

PFU holding membership drive

HARRISBURG — M. James Brown, President of the Pennsylvania Farmers Union, announced that Farmers Union plans to add over 500 new members by the end of January, 1985. Brown said, "Membership recruitment and involvement will be crucial as we work to draft a 1985 Farm Bill."

This general farm organization was founded in 1902. Though it started in Texas, its strength has since grown through the Midwest and as far east as Pennsylvania. There are now thirty states affiliated with this grass-roots organization, with a long history of successful advocacy on behalf of the family farm. Some of Farmers Union's accomplishments include:

- * The promotion of farmer-elected officials to administer farm programs,

- * The establishment of the Rural Electric Association to bring electricity to farmers and rural communities,

- * The establishment of the Rural Telephone program as a part of REA,

- * The promotion of the National

School Lunch Program.

- * The advocacy of Congress to tighten laws on tax shelter farming.

- * The promotion of an exclusion from OSHA regulations for farmers with fewer than ten employees.

- * Cooperation with the dairy industry to fight the removal of reconstituted milk from pricing

under the milk market orders,

- * The pressuring of Congress to defeat the coal slurry pipeline bill.

Brown stated that the Pennsylvania Farmers Union is very active in its support for Pennsylvania agriculture. He pointed out that the state organization was instrumental in the development of a Milk Security Fund to protect dairymen in cases of dealer

bankruptcies. The Pennsylvania Farmers Union also provided testimony that helped keep the Milk Marketing Board alive and maintained minimum pricing for milk. He also cited the group's lobbying efforts toward responsible oil and gas legislation and tax assessment exclusions for grain bins and corn cribs.

"The Pennsylvania Farmers

Union supports agriculture by the local, state and national levels, with all activities guided by policies from our membership. That makes us worth the small membership fee," Brown said. Farmers throughout the state will be called on to join the group during December and January in an effort to build support for a fair Farm Bill in 1985.

N.Y., N.J. milk \$13.91 for November

NEW YORK — Dairy farmers who supplied milk plants regulated under the New York-New Jersey marketing orders during November will be paid on the basis of a uniform price of \$13.91 per hundredweight. Market Administrator Thomas A. Wilson also stated that the price was \$13.83 in October and \$13.63 in November 1983. The uniform price is a marketwide weighted average of the value of farm milk used for fluid and manufactured dairy products.

The seasonal incentive fund

returned \$2,552,665.72 (including \$575,293.63 interest) to the dairy farmers' uniform price for November, or \$.298 per hundredweight. The fund was generated by reducing the uniform price paid to producers during the high-production spring months.

A total of 16,751 dairy farmers supplied the New York-New Jersey Milk Marketing area with 856,208,591 pounds of milk during November. This was a decrease of 4.3 percent (about 39 million pounds) from last year. The gross value to dairy farmers for milk

deliveries was \$123,037,650.53. This included differentials required to be paid to dairy farmers but not voluntary premiums or deductions authorized by the farmer.

Regulated milk dealers (handlers) used 395,939,165 pounds of milk for Class I, 46.2 percent of the total. This milk is used for fluid milk products such as homogenized, flavored, low test, and skim milks. For November, handlers paid \$14.89 per hundredweight for Class I milk compared with \$14.73 a year ago.

The balance (460,269,426 pounds

or 53.8 percent) was used to manufacture Class II products including butter, cheese, ice cream, and yogurt. Handlers paid \$12.78 per hundredweight for this milk.

The uniform price is based on milk containing 3.5 percent butterfat. For November 1984, there was a price differential of 18.2 cents for each one-tenth of one percent that the milk tested above or below the 3.5 percent standard.

All prices quoted are for bulk tank milk received within the 201-210 milk zone from New York City.

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96	4280	.240 (1/4")	13'- 7"	*300 to 360
96	4723	.240 (1/4")	16'- 0"	*360 to 420
96	6075	.240 (1/4")	21'- 4"	*480 to 560
96	7425	.240 (1/4")	26'- 8"	*600 to 700
120	7700	.240 (1/4")	20'- 3"	*700
120		.240 (1/4")	24'- 8"	*900
126		.240 (1/4")	20'- 4"	*800

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Milk production down

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania's November 1984 milk production totaled 753 million pounds, four percent below last year's production, according to the Pennsylvania Crop and Livestock Reporting Service.

The number of milk cows in the commonwealth during November averaged 735,000 head, 9,000 less than a year ago. Milk production per cow averaged 1,025 pounds in

November, down 30 pounds per cow from a year ago.

U.S. milk production during November totaled 10.6 million pounds, also four percent less than in November 1983. Total milk cows in the United States averaged 10.8 million head, three percent less than in November 1983. Production per cow averaged 974 pounds, 11 pounds less than a year earlier.

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