

Land O' Lakes Presents Fourth Butter Award to Holly Milk

BETH MILLER

Franklin Co. Correspondent
MOUNT HOLLY SPRINGS
 (Cumberland Co.) — The Holly Milk plant has a lot of proof hanging on the wall that it makes better butter.

The plant for the fourth year in a row has won the coveted Land O' Lakes Award from the nationally-known butter company.

The workers at the plant east of Mount Holly Springs are pretty proud about that, said Bill Schreiber, the company's chief executive officer.

They should be.

To win the award, the plant had to beat the five other plants in the country that make butter for Land O' Lakes, Schreiber said.

Holly Milk and four of the other plants are independent operations that work under contract with Land O' Lakes. The other plant is owned by Land O' Lakes itself, said Schreiber.

Land O' Lakes sponsors the annual contest to boost the quality and standards of the plants that make its product, he said.

Schreiber said the award is given based on the physical characteristics of the butter each plant makes, a plant's personnel practices, general sanitation, record-keeping and the condition of packaging.

He said inspectors from Land O' Lakes come to the plant unannounced six times a year and complete a full-scale audit. They check the entire system and give the plant a numerical score, he said.

The winning of the Land O' Lakes Award means Holly Milk will have an increase in the amount of butter it will make for Land O' Lakes, Schreiber said.

He said his plant makes butter

only for Land O' Lakes, both salted and unsalted butter. The plant is Land O' Lakes' largest supplier of unsalted butter, he said.

Workers at Holly Milk have more to crow about than just the Land O' Lakes Award, however.

The buttermakers also recently entered a competition at the Minnesota State Fair after the fair opened that contest to competitors from other states.

Buttermaker Jeff Kutz finished first in the fair's competition.

The buttermakers also entered four other contests and four of them finished in the top 10 nationwide. One finished in third place overall.

Holly Milk is a division of the Atlantic Dairy Cooperative, which has 3,500 members. The plant receives its milk from a seven-state area that includes Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware and Maryland.

Holly Milk opened in 1978 with just 30 employees. Today it has 118 employees.

The plant, whose motto is "Together, We Achieve" also makes other products besides butter.

The whole dry milk products it makes are sold mainly to the confectionary industry, like the Hershey Chocolate Co., Schreiber said.

He said its non-fat dry milk products are mainly sold to companies like Kraft for things like ice cream mixes.

Holly Milk's buttermilk products, which are a by-product of the butter-making process, are sold to ice cream producers and the bakery trade, Schreiber said.

And the plant also makes condensed products which it supplies to Borden's for sweetened con-



A worker operates the packaging machine at the Holly Milk plant which wraps the plant's prize-winning Land O' Lakes-labeled butter.

densed milk, he said.

All-in-all, Holly Milk, which operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, makes 36 million pounds of butter a year. That comes out to 7,400 pounds of but-

ter an hour that is made by the 20 employees in the butter department.

The milk processing department of the plant processes about 568 million pounds of milk a year. Of that, 57 million pounds goes to

make whole condensed milk, 266 million pounds goes to non-fat dry milk, 11 million pounds goes to whole milk powder and 234 million pounds goes to skim condensed milk.

Eastern Milk Pays Storm Losses

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — The board of directors of Eastern Milk Producers Cooperative voted Wednesday, April 28, to pay member farmers for any milk they lost in the "blizzard of '93" this past March.

"We're paying 100 percent of the storm losses," said Board President Lewis Gardner, who himself runs a family farm in Galeton, Pa.

Eastern General Manager Michael Donovan said 135 of Eastern's 3,000 members lost a

combined total 353,000 pounds of milk to spoilage when the March snowstorm cut power or kept milk trucks from getting to farms for up to four days.

The most severely hit areas were in eastern and south eastern Pennsylvania. Donovan said two thirds of the farmers suffering losses were from Pennsylvania, and the rest were split among Vermont, New York, Maryland and Delaware.

Gardner said the board decided to pay farmers \$12 per hundred-

weight, bringing the price tag for lost milk to over \$42,000.

"This is another benefit of belonging to a cooperative, where we can help alleviate major losses that would ordinarily be a hardship on individual farmers," said Gardner.

Eastern Milk annually markets 1.5 billion pounds of milk for its member-owners. Headquartered in Syracuse, the dairy co-op also has offices or facilities in Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania and Delaware.


Commodity Board Nominations Sought

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — State Agriculture Secretary Boyd E. Wolff has announced that nominations are being accepted for positions on several commodity promotion and research boards. The boards include apple marketing, peach and nectarine research, potato research, sheep and lamb marketing, and vegetable marketing and research.

"This is a great opportunity for producers to get involved with marketing and research programs that affect their livelihood," Wolff said. "Decisions are made here that prevent losses and increase sales."

Producers affected by the programs are eligible to serve on the boards. To nominate someone for membership to one of the boards, submit the person's name, address, and area of interest to Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Market Development, 2301 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA

17110-9408. Nominations will be accepted until May 13.



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