

# Lehigh marketings increase 8.6 percent in '85

BY KATHY E. GILL  
Staff Correspondent

LANCASTER — Lehigh Valley Farmers marketed 954 million pounds of milk in fiscal 1986, an increase of 8.6 percent over fiscal 1985, General Manager William M. Stout told producers and guests at the cooperative's sixth annual meeting here Wednesday.

Tying his remarks around the theme "New Horizons," Stout said that Lehigh farmer-owners received \$768,000 in quality premiums in fiscal 1986 and another \$340,000 in other bonus payments. In the last five years, producers have received \$4 million in premiums and bonuses, he said.

Patronage is being returned this year on a cash and certificate basis: cash at 3.6 cents and certificates at 14.4 cents per hun-

dredweight. Member equity certificates total \$5,631,559 for a six-year period.

Stout attributed the good year partially to a two percent decrease in operating costs. He commented that the effort to obtain over-order pricing through the Regional Cooperative Marketing Association (RCMA) has been stymied because "independent farmers are slow to participate."

Treasurer Robert R. Gehman presented the unaudited financials, which showed a net margin of \$2.68 million. He reported that Lehigh Valley Farmers owns 73 percent of the assets of Atlantic Processing, Inc. (API), totalling \$9,984,000 in equity.

Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Richard Grubb was the guest speaker at the annual lun-

cheon, held in the Cabaret Room of the Host Farm in Lancaster. In an optimistic address, Grubb applauded the "more market-oriented" approach of the 1985 Farm Bill and predicted that land prices have bottomed out.

In admitting that all is not roses, he said, "The debt load of the average Pennsylvania farmer is significantly lower than that of those in neighboring states. However, cash flow is a problem for many Pennsylvania farmers."

"It doesn't take an economist to compare" the prices paid and prices received by farmers to realize that there is a problem, he said, however. From 1977-84, prices paid by farmers increased 64 percent; prices received increased 27 percent.

He reminded the audience that

since 1980, agriculture has been the leading economic sector of the Commonwealth, led in part by the state's fifth ranking in dairy, first ranking in mushrooms, and third ranking in egg production.

He closed with a plug for Penn State's first "Future In Agriculture" conference slated for March 19-20 at the Harrisburg Holiday Inn.

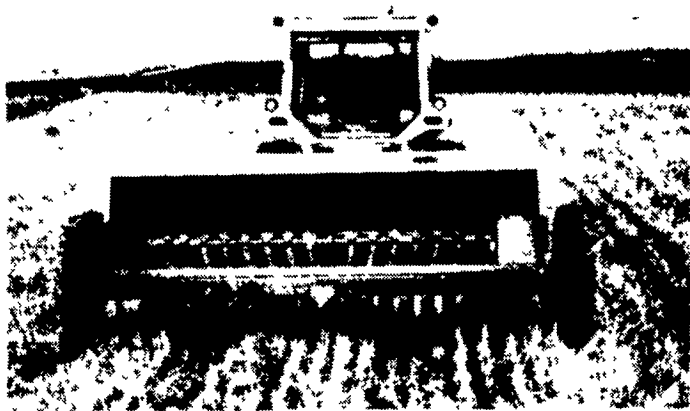
Also at the luncheon, President Alpheus Ruth recognized District 7 director Earl Reighard, who has sold his farm and retired from the board after nine years of service. He has been replaced by Robert Nearhoof, Sr. of Huntingdon County.

At the close of the afternoon session, several Lehigh farmer-owners were recognized for producing quality milk.



