

Dairy Gridiron Classic Scores Victory

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — For five consecutive years, the "Dairy Gridiron Classic" contest has been held between Maryland and Penn State universities.

This year, like several before, the Nittany Lions took home the trophy in a 49-13 victory that saw many spectacular performances by both teams. The "Milk Can" trophy will remain in State College, with Maryland hoping to take the crown in the contest finale, to be held in October 1993.

The Lions victory was keyed by the outstanding appearance of senior tailback Richard Anderson, who rushed for 138 yards and scored four touchdowns in the


Penn State win. For his efforts, Anderson was named the Uni-Mart Player of the Game. It was an ironic twist, as Anderson came to Penn State from Sandy Spring, Maryland, just several miles down the road from the University of Maryland.

In accepting the "Milk Can" trophy and scholarship funds, head coach Joe Paterno said, "We appreciate the support and efforts of the Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program and the state's dairy farmers." Paterno received the trophy and scholarship award from PDPP Board Chairman Karl Kroeck, at a post-game press conference.



Holding the Dairy Gridiron Classic milk can trophy, Penn State football players V.J. Massilo, left and Lou Benfatti, are flanked by Karl Kroeck, chairman of the PDPP Board of Directors, left, and Brian Ross, program manager. Massilo, a punter, and Benfatti, a defensive lineman, played key roles in the Nittany Lions 49-13 win over the Maryland Terrapins.

The scholarship monies are to be distributed by Penn State's College of Agriculture to students pursuing careers in dairy and food science. The annual award was originated by the PDPP to recognize students and bring greater awareness to the state's number one agricultural industry. The scholarship awards will be made in spring of 1993, to correspond with the academic year.



MILK CHECK

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After 21 weeks of increasing cheese prices and four months of increasing Minnesota-Wisconsin prices, it looks like the end of the line for this year.

There may be more price changes ahead but they won't be significant increases or decreases. At least opinions are divided on which way the prices will go, but predictions of a \$13 M-W this fall are fading.

Reasons for the change in prediction center on increasing milk production, especially in the upper Midwest where they are now catching up with six months of increases in the Northeast.

In addition, a lot of other signs are showing up, indicating market conditions which favor further weakening in wholesale prices.

Cheese handlers feel their inventories are now adequate for the rest of the year and, with milk production increasing, have decided to buy only what they need or when they find a bargain.

Butter and powder, as well as cheese, are moving East from the West coast and by mid-September you could buy Grade A powder in Chicago for \$1.10 a pound — down 6 cents from the month before.

Powder processors were turning to Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) for the first time since last summer. Only butter sales were looking brisk with prices up 6 cents and CCC purchases the lowest in almost a year.

How Bad

You're only looking at pennies in product price changes. You won't see these in your milk check for two months and in the meantime the farm milk price will increase.

We're just reading the signs indicating what to expect in the near future so you can plan accordingly, or at least anticipate the change.

Block cheese prices are down 2.5 cents since they peaked in August but barrel cheese prices are off more than 5 cents a pound.

Since cheese prices are a major part of the Minnesota-Wisconsin price, you'll find the M-W down 5 cents to \$12.54 for August. That's the end of a four-month, \$1.61 increase in the M-W, but still \$1.04 better than last year. It's more of a leveling off in the M-W to the end of the year without any big drops expected, unless milk production makes the increases this fall that we didn't see last spring.

For 1993, estimates on the M-W go as low as \$11, if we have a spring flush. Grain prices will favor it, but forage quality may not.

Around the State

As mentioned earlier, the recent drops in product prices won't be reflected for two months in your milk check.

In the meantime, the farm price continues to increase on the strength of M-W prices in June and July.

In Order 2, the Uniform Price to producers increased 20 cents from July going to \$13.36 and that was \$1.32 better than last year.

In Order 36, the August price was up 22 cents over July to \$13.52 and in F.O.4 the Weighted Average was \$14, or 18 cents better than last month. Both of these two orders are up in price over last year, about the same amount as F.O.2.

Further increases in all three federal orders are expected next month on the strength of Class I prices following the M-W peak of \$12.59 in July.

An Ill Wind

Whether it will be Hurricane Andrew or the race for the White House, farmers can expect some form of financial federal aid to be offered.

Producers may benefit from what will be called Phase II or III of the Hurricane Andrew disaster relief program.

Phase II is only for last year's fall-seeded crops harvested this year, but Phase III goes all the way back to 1990 and 1991 if you have unrecovered losses.

Phase II deadline is Oct. 2, but Phase III just starts Oct. 13 and goes to Feb. 12. See your local ASCS office for details.

There may be other benefits coming to dairy resulting from horse trading on international agreements, so watch the political scene closely from now to November.

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