

Butler DHIA

(Continued from Page D14)

lifetime records over 170,000 milk were. Richard M. Beahm, Evans City; Ralph Thrower; Dovers Inn,

Harmony, and Hartzell Farm.

Five breeds of dairy cattle are represented on the Butler County DHIA. Dairy families with top-



Butler countians Joe Lange (left), high herd owner, and Wade Cooper, owner of the high lifetime producing cow, are both from Slippery Rock.

producing cattle in the colored breeds were: Ayrshire - C.C. and Harold Rader; Jersey - Kenneth Brennan and Roy Simpson; Brown Swiss - J.L. and H.F. Kennedy; Guernsey - Gladys Succop, and Lawrence and George Marburger.

Farmers with top individual producers in the Holstein breed included: Ralph Thrower, Dale and Jay Wack, C.C. and Harold Rader, W.K. Scheidemantle, Joe Lange, and Albert Hogg and Sons.

A new superior quality award for low somatic cell count was also given this year. George and Aileen Cudoc, Valencia, maintained an SCC of 76,000, ranking fifth in the state. Nine other breeders in the county were recognized for their average of under 200,000 SCC during the year.

Lester Louis "Lou" Vance, Butler, was honored with a plaque to mark his retirement this year after 18 years of service as a DHIA supervisor. He expressed his thanks and said he hoped that he had helped the farmers build up their cow herds, since that was one of his main goals in first taking the milk testing position.

In other business, Norman

Graham and Vance Burtner were retained as directors for another 3-year term.

Reigning Butler County Dairy Princess Janet Jones spoke to the group on the need of calcium in the daily diet, reminding everyone about the problems of osteoporosis. She also announced that the promotion committee is in search of girls to compete in the next dairy princess contest.

Guest speaker Harold Campbell,

the Extension area marketing agent, addressed the topic "What should be the course of the future." He outlined various ideas for coping with the dairy situation in the coming year. He distributed handouts with tables and charts that compared dairy statistics from previous years. He also handed out a questionnaire on milk support prices which he requested the farmers to return for evaluation.

NEDCO urges support for over-order pricing

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Following a Board of Directors meeting January 7 and 8 in Syracuse, NEDCO Chief Executive Officer Robert Forsythe stated that the cooperative is very interested in improving the economic position of all dairy farmers in the region by working together to achieve over-order price premiums through the existing Regional Common Marketing Agency (RCMA).

Dairy farmer net income has been steadily decreasing in the Northeast since 1980 under the M-W related federal pricing program, said Forsythe. An over-the-blend price would help stabilize farmer income in a time when many are selling out because of serious cash flow problems.

He explained that RCMA, formed in the mid-1970's by Northeastern cooperatives, including NEDCO, was quite effective in stabilizing incomes to New England and western New York dairymen, where membership was greatest. It increased incomes to participating New England dairy farmers about \$22 million at that time, he said.

RCMA is simply dairymen and their cooperatives working together through a single agency to market their Class 1 fluid milk in common at fair and reasonable prices, he said.

Forsythe added that the milk price premiums above the federal order minimum Class 1 prices are now effective in 34 of the 45 federal order markets in the country... with price premiums and/or service charges averaging over 80 cents per hundredweight, as reported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The concept of over-order pricing on Class 1 milk deliveries has not been fully accepted in the New York-New Jersey market because of insufficient support from the large numbers of independent producers in this area, he said.

Since RCMA was originally set up for cooperative members, revisions to the bylaws are now being considered by NEDCO, which would extend the opportunity for membership to independents as well.

According to Forsythe, it is hoped that RCMA can become the effective marketing tool for northeast dairymen it was intended to be. Furthermore, there appears to be growing interest in stabilized milk pricing by all sectors of the industry, particularly now that the government has indicated it intends to take a less active role, and, in fact, appears ready to sharply reduce dairy price supports.

"We see more and more, the need for dairymen everywhere to coordinate their marketing efforts for mutual benefit," he said. "We can no longer depend solely upon the government.

"Beginning with a common agency to market the great majority of the milk in the northeast, is a more effective way for dairymen to better determine their own future," said Forsythe.

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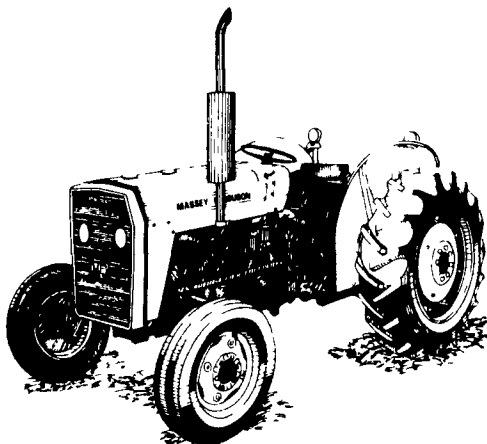
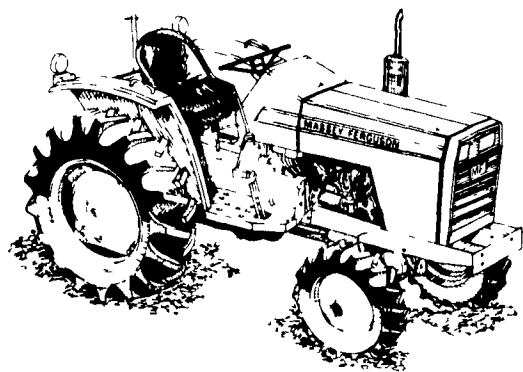
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