Alpheus L. Ruth

## LILLISTON 9680 NO-TILL GRAIN DRILL

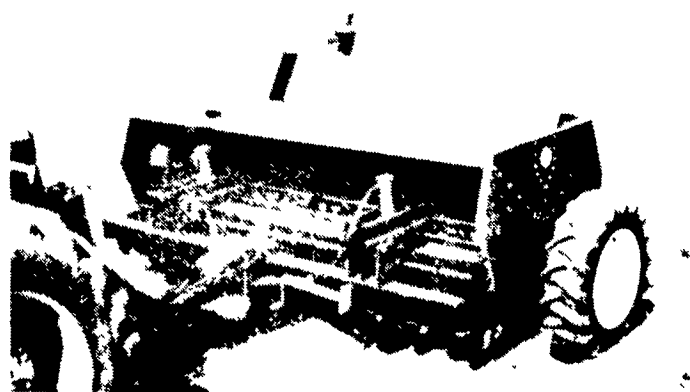


### For Heavy Stubble and Hard Soils

The new Lilliston 9680 No-Till Grain Drill will operate in maximum severe conditions, where uniform penetration of heavy stubble and hard soils is required. Unlike some of the so-called "no-till" drills available today, which are actually conventional drills with front coulters added, the Lilliston is designed, from the ground up, for one purpose: No-till seeding.

#### Some Special Features

- Maximum empty weight of 7,160 lbs transfers 390 lbs. of down pressure to each of the 18 openers on 7 inch spacings.
- Heavy duty 14 inch cutting coulters and double disc openers, spring-loaded scrapers and center rib gauge wheels.
- Three hydraulic cylinders regulate pressure on openers for precision depth control
- Patented double-chambered feed cups which maintain even seed flow to the feed wheels
- Cluster gear boxes for easy selection of 27 application speeds of seed and fertilizer



Drills In Stock And Ready To Go!

SEE THE NEW LILLISTON 9680 NOW AT:

# KEILHERBROS.

SINCE TRACTOR CO. 1921

Rt. 419 between Schaefferstown and Cornwall,  
Lebanon County, Lebanon, PA 17042  
717-949-6501

## Milk scare can be a lesson

BY KATHY E. GILL  
Staff Correspondent

LANCASTER — National Milk Producers Federation staff member John Adams suggested the current milk contamination and scare in Arkansas and bordering states be a lesson to dairy farmers across the country.

"You must learn to be aware of what you are purchasing, whether it is feed or seed. You need some assurance that the product is free of contaminants. If you cannot get such an assurance, then don't buy the product," he admonished.

Adams' comments were in reference to a nationally-breaking news story which told of 60 plus dairy farms which have been af-

ected by a contamination with heptachlor.

The affected farmers apparently purchased mash from a gasahol plant, Adams said. The plant's owner had processed seed corn and other distressed corn, some of which had been treated. The chemical was present in the mash and was passed on through the food chain to the milk.

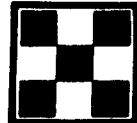
The dairy farms shipped their milk to a Little Rock, Arkansas plant, which distributes throughout the mid-West.

It will take six months for the dairies to milk out the chemical, Adams said. NMPF is attempting to obtain indemnification monies for the farmers.



# KEYSTONE MILLS

—Serving Agriculture—Since 1894—



Leaders In The Hog Industry

"The Year Of The Sow"  
**YOU ARE INVITED!**

to the  
**Keystone Mills Sow Feeder Meeting**  
March 26, 1986, Leola Family Restaurant

#### AGENDA

- 8:30 a.m.- Coffee
- 9:00 a.m.- \* Feeding Programs/Research, Gestation and Lactation  
David Hoogmoed, Purina Mills DM
- \* Survival, the Concept of Margin Over Feed Cost  
Bion Richards, P.I.C. DM
- \* Your Herd Management  
Terry Sears, Purina Mill Area Hog Specialist
- \* P.I.C. Around the World, An Introduction.
- LUNCH
- Adjourn after Lunch.

Please R.S.V.P. by calling (717) 354-4616  
or (717) 738-4251

Thank You,

The Keystone Mills Hog Dept., David Snyder,  
Steve Foreman, Jay M. Weaver, Gene Weaver

## Keystone Mills

RD #3, Lancaster Ave.  
Ephrata, PA 17522-9336  
PA ONLY 1-800-292-2111