

Tewksbury Blasts Pricing Formula

MESHOPPEN (Wyoming Co.) — Any pricing system that sets the same price to dairy farmers in 1993 as it did in 1979 certainly needs to be replaced, claims Arden Tewksbury Mgr. of the Progressive Agriculture Organization (Pro Ag).

Speaking at a meeting of dairy farmers in Wyalusing, Tewksbury blasted the present pricing formula that establishes prices for area dairy farmers.

Tewksbury said the Minnesota-Wisconsin (M & W) Grade B manufactured price that determines the majority of milk prices is antiquated, out-dated, unreliable, unrealistic, and easily manipulated.

The Pro Ag Manager said the M & W price sets the price on milk used for manufactured purposes in the federal milk marketing orders throughout the United States and the formula eventually sets the pay price to dairy farmers.

Milk prices paid to area dairy farmers during the Spring of 1993 could go down to \$10.85 per cwt, according to Tewksbury, and this is where the price was in "1979".

Tewksbury asked the crowd, "Can you imagine any other segment of our economy operating on 1979's prices?" Tewksbury was also critical of some farm organizations and dairy co-operatives that are not addressing the serious pricing problems facing dairy farmers.

Tewksbury called on dairy farmers to "leapfrog" over their organizations (that are in a limbo on dairy farmers prices), and support the efforts of Pro Ag to establish a new pricing formula based on the average cost of producing milk.

At a National Milk Hearing on

June 17th, 1992 at Alexandria, Virginia, Pro Ag, N.F.O. (New York Farm Alliance), and the National Dairy Campaign people testified in favor of the new pricing formula.

According to U.S.D.A. the average cost of producing milk in

the United States for 1990 was \$14.98 per cwt., but in the Northeast the cost was \$16.46 per cwt. Tewksbury said these figures indicate that dairy farmers are being paid about \$5 (\$.50 per gallon) per cwt. under their cost of production.

A survey conducted by Pro Ag

indicates supermarkets in north-eastern Pennsylvania are currently selling whole milk for \$2.23 per gallon, but Tewksbury claims in February of 1990 the same stores were selling milk at \$2.55 per gallon. This means milk currently being purchased by consumers is \$.32 a gallon cheaper than three

years ago in 1990. Pro Ag officials claim all of the 32 cents per gallon has come from a lower farm price.

Pro Ag wants all farmers, agricultural business people, and consumers to support their efforts. Pro Ag officials can be reached at (717) 833-5776 or (717) 924-3518.

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First place awards received by the Alderfer Auction Company were for the following advertising categories: specialty catalogue,

farm auction brochure, black and white advertising, and radio advertising.

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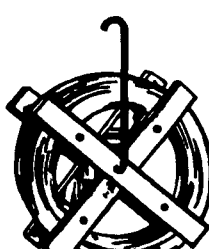
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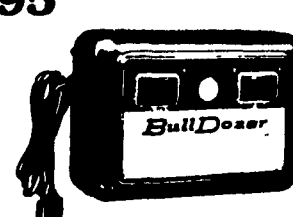
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