

# Dairylea Records \$2 Million Sales Increase

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over-order prices within a few months, or we must once more concede that in the Northeast, and only in the Northeast, dairy farmers are unable to bring about enough unified effort to help themselves achieve an over-order price for their milk."

Rutherford challenged the Northeast cooperatives to pull together as those in the central third of the nation have, to eliminate duplication and stop competing with each other for members and markets.

"If we on the East Coast allow our costs to accelerate faster than the cost of transporting product in from the Midwest, we can expect

to lose both margins and market share. We have a long way to go to put this region on an efficiency footing with the super-plants and super-co-ops being developed in other regions."

On the national legislative scene, Rutherford warned against a supply-management plan which cuts Northeast production in the same proportion as some of the high surplus regions, maintaining it will lose markets for the Northeast.

James C. Barr, chief executive officer of the National Milk Association, speaking on the politics of milk, told delegates there is a glimmer of hope in the national dairy scene.

The whole herd buyout is working — milk production is down more than 3 percent and the program is going to come in at budget. Mechanisms built into the 1985 Food Security Act will allow the Secretary of Agriculture to initiate a new diversion program or buyout and to drop price supports if surpluses begin to increase, which Barr predicts they will do.

Gramm-Rudman-Hollings won't go away, despite the failure of the government to put the second round of cuts into effect in August. In an election year, Barr said, Congress circumvented the unpopular deficit-cutting program by

using "creative accounting." But he expects legislators to be back on the deficit-cutting track next year.

Barr sees four alternatives available to Congress to lower its cost in agriculture, particularly dairy: limit the dollar amount of CCC payments; initiate price support cuts earlier than originally slated; have the Secretary of Agriculture institute another DTP or diversion program; or turn to a different supply-management program. Political pressure from several groups, including the National Cattlemen's Association, essentially rule out the possibility of another DTP, Barr believes.

He cautioned against looking to supply-management programs as

probable alternatives since both the President and Secretary of Agriculture oppose them.

Barr also expressed concern that in the upcoming General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade discussions which are slated to focus on agriculture, the United States will be looking to recapture its foreign grain markets, and the dairy industry may be used as a negotiating tool. He is fearful foreign competition will be given greater access to American dairy markets.

Farm credit being another major stumbling block to the health of agriculture, Barr predicts the government will go along with some sort of infusion of money into the system.

"In spite of the difficulties in agriculture, we are going to work our way out of the current problems. The '85 Farm Bill is a major step. It will undergo fine tuning in the 100th Congress and price supports will become again what they were intended to be — the bottom line below which prices will not sink."

Cheap corn is a longterm detriment to the dairy industry Barr said. "As soon as we eliminate overproduction of corn and wheat, we will eliminate dairy problems as well."

Dairylea economist George O'Brien gave delegates his "worst case scenario" of milk prices for the next six months. Starting with this month's milk, Barr predicted blend prices will drop from \$12.49 a hundredweight to \$11.30. His monthly estimates were: October, \$12.49; November, \$12.40; December \$12.01; January 1987, \$11.96; February, \$11.75; and March \$11.30.

"It looks like 1987 could be at least as good as 1986 in the worst case scenario, and could be 15 cents to 20 cents higher."

O'Brien currently expects the support price to be dropped 50 cents in January of 1988, an action provided for in the 1985 farm bill based on surplus levels.

## Try These Tips For High Management Wheat

NEWARK, Del. — It's wheat planting time again, and University of Delaware extension plant pathologist Bob Mulrooney and extension agronomy specialist Richard Taylor have some recommendations for area growers, whether they're planting conventionally or intensively. Maximum yields depend on several factors including timing, fertility, varietal selection and seeding rate.

**Proper timing.** Plant as close as possible to the Hessian fly free date, which coincides with the average date of the first frost. "Early planting can make wheat lush and susceptible to fall powdery mildew and rust infections," Mulrooney says. "It also allows build-up of aphids which can transmit barley yellow dwarf virus to wheat. Late planting, on the other hand, increases the risk of poor stands."

