



**MILK  
CHECK**  
**THOMAS JURCHAK**  
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SCRANTON (Lackawanna Co.) — With cheese and powder prices holding their own to the middle of November, and no sign of increasing milk production, the Minnesota-Wisconsin Price Series took a more than expected 29-cent increase to \$12.75 for November.

That makes a total increase of \$1.58 in three months; 16 cents better than the \$12.59 high of last year and 91 cents better than last November. In fact, it's the highest M-W price in 34 months going all the way back to January 1990.

However, it's really the second high for this year as predicted here in September. It was up to \$12.52 in May then fell to \$11.17 in August before starting up again with declining milk production. That's an unusual pattern but just one more indication of the uncertainty of market trends this year and on into next year.

While the M-W has peaked and will start down next month, how fast and how far it falls will depend on the milk production trends ahead.

The M-W is expected to fall next month because cheese prices started dropping the last two weeks of November. They held steady for 11 weeks from September 3 to November 24 then dropped nearly three cents in two weeks. Such a small drop is unusual for this time of the year when cheese prices usually start falling much earlier and much faster.

Last year they dropped 16 cents from September 4 to December 4 and this year it was only one cent. Last year the total drop before starting up again was 20 cents and this year to December 10 block cheese prices had fallen less than three cents.

There will be further drops to come but hopefully not the 20 cents of last year.

Non fat dry milk prices are also going lower and with adequate storage stocks of powder and cheese activity in the export market may be

## ADC Elects Bergey

SOUTHAMPTON (Bucks Co.) — Donald C. Bergey of Millville has been elected to his first three-year term as a director of Atlantic Dairy Cooperative.

Bergey, who joined Atlantic in 1977, is to represent the cooperative's members in District 19, which covers Columbia, Montour and Northumberland counties and surrounding counties. He replaces Jason R. Hertzler of Milton, who served on the board for 13 years.

Bergey and his wife, Patricia,

farm more than 400 acres and milk 70 Holstein cows. They have two children, Christa, 16, and Gregory, 13.

Active in a number of farm organizations, Bergey is a director of the Dairy Herd Improvement Association and is a member of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. He was secretary/treasurer of a local farm cooperative and has served as secretary/treasurer of Atlantic's District 19. He also served on Atlantic's Hauling Committee for

four years.

Bergey is a member of Community Mennonite Fellowship Church, where he is administrative director. He also serves as chairman of the church's building committee.

Atlantic Dairy Cooperative represents more than 3,500 dairy farm families in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia.

the only hope to slow down product price declines into the spring months.

### Production Also

Going down also, however, is milk production nationally. That dropped again in October with Wisconsin and Minnesota leading the way with cuts of 7- and 4-percent. With that two-state area accounting for more than 20 percent of the national production they have a serious impact on the total milk supply. In addition, of course, that's where the class prices in Federal Orders start and that's what is feeding increases into your farm price.

### Milk Checks

With the increases in the M-W since September you've seen increases from 90 cents to \$1 in the prices on your milk check. With the M-W going up again in November these will continue into the new year and look pretty good. In fact, the price for November milk on your check will be 30 to 60 cents higher than a year ago depending on which Federal Order regulates your handler.

You will be getting more increases in the farm price for December and January milk. That in itself is an indication of what an unusual marketing condition you have. I can't remember (or find) a time when the January price was higher than the previous December. And I can't think of a better way to start the new year than having a price higher than any month the last three years.

Just what you need to pay for the Christmas presents.  
Happy holiday.



Donald Bergey is new ADC director.



**GREETINGS**

*Our entire organization joins in wishing you a happy & joyful Holiday season and a prosperous New Year.*



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Our Thanks To All The Dairymen For Their Patronage During 1993.

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We Wish You And Your Family A Joyous Christmas And A Happy New Year.

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