

Inter State Honors Members, Haulers At District 3 Meeting

CHESTNUT LEVEL — "The checks are written, in the envelopes, and waiting to go out on Feb. 1," Inter-State's president reported at the co-op's District 3 meeting on Tuesday. On this date the merger between Inter-State and Lehigh Valley will be consummated and Atlantic Dairy Cooperative will officially come into existence.

On Feb. 1 the capital retain program will stop, Robert McSparran added. Inter-State members will receive the first nine months of their capital retain and double patronage refunds.

"The merger happened fast — I think it's the only way it can be done," McSparran reflected. Although he does not foresee any other co-ops merging in the East, he noted that two large co-ops in the West were discussing merger possibilities.

He praised the Regional Cooperative Marketing Agency saying, "It's the best thing to come down the pike." RCMA will enhance the price of milk in Federal Orders 2 and 4 when it becomes fully functional, he said.

There is no advantage for Inter-State members to join RCMA since the agency doesn't bargain with Federal Order 4 milk handlers. However, Inter-State has joined with two other dairy co-ops in Federal Order 4 to form a similar type of bargaining agency called the Mid-Atlantic Milk Marketing Agency. He added that the new co-op, Atlantic, may join RCMA as Atlantic will have shippers it will want to protect in Federal Order 2.

McSparran added that organization such as RCMA, which bargain for over-order prices, will become more important in the future to protect shippers as the buyers become larger. He cited LaBatts as an example of the milk



Robert McSparran (right) congratulates, Sam Kreider (second from left) of S. A. Kreider and Sons Inc. for 50 years of membership in Inter-State. With Sam are his son, Scott (far left) and his nephew, Herb.

buyers which continue to add companies to their portfolio.

Don Breiner will relinquish his role as fieldman for the District in March to replace retiring Bill Hastings in Southampton. Breiner will assume the role of field service and quality manager. He reminded the group to be careful with antibiotics. New tests which can detect trace amounts of antibiotics are being developed.

He cautioned the shippers to read the label on the drugs and follow the guidelines. He noted a dairyman who had been using a sulfa drug to treat a foot problem was cut off when sulfa drugs were detected in his milk. The label specified, Breiner said, not for use on lactating animals.

McSparran presented a plaque for 25 years of membership in the co-op Landis Weaver. S.A. Kreider and Sons Inc. received a plaque for 50 years of membership.

A first for the co-op, McSparran also honored retired milk haulers Paul "Sam" Rineer and J. Eli

Testerman Jr. of T and R Hauling Company. The contract haulers have recently retired after serving District 3 and 12 for over three decades.



Paul "Sam" Rineer (left) received recognition from Robert McSparran, president of Inter-State Milk Producers Cooperative, for serving the members of District 3 and 12 for over 30 years.

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