

# MILK MARKET NEWS

## Market Report

By Tom Jurchak

Penn State Cooperative Extension Agent for Lackawanna County

Increasing milk production per cow can no longer make up for the drop in cow numbers and milk supplies have gotten tighter in the last two months. The upper mid west, where milk prices start in Minnesota and Wisconsin, has led the other top dairy states with as much as six percent less milk than last year. Even in the northeast states that were awash with milk a few months ago, nearly had a call order in September from the market administrator in Order 2 to divert milk from manufacturing to fluid use. Only voluntary action by handlers prevented the call order.

### Feed Problems

Much of the blame for lower milk production goes to lower quality as well as lower supplies of forage in the critical milk production areas. Weather conditions during the growing season have finally caught up with forage and grain supplies and there's more trouble ahead as corn harvests are showing. Low yields plus low bushel weights plus low quality in some corn production areas are contributing to the forage quality

and supply problems that all add up to lower milk production. It's that time of the year when we expect seasonal drops in milk production but this year it started earlier and, because of the reasons for the drop, it may continue longer.

### Product Prices

Looking at cheese prices the last two months you would think the market reporters weren't paying attention. For nine weeks cheese prices stayed the same at \$1.34 for blocks and \$1.31 for barrels. The good news was that prices had increased 13 cents in three weeks in September so they held the higher price for nine weeks not the lower price of \$1.21 where it was in August. So, cheese prices went up 13 cents in September and stayed there for nine weeks to November 12 because milk supplies were dropping and cheese handlers didn't want to be caught short for the holidays. In addition, dry milk product prices were also going up and about everything from dried skim to whey to buttermilk was adding to the demand for manufacturing milk. Helping also were sales of dry milk products by USDA through the Dairy Export Incentive Program mainly to Central American countries.

The question is — how long can it last? Cheese prices normally decline as we get this close to the holidays and the barrel price did drop on November 12 but it was less than a cent. What's equally important is how much will the milk supply drop? While the upper mid west and the northeast are lower there are increases in the western states. Once again it's a question of whether increasing milk production in the west can make up for dropping production

in other areas.

### Enjoy It Now

Before you start worrying about next year, start enjoying what you have now from higher milk prices at the farm with more to come before the end of the year. With cheese and powder prices holding as long as they have the Minnesota-Wisconsin Price Series has jumped \$1.29 in September and October just about matching that 13 cent increase in cheese prices. For October the M—W

was \$12.46 with more expected in November. It's already 41 cents better than last October and the second best since the record year of 1989. With the help of better dry milk prices and increasing commercial demand for dairy products generally, the increases in farm prices should continue to the end of the year. By then we may have a better fix on the effect of feed supplies and quality on milk production but in the meantime — have a happy holiday.

## Cooperator Of Year Award

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Speaking before the Cecil County Soil Conservation District, Maryland Secretary of Agriculture Robert L. Walker presented the Goodyear Award for the Cooperator of the Year to Kenneth England of England Farms. England was recognized for his outstanding accomplishments in resource conservation.

"Mr. England, like many other Maryland farmers, is doing a terrific job as stewards of our valuable

land and water resources. I am proud of the contribution Maryland farmers are making to the improvement of our environment and to the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort," Walker said.

In his keynote address, Walker talked about both the domestic and international marketing efforts his department has made on behalf of the Maryland agricultural community.

"Both domestically and internationally, Maryland's agricultural

commodities are being sold as never before. What has occurred over the last four or five years in terms of the expansion of markets is nothing short of a revolution," said Walker.

Since 1989, the Maryland Department of Agriculture has helped to open more than 20 new producer-only farmers' markets across the state. At the same time, the department is helping Maryland companies find markets around the world.

## Maryland DHIA

(Continued from Page A42)

### WASHINGTON COUNTY

HERD NAME	HERD BREED	COWS IN	HERD T	MILK AVG FCM T
Gilson R. Martin	H	38		71.7
Isaac And Diane Martin	H	59		71.2
Marsh-Haven Farm	H	75		69.5
John & Cindy Burtner	H	31		68.9
Magna-Vista Farm	H	55		67.2
Creek Bound Farm	H	75		67.0
Lynn Strite	H	59		66.1
Pryor Brothers	H	84		66.0
Curtis W. Ausherman	H	157		66.0
John Hostetter	H	47		65.7
Kurt & Julie Williams	H	51		65.4



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## PUBLIC SALE

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FRI., DEC. 3, 1993

AT 9:00 A.M.

Loc 1585 Slate Hill Road, Village of Fairfield, Drumore Twp., Lancaster Co., PA (Dir.: Take Rt. 272 four miles south of Buck. Turn right onto Spring Valley Road & then left onto Slate Hill Road to sale.

Sale By:

MRS. HAROLD E. AUMENT (Dorothy G. Aument)

Howard Shaub, Inc. (717) 464-3541  
Auctioneer (AU-000831-L)  
Food Served

## Baltimore County

### Completes Purchase

TOWSON, Md. — In a continued effort to preserve farm land in the county, Baltimore County government and the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation have recently completed the purchase of agricultural easements on four farms encompassing 372 acres. These purchases bring the total number of agricultural easements to 87 on 9,739 acres.

The easements purchased recently are on farms in the heart of the Worthington Valley as well as in My Lady's Manor. In the Worthington Valley, one farm consists of 68 acres and the easement is valued both for its extremely productive soils as well as its scenic location. The second piece of property is a 168-acre farm owned by the Green Spring Valley Hounds of which two-thirds of the property is used for the production of corn and soybeans and the remainder is used for the pasturing of horses. The other two easements purchased on My Lady's Manor consist of a 31-acre farm which is in woodland management and a 108-acre nursery.

In regards to this land preservation endeavor, Hayden said, "These four farms on which the development rights were purchased represent some of the diverse characteristics of farms entering the easement program. The variety of resources under these easements will remain for the use and enjoyment of future generations."

The total acreage of land under both agricultural and environmental easements in Baltimore County is 15,000 acres.

### Public Auction Register

Closing Date Monday 5:00 P.M.  
of each week's publication

### NOVEMBER

FRI. NOV. 19 & FRI. NOV. 26 - 5PM. Blue Ball Auction Mart. Selling Antiques, Collectibles, Tools, Toys, Good Furniture, Plus Much More. Located East Of Lancaster Off Route 322 In Blue Ball Behind Fire Hall. Bechtold, Paparo, Aucts.  
SAT. NOV. 20 - 10AM. Greenhouses & Supplies.

Located 250 Rexmont Rd., Rexmont, Pa., Lebanon Co. Conditions By, Arthur J. Heller Sr., & Jackie C. Heller. Ziegler Auction Co.

SAT. NOV. 20 - 10AM. Automobile & Truck Auction. Located Keystone Public Auto Exchange, Rt. 22/322 Between Dauphin & Clarks Ferry Bridge. Local Banks. Keystone Public Auto Exchange.

## MOVING AUCTION HOOBER EQUIPMENT, INC.

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Dec. 11th 9 AM

Partial list: used farm equipment, attachments, parts, tires & rims, lawn & garden tractors, toys, shelving, parts bins, office furniture, some shop equipment

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John "JG" Green, auctioneer  
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Case

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