

Order 4 milk base price drops 27 cents in April

ALEXANDRIA, VA — Middle Atlantic Order Market Administrator Joseph D. Shine today announced an April 1985 base milk price of \$13.26 per hundredweight and an excess milk price of \$11.45. The weighted average April price was \$13.11 and the butterfat differential for the month was 16.3 cents.

The base milk price was down 27 cents from March and was the same as last April. The weighted average price dropped 33 cents from March and was 17 cents below a year earlier.

The Order 4 Class I milk price was down 19 cents from March to April 1985, while the Class II price dropped 37 cents, accounting for the sharp monthly decline in producer prices.

The advertising withholding rate, which is deducted from the base and excess milk prices but not the weighted average price, was 10 cents a hundredweight in April 1985 and 14 cents last April.

Mr. Shine said that producer receipts totaled 527.8 million pounds during April, and that the average daily delivery per producer was a record high 2,588 pounds, exceeding last April's average producer delivery per day by 223 pounds or 9.4 percent. The number of producers declined 249 from last April.

Class I producer milk totaled 237.6 million pounds and was up almost 3 million pounds or 1.2 percent from April 1984. Class I milk accounted for 45.03 percent of

total producer milk receipts during the month, compared with 46.96 percent last April.

Base milk accounted for only 86.8 percent of total producer milk receipts in April. A year ago the

percentage was almost 92 percent. The average butterfat test of producer milk of 3.66 percent was down slightly from 3.71 percent a year ago.

Middle Atlantic Order pool

handlers reported Class I in-area milk sales of 202.0 million pounds during April, a decline of 0.4 percent from a year earlier, after adjustment to eliminate variation due to calendar composition.

Rural growth

NEWARK, DE — The rural population growth which occurred during the 1970s is over in some parts of the country, but not in Delaware, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's latest set of county population estimates. Some observers are becoming concerned over the potential impact of this development.

"Rural Delaware appears to be continuing to grow at a faster pace than urban parts of the

state," reports University of Delaware extension specialist in community resource development, Daniel S. Kuennen. This runs counter to national trends for the 1980s. Nearly a third of the rural counties in the U.S. that experienced a resurgence of growth in the 1970s are losing population again, the specialist says, probably in response to the prolonged recession

of the early 1980s.

By contrast, from 1970 to 1980 the growth rate for Sussex County, Del., was 22 percent, followed by Kent County at 19 percent and New Castle County at 3.4 percent. From 1980 to 1983 metropolitan Delaware grew by 1.5 percent while, at 2.9 percent, the state's rural population nearly doubled.

What are the reasons for this trend, and what are its implications for Delaware's rural residents and the communities in which they live?

One explanation for Sussex County's phenomenal growth is the increased number of people who are retiring to second homes in coastal communities—a process which will no doubt be accelerated by the duPont company's current offer of early retirement to many employees.

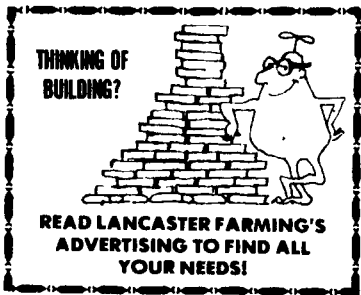
A relatively low cost of living and accessibility to East Coast cities are other attractions in rural Kent and Sussex counties.

Both counties have also enjoyed modest growth in service industries and small businesses in recent years—another contributing factor. However, service industries in rural southern Delaware have expanded at a slower rate than in the rest of the state—a fact Kuennen views with some concern.

"Already there is a need for more services—including central sewer systems, police and fire protection, roads, schools and medical care—as a result of population growth," the specialist says.

A second cause for concern is the fact that some development in both Kent and Sussex counties is occurring on prime agricultural land and in environmentally sensitive areas. Recognizing the potential impact of this development, Sussex County is presently revising its land use plans for the entire county as well as its southern coastal area—a procedure involving considerable differences of opinion.

"We're talking about competing values," Kuennen says, "When people move to the country, they bring their urban values with them. Some have a hard time adjusting to rural lifestyles, so this is very much a period of transition for rural Delaware. Because of the fast-paced growth in resort areas, coastal Sussex is experiencing the greatest change."



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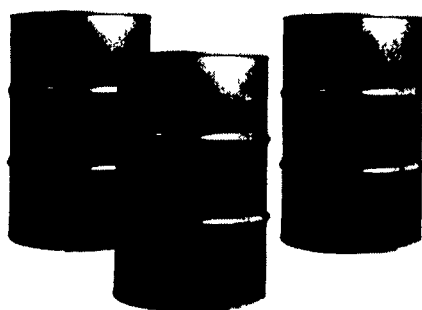
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