

Economist addresses Inter-State 3 members

BY WENDY WEHR

CHESTNUT LEVEL — Members of Inter-State District #3, Southern Lancaster Local, met for their annual dinner meeting on Tuesday, January 29, in Chestnut Level. Addressing the group was Inter-State economist James Fraher and Robert B. McSparran, District #3 director and president of the Inter-State Milk Producers'

Cooperative board of directors. Fraher discussed the supply and demand situation both nationally and locally. He predicted that the outlook nationally is for production to increase, with a greater availability of feed and a better milk-feed price relationship in 1985. Farmers can expect a decline in Order 4 blend prices in the coming

year, however, because of the national supply situation, which will mean continued government purchases and the triggering of the two price support cuts in April and July of this year, he explained.

As well as offering comments on the national outlook, Fraher also briefly reviewed the local situation. With a high demand for raw milk and manufactured products, there is a strength in prices regionally, he said.

Although a reduced volume at Inter-State's Holly milk plant is forcing the plant to operate below the break-even point, he added, Holly's losses are offset by the increased regional demand and higher prices.

Holly is also venturing into the manufacturing of whole milk powder, which is primarily used in candy. This move into a new commercial market, coupled with Holly's flexibility in handling excess milk during weekends and holidays, allows it to serve the purpose for which it was designed, said Fraher, that of balancing Inter-State's supply.

Referring to the 1985 Farm Bill as a "crucial piece of legislation," Fraher also reminded the District #3 members to pay attention to the supply management debate that will emerge. He suggested the dairymen will see a "movement to the market," whereby price support levels will be more sen-



James and Virginia Hess, left, received recognition from Robert McSparran, Inter-State Director, for 5 years of participation in the co-op's cost of production study.

sitive to supply and demand, and possibly to the farmers' production costs.

"I would urge you as individual producers to follow that debate and make your views known," concluded Fraher.

Both Fraher and President McSparran reminded the Inter-State members of their responsibilities to the co-op. Said Fraher, "You are the owners of your co-op. We work for you and need your participation to know what you're thinking, so we can do a better job for you."

And McSparran reassured the

dairymen of the strength of their co-op. "You are shipping to a strong market, a market of integrity," he emphasized.

Also encouraging the members to take an active role in their co-op was Jay Ranck, delegate. He reported on the Inter-state Annual Meeting, and said that members who are asked to serve as delegates should think seriously about the opportunity.

McSparran also reviewed the work of the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board, citing the focus of the dairy promotion campaign. He urged all of the farmers to support the referendum to continue the 15 cent mandatory advertising program.

"After all, we have a product that can't be matched," said McSparran. "\$150 million is not too much to recover our milk market."

Reinforcing McSparran's comments were a short film about the promotion efforts of the National Dairy Board and a slide program entitled "Osteoporosis and You."

Also reporting at the meeting was Edward L. Zug, a finalist in the Young Cooperators' Contest who earned the opportunity to attend the American Institute for Cooperatives in Bozeman, Montana. And McSparran, praising the Young Cooperator program, encouraged the "young people to learn more about their own co-op and others."

Special guests at the annual meeting included Lancaster County Agent Jay Irwin, alternate dairy princesses Kris Esbenshade and Sarah Arrowsmith, and, from the Solanco Ag department, Dr. Arba Henry.

Henry introduced members of the Solanco FFA Chapter and reminded the group that the Solanco dairy judging team was third in the nation this year. He also thanked the farmers for allowing the students to come onto their farms for practice sessions.

Receiving small monetary awards at the meeting were five 4-H members who achieved top scores on their 4-H dairy project records. They were: Helen Arrowsmith, Sarah Arrowsmith, Tom Arrowsmith, Susan Hess, and Cindy Gordon.

Chairing the annual meeting was Scott Kreider, vice-president of the Southern Lancaster Local.



Director Robert McSparran, left, congratulated Edd W. Zug Jr. for 25 years of membership in Inter-State District #3.

PRESENTS THE SEVENTH

KEYSTONE PORK CONGRESS

FEBRUARY 21, 1985

At Penn Harris Motor Inn
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PRODUCER'S PROGRAM
Thursday, February 21

8:00 a.m. Registration - Doors open to Trade Show

Morning Session:
Chairman - Lester A. Burdette

10:00 a.m. Hog Market Outlook
H. Louis Moore

11:00 a.m. Stress: What to Do When You Reach The End Of Your Rope
James VanHorn

Afternoon Session:
Chairman - H. Louis Moore

1:30 p.m. Animal Welfare in Pork Production
Stan Curtis

2:15 p.m. National Pork Producers Council Activities
Russ Sanders & Eugene Wingert

2:45 p.m. Swine Ecology
Stan Curtis

CONGRESS BANQUET - February 21, 6:00 p.m.

Master of Ceremonies Abe Fisher
Speaker Rolland "Pig" Paul*
"We've Been Down This Road Before"

* Speaker sponsored by: Pfizer, Inc.

PORKETTE'S PROGRAM
Thursday, February 21

Morning Session:
Cheryl Keiffer; Presiding

10:00 a.m. "Entertaining" Buffet
Francis Horst

11:00 a.m. Stress: What to Do When You Reach The End of Your Rope
James Van Horn

Afternoon Session:

1:00 p.m. Business Meeting

1:30 p.m. Speaker Corps

2:00 p.m. "Making Pigsuede Roses," Audience participation
Betty Wingert

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Display of "pig" craft items and garments, etc.

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FEBRUARY 21, 1985

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