 per gallon range. About half the membership also sells other agricultural products in their stores.

Anyone that is interested in more information on the association or a raw milk permit can contact Glendora Stump, R.D. 10, Box 300, York, Pa. 17404.

Vegetable auction

(Continued from Page A1)

auctions held in neighboring states, such as Laurel, Del. and Vineland, N.J.

"It's going to be a new experience for us," Good explained.

"We're pretty well set up to get started and as it goes along we'll just have to see what is needed."

At the start, the strawberries, sugar peas and other beginning crops will likely be sold right off the dock to wholesale buyers.

But when the volume increases for such crops as sweet corn and cantaloupes, loads will be auctioned right off the farmers' vehicles.

"We'll get started with selling off one row," Good said.

"If there is a need later, we can go to selling off two rows next year, perhaps."

Also involved in the planning of the auction has been auctioneer Paul Horst.

"We want to get a feel of it as we go along and continue to grow into it," he explained.

The planned opening of the wholesale auction as an alternate means of marketing their vegetables is seen as yet another step in farmers efforts — particularly in the Eastern section of Lancaster County — to find a more reliable cash crop.

In addition to the uncertainties of the tobacco market, farmers are seeking a crop that can provide a better cash flow during the year.

As one farmer explained it: "With vegetables, you can get a better return off an acre. And you have the money coming in during the season."

"With tobacco you work all season and there is no money until months after harvest. And sometimes there isn't even any money, then."



government regulations, Woodward told the association members that the final criteria for the farmer is the regulations set by consumers in their need for a good product. He stressed the importance of good flavor in milk and reminded dairymen to be careful of feeds that might affect flavor. Proper ventilation and proper handling practices are also essential for a delicious product.

Woodward stated that the strict inspections are brought on by the farmers themselves. They do not take enough care of their product. He also cited a poor sampling of milk by many samplers that cheat dairymen out of millions each year.

In regards to the cholesterol problem and constant bad press,

Del. gypsy moth meetings

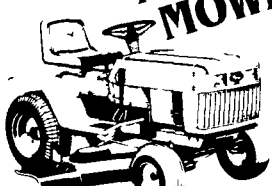
DOVER, Del. — The Delaware Department of Agriculture has scheduled three public meetings for the end of March to announce final plans and spraying locations for this year's gypsy moth suppression project.

Kevin Donnelly, New Castle County Forester, says forestry section personnel will discuss the location of the gypsy moth spray blocks, the aerial spray contractor, and final funding of the spray program by the Delaware General Assembly.

The first meeting is set for Tuesday at the Hartly Fire Hall. That will be followed by a meeting Thursday, at the Glasgow High School, and April 3 at Townsend Fire Hall. All three meetings begin at 7 p.m. and should conclude by 8.30 p.m. The public is invited to attend

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