Dairylea sells New York plant

SYRACUSE — Dairylea Cooperative Inc., a majar marketer of milk and dairy products in hte Northeast, announced that an arrangement has been completed to sell its fluid milk processing and distribution business in Metropolitan New York City to Tuscan Dairy Farms, Inc. of Union, New Jersey. Dairylea will supply milk and manufactured dairy products to the operation.

According to terms of the agreement, Tuscan will begin operation of Dairylea's Woodside, Queens plant, the Lindenhurst, Long Island depot and the associated distribution business on or about May 1. All of Dairylea's approximately 250 metropolitan employees will become employees of Tuscan.

Service to customers will continue uninterrupted. The Dairylea brand will continue to be offered under a special licensing agreement with Tuscan. Dairylea is dedicated to assist with a smooth transition.

"It is a good move for both of us," commented Dairylea Cheif Executive Officer, Bob Hall. "Tuscan's marketing and distribution expertise, backed with a Dairylea quality milk supply and cultured products, affords consumers a broad range of high quality dairy products."

Ventures and working relationships are not new to Dairylea. The Cooperative already has ventures in place with Upstate Milk Cooperatives, Inc. in Western New York, Atlantic Processing, Inc. in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and owns about one-third of O-AT-KA Milk Products, a manufacturer of dairy products in Batavia, New York. There is a milk assembly and marketing agreement in place with Agri-Mark, the largest dairy cooperative in New England. "The idea," according to Hall, "is to market farmers' milk to its maximum advantage and provide the best possible products and services to consumers."

Dairylea, a cooperative business owned by 3,000 dairy farmers will continue the direct processing and distribution of a complete line of fluid milk and dairy products in Upstate New York. Dairylea plants at Syracuse, Vernon and Oneida, New York produce fluid milk, cream, LactAid and cultured dairy products. With 1985 sales of $360 million, it is the nation's 96th largest food marketer.

March milk price announced

ALEXANDRIA, VA — Middle Atlantic Order Market Administrator Joseph D. Shine today announced a March 1986 base milk price of $12.33 per hundredweight and an excess milk price of $10.89. The weighted average March price was $12.30 and the butterfat differential for the month is 15.8 cents.

The base milk price was down 27 cents from February and was $1.20 lower than last March. The weighted average price was down 15 cents from February and was $1.14 lower than a year earlier. The gross value of March producer milk was $68.0 million, compared to $71.1 million a year ago.

Mr. Shine said that producer receipts totaled 554.6 million pounds during March, an increase of 24.0 million pounds from last March, and the average daily delivery of 2,674 pounds per producer increased 135 pounds or 5.3 percent from a year earlier.

Class I producer milk totaled 244.3 million pounds and was up nearly one million pounds or four-tenths of one percent from last March. Class I milk accounted for 44.05 percent of total producer milk receipts during the month, compared with 45.88 percent in March 1985.

Base milk accounted for 91.52 percent of total producer milk receipts in March compared with 88.68 percent last year. The average butterfat test of producer milk was 3.78 percent, up from 3.74 percent last March.

Middle Atlantic Order pool handlers reported Class I in-area milk sales of 211.4 million pounds during March, an increase of eight-tenths of one percent from a year earlier after adjustment to eliminate variation due to calendar composition.

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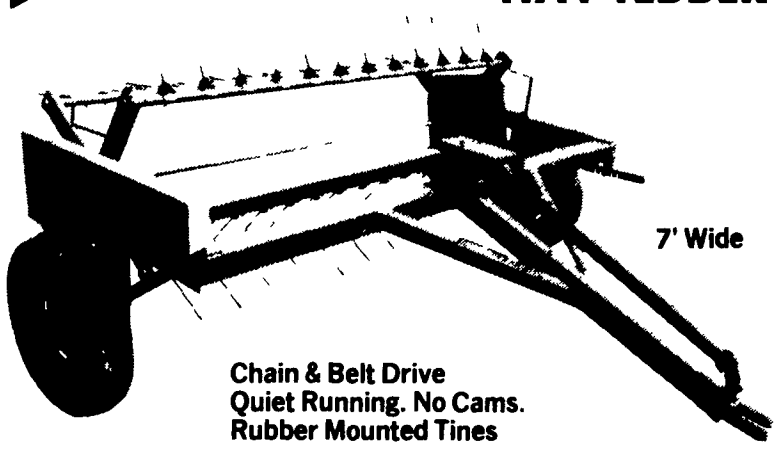

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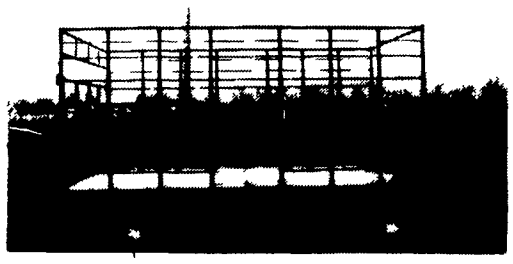

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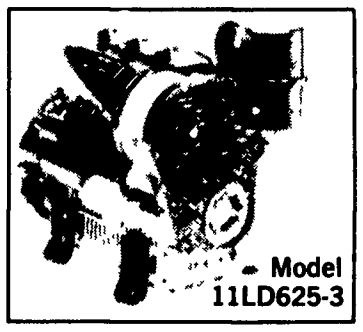

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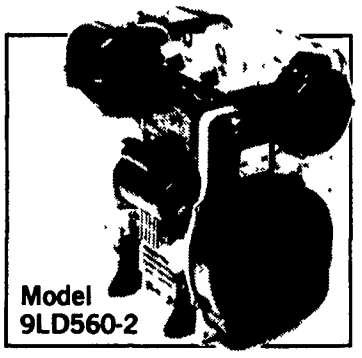

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