Taylor says, "The optimum time to plant is within a week to 10 days after the fly free date to insure strong vigorous plants before winter sets in. For late plantings

seeding rate should be increased to help compensate for winter losses."

**Good fertility.** For maximum yields, 20 pounds of nitrogen applied in the fall is recommended, and phosphorus and potassium levels should be in the high range. Spring nitrogen application should be made based on plant growth and development, according to Taylor. If the wheat has grown very little and has only a few tillers, nitrogen should be applied as early as possible. However, early nitrogen causes the greatest increase in plant height, so either the nitrogen application should be split or the use of a growth regulator to shorten the plant should be considered. If the small grain is growing adequately and has tillered profusely, then nitrogen should be applied at Feekes growth stage 5, full tiller and leaf sheaths erect, or Feekes growth stage 6, initial jointing with one node visible on the stem.

For high or intensive cereal management (ICM) use 100 to 120 pounds per acre of nitrogen, but for

non-ICM small grains, use 60 to 80 pounds per acre of nitrogen. ICM is a total package program. Unless you prepare ahead of time to use ICM and use the whole program, the extra nitrogen called for by the program will only be an extra expense not likely to return any profit.

**Field preparation.** Work in Georgia on coastal plain soils has shown that yields increase when the seedbed has been moldboard or chisel plowed and then disked, rather than only disked. Prepare the field to limit the number and areas of low places in the field which may hold water and allow ice sheeting during the winter.

**Seeding rate.** As with other crops, wheat varieties vary in the number of seeds per pound, ranging from 12,000 to 20,000. For wheat Taylor says to try for 8 to 10 seeds per row foot on 7-inch wide or less rows and 10 to 12 seeds per row foot on 10- to 12-inch wide rows. For ICM wheat plant 13 to 15 seeds per row foot on narrow rows, 4 to 6 inches, and 15 to 20 seeds per row foot on wide rows, 7 to 10 inches.

Check with a county extension agent for information on calculating seeding rates.

**Seed treatment.** Be sure to use Vitavax 200 or other seed conditioner to prevent loose smut, the plant pathologist says. Most certified seed comes treated.

**Varieties.** "For ICM, I would recommend planting Saluda, Coker 916 or Pioneer 2550 wheat varieties," Mulrooney says. "Tyler and Massey yield well, but both are susceptible to leaf rust and may require fungicides. Saluda had some powdery mildew this last season in our Delaware variety trials, and under ICM conditions should be checked often to determine if a fungicide is needed."

For further information on ICM practices in Delaware, Mulrooney and Taylor advise growers to contact a county agricultural agent in Newark, Dover or Georgetown. "With low wheat prices," Mulrooney says, "growers who plant wheat can take advantage of this information to decrease their per-acre costs by trying the ICM concept on a portion of their acreage for a comparison to their usual practices."

## Some Facts About Wood Preservatives

NEWARK, Del. — If you've looked for pressure-treated wood at your local lumberyard lately, you may have been confused by what's available. The old standbys — creosote and penta-treated boards — have generally been replaced by lumber bearing a string of initials.

These initials stand for various chemical salts with long, hard-to-pronounce names. Some treatments offer better protection than others, so check to be sure the wood you buy is suited to its intended use.

To help do-it-yourself builders choose the right type of treated wood for their projects, University of Delaware extension agricultural engineer Dr. Jim Scarborough has assembled the following information on wood treatments, their effectiveness and availability.

**Creosote.** This treatment has been around since 1838 and is very effective against termite damage and decay. A black or brownish oil distilled from coal tar, creosote has a pungent odor, and its fumes are harmful to plants. Because of its unpleasant taste, it is often used on stalls and fences to keep horses from chewing the wood.

Direct contact with freshly creosoted lumber can cause skin irritation, though the probability declines as the treatment ages. Freshly treated lumber also catches fire easily and produces a dense smoke. But again, this danger lessens with age. Another problem is that you can't paint creosote-treated wood because the oils bleed through the paint.

With all these problems, why use it? "Because creosote does its job very well," says Scarborough. "If

it didn't, power companies and railroads wouldn't use it. But these drawbacks do make it a less-than-ideal building material, and creosote-treated lumber generally is no longer available at lumberyards.

