

ALEXANDRIA, VA. — Middle Atlantic Order Market Administrator Joseph D. Shine today announced a December 1988 base milk price of \$13.73 per hundredweight and an excess milk price of \$12.25. The weighted average December price was \$13.67 and the butterfat differential for the month was 15.1 cents. The base milk price was up 20 cents from November and was 78 cents higher than last December. The weighted average price was up 15 cents from November and

was 79 cents higher than last December.

Mr. Shine said that the December volume of producer milk pooled under the Order, 536.6 million pounds, was up 1.3 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last December. The average daily delivery per producer of 2,831 pounds in December was up 135 pounds or 5.0 percent from a year earlier. A total of 6,115 producers supplied Order 4 pool handlers during the month, 291 fewer than last December. Class I producer

milk totaled 269.0 million pounds and accounted for 50.13 percent of total producer milk receipts in December. The December 1987 Class I utilization was 52.22 percent. The volume of Class I producer milk was down 3.8 percent from a year ago. The volume of Class II milk was up 11.8 million pounds or 4.6 percent from a year earlier. Base milk accounted for 89.49 percent of total December producer milk deliveries, down from 91.49 percent last December. The average butterfat test of pro-

ducer milk was 3.84 percent in December, compared to 3.81 a year ago.

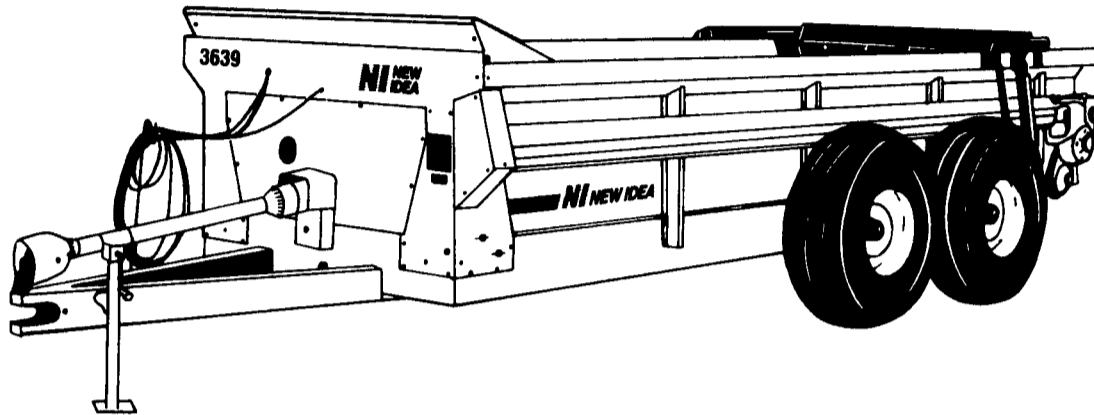
Order 4 pool handlers reported Class I in-area milk sales of 224.3 million pounds during December, a decrease of 0.8 percent from a year earlier, after adjustment to eliminate variation due to calendar composition.

In 1988 a total of 6.20 billion pounds of producer milk was pooled under Order 4, 82.3 million pounds less than during the previous year. This was a decrease

of 1.3 percent. The volume of Class I producer milk totaled 3.08 billion pounds in 1988, down 68.2 million pounds, or 2.2 percent from a year earlier. The Class I utilization percentage averaged 49.75 during the past year, down from the 50.18 average in 1987.

The Order 4 base milk price averaged \$12.52 per hundredweight during 1988, 37 cents less than a year earlier while the average excess milk price of \$10.95 in 1988 was down 20 cents.

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