

## Milk diversion program enters final month

READING — The U.S. Department of Agriculture's milk diversion program entered its 15th and final month on March 1, 1985. The voluntary program offered dairy producers and incentive payment of \$10 per hundredweight for reducing their commercial milk sales from 5 to 30 percent between January 1, 1984 and March 31, 1985.

Diversion payments were made to eligible milk producers after each quarter of the contract period, Donald E. Lutz, chairman of the Berks County ASC Committee said. Payments to Berks County's dairy farmers totaled \$550,960.00 at the end of the 4th

quarter. For the final payment, program participants are required to provide acceptable evidence of total milk marketings for the entire contract period, and certify that their marketing reductions were not offset by expansion of production in other facilities in which they had an interest.

In this, the final month of the program, Mr. Lutz said contracted dairy producers should make sure that they do not market more milk than is allowed by their contract. To qualify for diversion payments, a producer must limit milk marketings on a contracted unit to the difference between the established base for the unit and

the contracted reduction level for the unit. In addition, if a producer has an interest in an uncontracted unit, the milk marketings on the uncontracted unit are also limited by milk marketings on the uncontracted unit during the period December 1, 1982 and November 30, 1983. Milk is considered marketed when it is disposed of in raw or processed form, by voluntary or involuntary sale, barter or exchange or by gift.

According to Lutz, 34 dairy

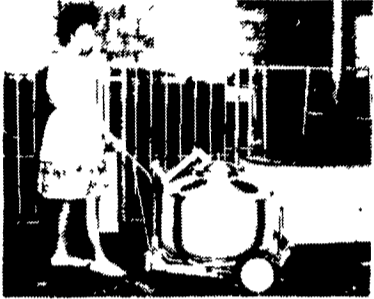
producers in Berks County participated in the program and contracted to reduce their fluid milk output by 7,406,600 pounds. To achieve the required reduction in milk sales, the farmers enrolled 1,195,503 hundredweight of their milk bases and diverted 55,459 hundredweight.

The ASCS official said dairy producers may apply for their incentive payment in April, after they receive their final sales receipt for all milk marketed in March, 1985.



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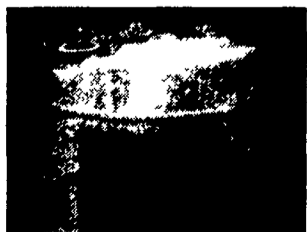
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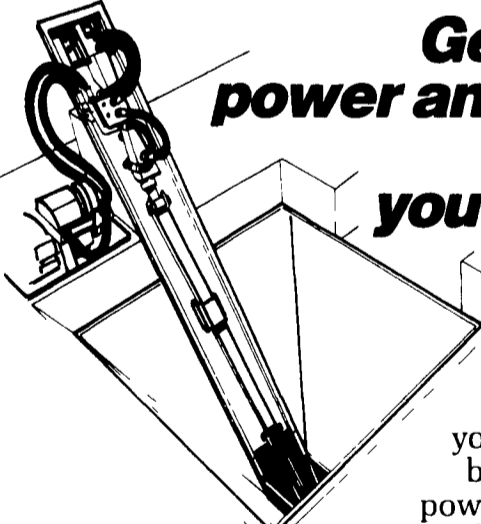
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