

Past Year Stable For Producers

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Lancaster Farming Staff
MOUNT JOY (Lancaster Co.)
—Members of the Mount Joy Farmers Dairy Cooperative can expect to receive a milk check this year reflecting \$13.66 per hundredweight (up from \$12.99 last year but less than \$15.32 of two years ago), according to Marlin E. Benedict, Simon Lever and Company, accountants.

Benedict presented the financial report for the cooperative Wednesday afternoon at the cooperative's annual meeting at the Country Table Restaurant.

Benedict said 1992 proved to be a relatively stable year for producers, without a lot of large fluctuations and was "less volatile than in past years."

When the numbers were tallied at the end of fiscal year 1992 in October, the cooperative shipped more milk, at 12.1 percent or 14 million pounds, over the previous year. Total milk shipped was 136 million pounds. At year end, the cooperative included 134 patrons.

Benedict examined three years of the cooperative and compared milk check prices. In 1992, members were receiving \$13.52 CWT; in October 1991, they were receiving \$12.30 CWT; and in October 1990, \$14.99 CWT.

Each patron invested \$6,400 in the co-op, down from \$11,690 each two years ago.

The market has shown general improvement with a strong found-

ation base, according to the CPA. The overall strength of the coop has made it a "lean, streamlined organization, which is important to all of you" Benedict told more than 200 present.

The cooperative transports milk from members' dairy farms to Atlantic Processing, Inc. (API), represented by Royce Seifert. Seifert said API's fiscal year ends January 31, so the numbers for 1992 aren't in yet. But for fiscal year 1991, there were a total of \$210 million in sales and 1.5 billion pounds of milk were shipped to two large customers, Beatrice Cheese Inc. near Allentown and Johanna Farms in Flemington, N.J. API operated at \$1.4 million net margin.

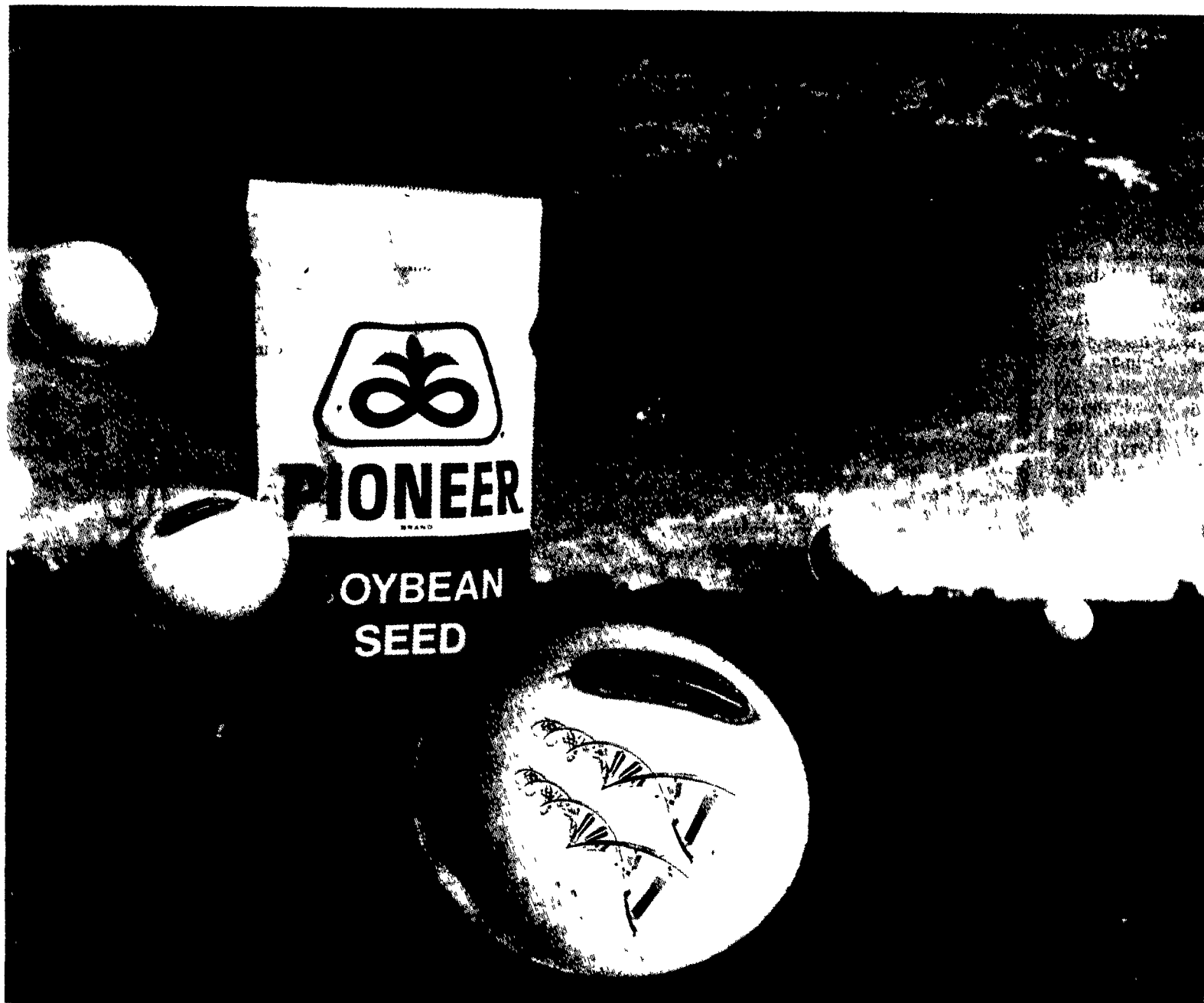
Seifert said API continues to monitor the Beatrice cheese plant strike closely and told the members the industry continues to constantly change and move forward.

Earl Dehme, co-op fieldman, said that members should beware

Honor roll members were honored at the banquet. From left, Amos Conley, Clair Hollinger, and Hollinger's herdsman, Jeff Weaver.



Top producers for fiscal year 1992 were honored at a meeting of the Mount Joy Dairy Cooperative on Wednesday. From left, Ken Zurlin, Ken Balmer, Luke Brubaker, Arlin Benner, John Landis, Jim Brubaker, George Rohrer, and Don Risser.



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of the lowering of the DMSCC requirements to 750,000 in the spring, and if the SCC count in the herd reaches 500,000 or more to "please get concerned about it." He also spoke about the possibility of U.S. health inspectors visiting on site and to look into monitoring detrimental antibiotic loads to keep the milk from being rejected.

In other business, the cooperative elected the following directors:

- Kenneth S. Balmer. Balmer farms 80 acres and rents 350 acres with the help of his wife and four children. He milks 139 cows and has 150 young stock.

- David L. Landis. Landis farms 200 acres and milks 100 cows, and maintains 80 replacement heifers with wife, Lois, and son, Darwin as helpers. He is a director of Atlantic Breeders Co-Op and member of the Pennsylvania Holstein Association and member of the Manheim Young Farmers.

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