**Penta or pentachlorophenol** was first used in the 1930s and came into extensive use after 1950. This treatment consists of a heavy or light oil containing 5 percent penta. The heavy oils preserve better but don't take paint; the light ones are paintable and so are generally used. According to Scarborough, penta is less toxic to plants than creosote but may damage plastic films with which it comes in contact. Keep this in mind if you're building a plastic-covered greenhouse.

"There's some indication that lumber freshly treated with penta may present a health hazard to livestock through foodstuffs which come in contact with the chemical," the specialist cautions. During 1976-77 in Michigan, eight dairy herds were quarantined after penta was identified in tissue cultures. The penta was thought to be contaminated with dioxin. However, no other reports of penta-related animal illness are on record.

"To be on the safe side," Scarborough says, "don't use penta-treated lumber for feed bunks, hay racks or other structures in which feed comes in contact with the treated wood. But I wouldn't shy away from it for regular building construction if you can find it. That may be difficult since many lumberyards no longer stock it."

Now for the salt preservatives, or alphabet soup, as the engineer

calls them. "These preservatives are salt compounds of several chemicals. And since the names are so long, they're identified by initials: ACA (ammoniacal copper arsenate), CCA (chromated copper arsenate), ACC (acid copper chromate) and FCAP (fluor chrome arsenate phenol).

Water, ammonia or acid is the carrier for these preservatives. After treatment, the carrier evaporates, leaving the salts to protect the wood. Lumber preserved this way is relatively clean, odorless and suitable for painting. It's nontoxic to plants and considered safe when in contact with feed. It also is what's generally available at lumberyards. In some cases these preservatives are identified by trade names rather than initials — Greensalt, Koppers (CCA), Wolmanac (CCA), or Woodlast (CCA), to name just a few.

According to Scarborough, most lumberyards now carry wood treated with 0.4 pcf (pounds per cubic foot) CCA, which is only suitable for above ground or non-soil contact use. The service life of this amount of CCA for in-ground use has not yet been determined, but test stakes treated with less than 0.6 pcf CCA or ACA don't last well in soil. In tests conducted in Mississippi, 10 percent of the stakes treated with 0.44 pcf had termite damage after 25 years.

"Don't be surprised if you have to ask a lumberyard to special order the correct amount of preservative in treated lumber," concludes Scarborough. "And don't be dissuaded by sales people who try to sell you what's in stock instead. Remember, you probably now know more about the wood you need than they do."

### Pre-Sale Social Set For Nittany Lion Classic

UNIVERSITY PARK — The Penn State Dairyman's Club cordially invites students, alumni and potential buyers to a social on the evening before the Nittany Lion Fall Classic, Oct. 30 at the Ag Arena. This is the best time to view this year's select group of cattle before the crowd arrives.

In addition The Penn State Dairyman's Club in cooperation with the Penn State Dairy Science Club will be sponsoring a presale, milkpunch and cheese social the morning of the sale. The presale social will run from 9:30 to 11:30.

The Penn State Dairyman's Club is comprised of Penn State Alumni and friends who support and assist the College Of Agriculture in dairy cattle programs. The club encourages the development of strong realistic programs in instruction, research and extension in the field of dairy production. The Dairyman's Club also solicits support from individuals and organizations for projects which would mutually benefit Penn State and the cattle industry.

Individuals interested in joining are encouraged to talk to club members in the Dairyman's booth at the Nittany Lion Fall Classic on October 31, 1986 or fill out and return the form below.

#### PENN STATE DAIRYMAN'S CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Major (PSU) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Year Graduated \_\_\_\_\_ (you do not have to be

a PSU alumnus to join)

\_\_\_\_\_ 3 year membership - \$10

\_\_\_\_\_ Lifetime membership - \$50

\_\_\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

\_\_\_\_\_ Change of Address

Mail to: George L. Hargrove

204 Borland Lab

University Park, PA 16802

Make checks payable to: THE PENN STATE DAIRYMAN'S CLUB