

## MILK

# THOMAS JURCHAK

Dairy Specialist Lackawanna County

#### TOM JURCHAK Lackawanna Co. **Extension Agent**

SCRANTON (Lackawanna Co.) — Cheese prices rebounded on July 15 to score a 4-cent increase that hasn't been matched since last August.

After falling 20 cents in the eight weeks from April to June, including a 10-cent drop on Friday, May 13, barrel prices have recovered more than 9 cents in just the last five weeks.

The 4-cent jump on Friday followed weekly increases of onehalf to nearly 3-cents per week, before the big increase that brought the prices of blocks and barrels up to \$1.26.

That's unusual to have blocks and barrels at the same price, so you can expect more changes.

This increase puts cheese prices now about 5 cents higher than last July, but, at that time, prices were on a slide that continued nearly to August.

This year, we're on a roll that hopefully will carry through the summer and into the fall market for the seasonal demand for holiday

Predictions, however, are getting harder to make, even on a short term.

The crash of May 13 was expected sometime, but came more suddenly and had a shorter life than anticipated. Butter and powder prices were helping to bolster cheese prices and there were cancellations of sales to Commodity Credit Corporation as a result.

On the other hand, subsidized export sales of dairy products have only been half of what they were a year ago, and, during the last two months, milk production has moved up over last year.

#### **Bottoming Out**

That 20-cent drop in cheese prices from April to June, along with a 1-percent increase in milk production over last year, was expected to translate into a \$2 drop in the Minnesota-Wisconsin Price

It came with a bang, when the M-W fell \$1.48 from \$12.99 to \$11.51 in May, and everyone was bracing for the next cut in June.

With increasing production and decreasing cheese prices, another 50-cent drop was expected, but it fell less that half of that, or 26 cents, down to \$11.25 for June.

With improvement in cheese, powder and butter markets, this may well be as far down as it goes.

That's still 78 cents less than last year, but a lot better than the \$11 or even \$10.50 that was expected two months ago.

Much of the answer still lies in the milk production patterns across the county.

While total production was up 1 percent in June. Minnesota and Wisconsin were both still down 5 percent and hot, humid weather in many states kept increases to a minimum.

Even other Midwestern states like Indiana, Illinois and Iowa

were down 3 percent. Here in the Northeast, only New York showed a 1-percent increase. Vermont, Virginia, Maryland were all down 2 to 5 percent, and Pennsylvania was unchanged.

#### What Next?

One way or another, the weatherman is delaying milk production increases in critical areas, but increases are still expected.

With a little bit of luck, cheese prices will continue to increase, but are unlikely to match the \$1.40 you had in April.

It would be hard to imagine prices in the next six months equal to the last six months, so profits will have to come from sharper management and hopefully, with the help of a good crop of quality forage and grain.

### Public Auction Register

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

### WHEN IT'S HOT...

your layers will still be comfortable if you have the Big Dutchman Slot-Aire Layer Cage System.

Extremely hot temperatures during the week of June 13 caused many layer flocks to have high mortality and less eggs.

> Not at the IRWIN MARTIN Farm in Newmanstown, PA

### COMPARE THESE RECORDS TO YOUR FLOCK.

	OUTSIDE TEMPERATURE *	MORTALITY	%PRODUCTION
JUNE 13	91°	10	87.3%
JUNE 14	95°	10	86.5%
JUNE 15	97°	8	90.7%
JUNE 16	95°	8	89.9%
JUNE 17	87°	6	88.8%
JUNE 18	93°	5	90.4%
JUNE 19	98°	4	89.1%

\*outside temperature record from WGAL-TV Channel 8

The superior design of the Big Dutchman Slot-Aire System kept this flock well ahead of the "Breeder Standard" - even during hot weather. ONLY Big Dutchman has Slot-Aire.

At 42 weeks, this Dekalb Delta flock of 45,581 birds produced more eggs with less feed than average flocks. This adds up to more profits over the life of the flock.



IF ITS WORTH YOUR INVESTMENT, TRUST IT TO HERSHEY



SYCAMORE IND. PARK **255 PLANE TREE DRIVE** LANCASTER, PA 17603

AUGUST WED. AUG. 10 - 5PM Far mers Special Auction, Rt. 414 Seneca Falls, NY. Roger Davis Complete Dispersal and other equip-ment. Rt. 414 and Marten Roads, 2 miles S. of Seneca Falls on the South side of Empire Farm Days. Roy Teitsworth, Inc., auct.

SAT. AUG. 13 - 9AM 2 tractors, equipment, furniture, collectibles and riding mower. Held at 223 Year-ger Rd., Lenhartsville, Pa. Form Lenhartsville take Olde Rt. 22 W. for approx. 1 mile, turn onto Hilltop Rd. to first farm on left. For Curtis and Arlene Yeager. David P. Loeb, auct.

SAT. AUG. 13 - 9AM Liquidation of Carl Bieber's Sewing Center, vacuums, sewing machines, store fixtures, new items, tools, etc. At 12 W. Main St., Fleet-wood, Pa. For Carl M. Bieber. Kenneth P. Leiby, auct.

SAT. AUG. 13 - 10AM Furniture, 801 Shippen St., Royalton, Pa. From Rt. 441 in Royalton, turn N. onto Burd St., over the RR bridge to stop sign, turn right onto Northumberland St. to Dead End, turn left onto Shippen St., go four blocks to sale on left. Ken Fleck, auct.



OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE. HOUSEHOLD GOODS, ANTIQUES AND STORAGE SHED

**THURS., AUGUST 25. 1994** SALE AT 5:00 P.M. REAL ESTATE AT 7:00 P.M.

Located at 203 West Main St., Leola, Upper Leacock Twp. Lanc. Co., Pa. Leola is located on Rt. 23, midway between Lan-



The West Side of a 21/2 Story Double Brick Dwelling w/slate roof, on a lot containing 36.2 perches. There is a kitchen w/ laundry facilities, living room & front entrance room on the first floor, 2 bedrooms & bath on the second floor, attic storage above Full basement, oil fired hot water heat, summer/winter hookup, baseboard radiators, 275 gal oil tank, 100 amp elect service, town water & sewer, alm. storm doors & windows, front, side & rear porches. There is a driveway right of way to 1/2 of a 2-car garage on the east side, 8'x10' storage shed in rear yard Open for inspection Sats , Aug. 6 & 13 from 2 00 till 4 00 P M 10% down day of sale, balance on or before Oct 25, 1994

AUCT. NOTE - Order of Sale - Furniture, Appliances,

Terms by

No Out of State Checks

BARBARA A. SHAUB

Robert L. Shaub, deceased Joyce E. Burkhart, POA

Robert E & Jeffrey R Martin -- (717) 656 7770 Randall L Ranck Douglas R Good - Atty for Wentz, Weaver & Kling Lunch by Salom Hellers Church

Tools, Glassware.

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