

Delegates To Converge On Corning, N.Y.

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Some 200 delegates representing dairy farmers from Lake Champlain to the Chesapeake Bay will converge on Corning, N.Y. on March 7-8 for the semi-annual Delegate Meeting of Eastern Milk Producers Cooperative.

It is the first delegate meeting that the 71-year-old cooperative will hold in Corning. Based in Syracuse, N.Y., Eastern has 3,200 member farms throughout the Northeast, with the majority concentrated in Pennsylvania, New York, and Vermont.

"The farmer delegates will meet to discuss the co-op's operations, including hearing reports from management on performance in a number of areas," Eastern President Lewis Gardner said. As president, Gardner heads the co-op's board of directors. When he is not working on co-op business, he runs a family farm with his wife and sons in Galeton, Pa.

The delegate meeting will run

from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, at the Corning Hilton. On Monday, the delegates and their families will tour the nearby mozzarella cheese plant in Waverly, N.Y.

The plant can consume up to two million pounds of milk a day as it produces Italian cheese for a significant portion of the nation's pizza eateries and other restaurants. After the tour, the delegates

will be treated to a giant pizza party at the Guthrie Inn in Sayre, Pa., featuring Pizza Hut pizza topped with Leprino's mozzarella cheese made from Eastern's milk.

During the Delegate Meeting, the "Self-Help" dairy initiative will be the topic of a presentation by Bob Gray, the Washington-based executive director of the Council of Northeast Farmer Cooperatives.

Area Producers Sought For New Farmers'

Market

GOODVILLE (Lancaster Co.) — Farmers looking for a new opportunity to retail their products this season are invited to attend an exploratory meeting about a new producer-only farmers' market in Norristown.

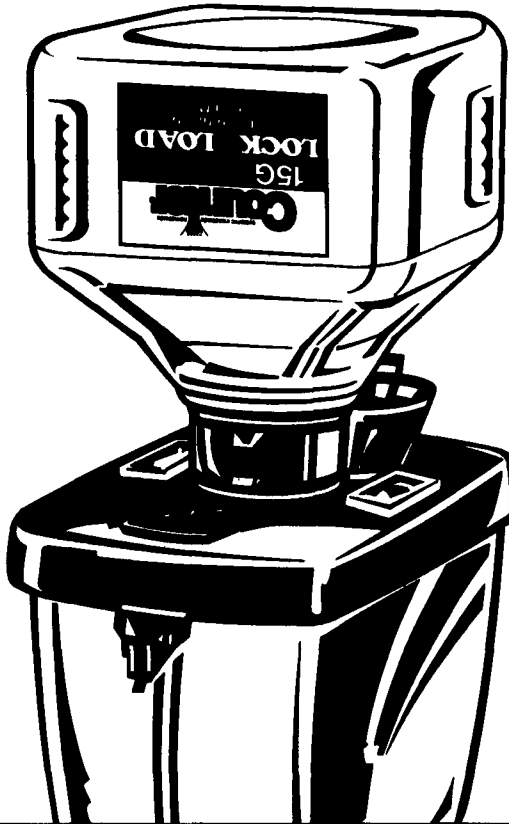
To make it easier for farmers to attend, they can plan on attending a meeting at either the Montgomery County 4-H Center on March 22 at 7, or the Goodville Fire Company on Rt. 23 on March 23 at 7 p.m.

Selling fresh produce and other farm products directly to consumers at a new market is a golden opportunity to either expand your existing sales or get started in retail marketing. New farmers' markets in some of our neighboring states has proven to be a wonderful bonanza to both new and existing farmers. Our goal is to create such a market here, where farmers will reap new financial benefits from their efforts.

This meeting will help set the direction of such a market. Farmers who raise fruits, vegetables, herbs, eggs, plants, honey, or any other shelf-stable farm product should attend. They will hear a brief overview of the opportunity and have ample time to discuss it. Details such as rules, products, and sale times will be covered.

This marketing effort is being sponsored by the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA). If you would like additional information about the meeting, please feel free to contact us. Because we are also farmers, the best time to call is in the evening.

Reservations will be needed. Please call Paul or Carol Hauser at (610) 869-2791.



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