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Dairymen Face Declining Prices

By Karl Berger

Special Correspondent

FREDERICK, MD—There probably aren't enough depressing adjectives in the dictionary to describe what has happened to the dairy industry's bellwether price, the Minnesota-Wisconsin manufacturing milk price.

The M-W, as it's almost universally known, dropped a record \$2.02 in October, to \$10.48 a hundredweight for milk containing 3.5 percent butterfat. Because the U.S. Department of Agriculture uses the M-W to set prices in the federal order system, the decline means sharply lower prices for dairymen as they enter 1991.

In Federal Order 4, for instance, the Middle Atlantic order, Class I milk sold for fluid use will be just \$13.51 in December, a whopping

\$3.39 less than last December and the lowest Class I price since August 1988. In Federal Order 2, the New York-New Jersey order, the December Class I price will be \$13.03.

What a difference a year can make. Just last fall, dairymen were riding the crest of an unprecedented upswing in milk prices that wound up setting several records of the positive variety. Now, industry leaders are gloomy. They fear further declines are imminent.

"The M-W could well hit a 12-year low by this December, bringing milk prices down to the support level at least through the 1991 spring flush," said Jim Barr, chief executive officer of the National Milk Producers Federation. The M-W is currently set at \$9.90 for 3.5-percent milk (\$10.10

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Since Kristin Metzker took over the Pennsylvania Dairy Princess title, she hasn't had much time to work on the the family's 110-acre Cove Valley Farm in Blair County. Read about Kristin's life at home, work, and school on page B20.

Grassland Council Sponsors Forage Conference With Penn State

GAIL STROCK

Mifflin Co. Correspondent

BOALSBURG (Centre Co.)

The Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council, in cooperation

and sponsorship with PSU College of Agriculture, held its 30th annual forage conference this week at the Elks Club in Boalsburg. The purpose of this year's conference,

"Why Forages in the 1990s", is, according to Dr. Marvin Hall, PSU's Extension forage specialist, "to look ahead to the role of forages in this decade. What will be the economics of forage production? Will dairy cows move from the barn to pastures? Should some enterprises emphasize silage production over hay production? Would some animal production systems be better off buying their forage? These are questions that we ask ourselves as we think about the future of forage agriculture."

The PA Forage and Grassland Council membership (\$5) is open to anyone having an interest in forages or grassland agriculture. Members automatically become members of the American Forage and Grassland Council who, in March of 1994, will be holding their national conference in Lancaster.

In keeping with the PA Forage and Grassland Council's motto, "Industry, Farmer, Scientist - Working together toward a sounder grassland program", the mem-

bers of the PA Forage and Grassland Council elected three directors to serve three year terms on the board.

Elected to represent industry was Mike Galbraith, Roaring Spring. Galbraith received his B.S. in animal/dairy science from Ohio State in 1967. Mike is the specialty productions manager for hay and silage stabilizers, hay drying agents, application equipment and moisture testers for Young's, Inc.

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Kiwanis Sponsor Capon Club



Dwight Kreiser, age 15, right, had the champion capons of the Lancaster County 4-H Roundup, held Tuesday just prior to the Kiwanis Club dinner meeting. Dwight is the son of Gene and Joanne Kreiser, Manheim. The winning birds each weighed 11 3/4 lbs.

Andy Rohrer, age 11, had the reserve champion capons with his two entries that weighed 12 1/4 and 12 1/2 lbs. Andy is the son of Nelson and Rose Rohrer, Lititz. The Lancaster Kiwanis Club sponsors the event and provides the class and record book awards. Both Gene Kreiser, club leader and Jay Irwin, county agent agreed the Kiwanis Club has been a fantastic supporter of the Capon Club over the years. John Swartz, multi-county poultry extension specialist, was the judge.

Six Century Farms Awarded At Lancaster Ag-Industry Banquet

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.

Lancaster Farming Staff

WILLOW STREET (Lancaster Co.) — Six couples who own Lancaster County farms were recognized Tuesday by county officials because the farms have remained within the couples' respective family tree for more than 100 years.

The awards were made during the 14th annual Agriculture Industry Banquet held at the Willow Valley Resort and Conference Center. The event is organized by the Agriculture Committee of the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce and Industry to recognize community leaders in agribusiness and agriculture.

In addition to the Century Farm Awards, officials named Max Smith, former county extension agent, the recipient of the 1990 George C. Delp Award. The annual Delp award, in its second year, is presented to the person who has best promoted Lancaster County agribusiness.

The banquet also featured speaker William O'Conner Jr., who is deputy minority staff direc-

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