

County RCMA representatives appointed

HARRISBURG — The Pennsylvania State Grange and Pennsylvania Farmers Union have announced the appointment of local representatives in 12 counties to promote membership in the Regional Cooperative Marketing Agency (RCMA). RCMA is a cooperative formed to negotiate over-order prices for dairy producers.

The two farm organizations have been conducting meetings for dairy farmers across the state to

explain the value of belonging to the cooperative. RCMA was first formed in New England in the mid-1970's to negotiate over-order prices for fluid milk for its members. The cooperative was successful in obtaining higher prices ranging from 3 to 85 cents per hundredweight.

RCMA was recently reactivated due to growing concern throughout the Northeast about declining milk prices and the uncertainty about

the future of the federal dairy price support program.

State Grange Master Charles Wismer has pointed out that another drop in the milk support price this year will bring the price down to the level it was in 1979. "Production costs and the overall cost of living have increased 3-4 percent every year," he said.

In addition, federal order prices have dropped from January to May of this year. The price announced for Order 4 in May dropped 77 cents from January, he said.

"Dairy farmers must take action if they are going to get a better price for their milk," said Wismer. "Producers have a chance to help themselves by joining RCMA and working together to improve milk prices."

There are no dues to belong to RCMA. Normal operating costs are deducted from the over-order premium which RCMA collects from the handler and returns to the farmers. In the past, this deduction never exceeded one-half cent per hundredweight.

Farmers who join RCMA would receive the over-order price from RCMA, but they would continue to receive their milk checks at the

federal order price from their buying handler.

In order to succeed, RCMA must have control over a major portion of the milk market. The cooperative's goal is to sign up 95 percent of all milk producers from Maine to Virginia. A number of major dairy cooperatives serving Pennsylvania have joined the effort, including Dairylea, Lehigh Valley and Eastern Milk Producers.

For further information about RCMA or to join, dairy farmers should contact the RCMA representative in their county listed below, or call the State Grange at 1-800-242-9661, or Farmers Union at 1-800-932-4629.

The newly appointed county RCMA representatives are:

Susquehanna County: Richard Place, Laceyville, 717-869-1311; Ted Place, Meshoppen, 717-833-4974; Robert Heistman, Dimock, 717-965-2476; Milan Hibbard, Dimock, 717-278-1705; Joe Rogers, Hop Bottom, 717-289-4304; Richard Arnold, Elk Lake, 717-965-2147; Wayne Morcome, Hop Bottom, 717-289-4103.

Wyoming County: Kenneth Teel, Meshoppen, 717-833-5830; Arden Tewksbury, Meshoppen, 717-833-

5749; Charles Kalinouskie, Tunkhannock, 717-836-1646.

Potter County: Kenneth Lambert, Ulysses, 814-848-7676; Joe Miles, Ulysses, 814-274-7804.

York County: Albert Garber, York, 717-792-9400.

Bradford County: Mike Olsun, Columbia Cross Roads, 717-297-4335; Lazzell Watkins, Columbia Cross Roads, 717-297-2280; Gerald Clouse, Wyalusing, 717-746-1344; Gene Barrett, Wysox, 717-265-5974.

Montour County: Edwin Kremer, Milton, 717-742-8044.

Wayne County: Albert Lopatofsky, Waymart, 717-253-2097; Richard Pazel, Waymart, 717-785-3857; Charles Dennis, Honesdale, 717-253-4633.

Cumberland County: Louis Stutzman, Mechanicsburg, 717-766-5630.

Centre County: Lillian Houtz, Rebersburg, 814-349-8280; Harold Wolfe, Centre Hall, 814-364-1349; Paul Hartle, Bellefonte, 814-355-3149.

Union County: John Walters, Lewisburg, 717-523-6315.

Juniata County: David Stetler, Mifflintown, 717-436-2591; Arthur Zug, Mifflintown, 717-463-3216.

Lancaster County: Naomi Spahr, Lititz, 717-627-2185.

Maryland extension offers pest program in 2 counties

HAGERSTOWN, Md. — The University of Maryland Extension Service is initiating an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program in Washington and Frederick counties.

Pest Management is one of the most important aspects of producing field crops. Insects, weed and disease infestations have the potential to be not only damaging to the crop, but expensive to the farmer.

Many farmers do not have the time to check all of their fields for pest problems. Further, few farmers know at what level of infestation an insect or weed problem will cause economic loss.

These situations encourage farmers to treat fields with preventative pesticide measures which can result in placing unneeded chemicals on the fields, increasing pest resistance to chemical control, and it may be in unnecessary expense.

The IPM Program is designed to demonstrate to farmers the economy of scouting to insure better pest management practices.

The program works like this: The farmer can enroll alfalfa,

corn, small grain or soybean fields. He pays \$4.25 per acre for alfalfa, \$3.00 for corn, \$2.75 for soybeans and \$1.50 for small grains.

Crop pest scouts, trained by the University of Maryland Pest Control Specialists, start checking alfalfa fields in early April, primarily for alfalfa weevil.

Corn and soybeans are scouted as the plants emerge to count stands, check for insects and post-emergence weeds. Small grains are scouted for cereal leaf beetle, aphids and armyworm.

Scouting reports are made to the farmer, Extension Agent, and the University specialists. Pest control recommendations are made by the County Agent or the Pest Control Specialists.

IPM is not a new concept. It has been used successfully throughout the country on many crops. In Maryland alone, thousands of acres of crops are scouted each year saving producers money, time and worry.

If you are interested in enrolling acreage in this program, or if you would like more details, contact your County Extension Office

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