

Mercer Holds DHIA Meeting

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Mercer Co. Correspondent
MERCER (Mercer Co.) — The Mercer County Dairy Herd Improvement Association (DHIA) met recently at the county extension center in Mercer for its annual meeting.

The county association finished its 74th year with 95 whole-year herds, meaning that all herds were operational, and on test, during the entire course of the year.

During the meeting, several awards were presented and an election of committee members was conducted. Dennis James, president of the association and David Bigelo, DHIA regional manager presented the awards.

Edwin Olson, Stoneboro RD 2, was the first place county winner of the Herd Management Award. He also received recognition for placing second in the county for rolling herd average in butterfat production with a 796-pound average.

Roland and Dennis James received honors for having the highest county herd average for milk production, for the fifth consecutive year.

The Jameses were also awarded

for having the highest county herd production for protein, highest milk fat at 920 pounds of milk fat, and high county Holstein herd for protein production.

James attributed his dairying success to forage testing, balanced feed rations, milking three times a day, and to the help they received from Dave Dowler, Mercer's extension dairy agent.

Also receiving recognition was Van De Jersey Farm, of Transfer, for having the highest protein production among the county's Jersey herds.

Canon Dairy, of West Middlesex, was recognized for having the highest protein production of the mixed breed herds in the county.

The highest protein producing Red and White herd in the county is owned by Minor Sons, of Jackson Center.

Among the Guernsey herds, Ealy's Highland Farm had the highest protein producing herd.

Larry Adams was recognized with an award for having the herd with the lowest average somatic cell count for the year. His SCC averaged 79,000.

In other business, elected to serve on the county DHIA com-

mittee were Mark Canon, J. David Philson, and Edward Olson.

Guest speaker for the meeting was Dixie Burris, director of member development for Pa.DHIA.

Atlantic Dairy Supports \$11.50 Basic Formula Price For Orders 2 & 4

SOUTHAMPTON (Bucks Co.) — Atlantic Dairy Cooperative is requesting an emergency hearing be held in Federal Orders 2 and 4 to set a floor for Class I fluid milk prices to help prevent further declines in dairy farmer income.

In a letter to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan, Atlantic's general manager Dr. Paul E. Hand urged that USDA set Class I prices on a basic formula price "no less than \$11.50 per hundredweight." The current basic formula price, based on the December Minnesota-Wisconsin price of \$12.10, is expected to drop drastically this spring.

"Costs of production are

increasing, and the outlook is for very rapidly declining milk prices now through May," he said. "In order to maintain a reasonable level of prices a floor must be set."

Dairy farmers last spring experienced the lowest milk prices in 13 years. Every effort must be made to avoid a repeat of this situation, Hand said, adding that the \$11.50 floor price will not cause excessive prices in the Middle Atlantic Region, but "will provide some measure of confidence for dairy farmers as they face the 1992 production season."

Atlantic estimates that in 1992, the proposal will floor Order 2 and Order 4 Class I prices during the months of April through August.

Other U.S. dairy cooperatives have petitioned for an \$11.50 floor hearing for at least 20 other Federal Orders. A positive response by the USDA to these petitions would deliver much needed price relief to thousands of milk producers, Hand said.

dize the quality of services.

She said the local committee was to be commended for their commitment to program quality for its members.

'Sire Power Names

(Continued from Page A24)

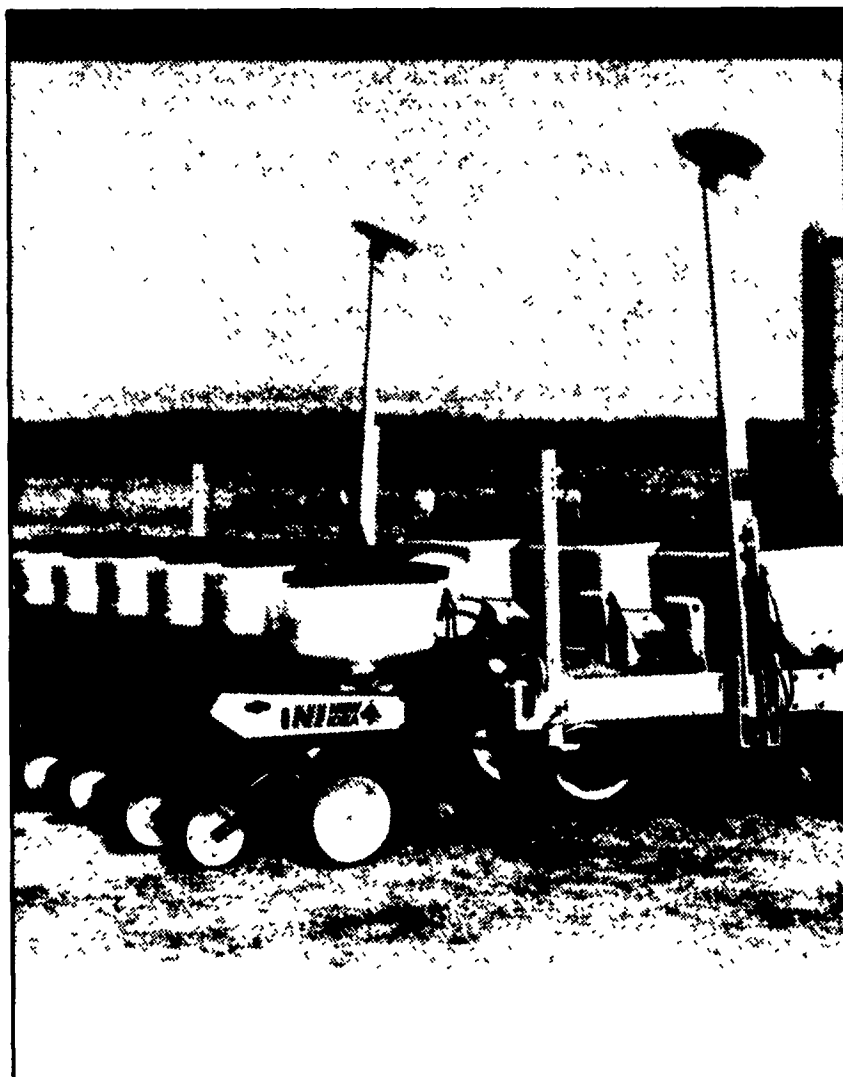
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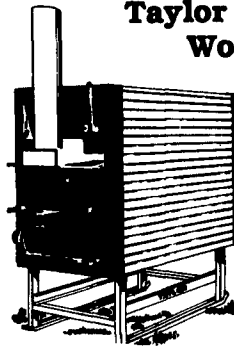
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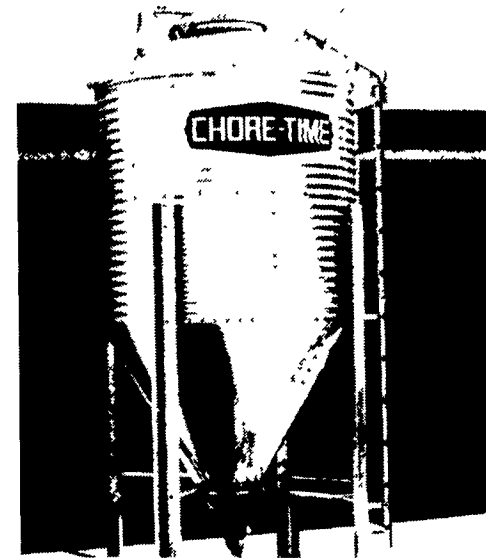
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