

## Redeemed Equity Goes To Dairy Farmers

STRONGSVILLE, Ohio — Checks totaling more than \$5.2 million in redeemed equity recently went to the dairy farm families of Milk Marketing Inc. (MMI), the region's largest dairy cooperative.

MMI—the 5,600 member dairy cooperative based in Strongsville, Ohio—returned a two-year cash redemption to its members totaling \$5.2 million. The double redemption represents the equity investment made by MMI members to protect and enhance their markets through their Farmers Dairy Foods Inc. manufacturing facilities during fiscal years 1984 and 1985.

"MMI's equity redemption policy has been to return one year's worth of equity to members on a 10-year revolving schedule," said Don Schriver, MMI's executive vice president and chief executive officer. "However, this year MMI's producer-directed board elected to redeem, in cash, two years worth of member equity. The redemption was based on the cooperative's stability and financial results."

This December's double redemption marks the second time in the past six months that MMI members have received a cash payment over and above their monthly milk checks.

In September, MMI's dairy producer families received \$1.9 million in patronage earnings. The cash issue was the equivalent of 5 cents per hundredweight based on the total pounds of milk members marketed through MMI from July 1, 1993 to June 30, 1994.

This month's \$5 million redemption coupled with the \$1.9 million patronage issue made in September means that MMI has returned nearly \$7 million to its members in the first six months of the new fiscal year beginning with July 1, 1994.

According to Schriver, "That's an achievement belonging to the 5,600 dairy producers who belong to MMI. It's their commitment to marketing their commodities together through one business entity that makes these kinds of returns possible. It pays to work together. It pays to belong."

According to MMI's audited financial statement published this past fall, the cooperative, with 4.75 billion pounds of milk marketed and processed during fiscal year 1994, generated net revenues of \$725 million and showed a net savings of \$3.7 million. Both rev-

enues and savings were up \$36 million and \$2.8 million, respectively, over year-earlier levels.

Milk Marketing Inc. is the nation's 7th largest dairy cooperative and is the 73rd largest U.S. food company Headquartered in Strongsville, Ohio, MMI is owned

by 5,600 dairy farm families in Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, New York and West Virginia. In fiscal year 1994, MMI marketed and processed more than 4.75 billion pounds of milk and generated revenues of \$725 million.

## Department Chair Lauded By Soil Science Society

NEWARK, Del. — Congratulations and honors awaited Dr. Donald L. Sparks at the annual conference of the Soil Science Society of America, held in Seattle, Wash., Nov. 13-17.

Sparks was awarded the Soil Science Research Award. This award is based on demonstration of unusual creativity, excellence in reasoning ability and or technical skill, and originality and significance of research to basic soil science.

Only 15 years into his career, Sparks is one of the youngest recipients of the award. Sparks, distinguished professor of soil science and chair of the department of plant and soil sciences at the University of Delaware College of Agricultural Sciences, has pursued research in physical chemical processes of soils that is highly recognized nationally and internationally. He pioneered research on the kinetics of soil chemical processes.

Using kinetic methods that he developed, Sparks also has made substantive contributions in understanding the chemistry of potassium in soils and in elucidating mechanisms of metal and organic chemical interactions with soil components using in situ spectroscopic and microscopic techniques.

Sparks credits a supportive research environment with his success.

"The supportive environment from administrators and colleagues in the college and the university has been an important part of my career at the University of Delaware," he said. "Support for my early research on kinetics of soil chemical reactions came from a UDRF grant. Continued support has come from local industry, particularly the DuPont Company, through the University of Delaware Research Partnership program. The Unidel Foundation has funded the purchase of state-of-the-art equipment that has been

invaluable in helping us to execute some novel research on contaminant interactions in natural environments.

"This is the most prestigious research award given by the Soil Science Society of America," he said. "In accepting this fine honor, I must acknowledge the superb group of graduate students post-doctoral fellows, visiting scientists, and colleagues in academe and industry with whom I have had the privilege to collaborate."

Sparks is the author of "Kinetics of Soil Chemical Reactions," a standard reference in the field. He is the editor of "Soil Physical Chemistry," a book that is used extensively by researchers and students. Sparks recently completed a new text book "Environmental Soil Chemistry," that will be published by Academic Press in 1995. He is the editor of 10 other

books and author of 25 book chapters and more than 80 refereed papers.

Sparks has served as technical editor of the Soil Science Society of America Journal, serves as editor of Advances in Agronomy, the most prestigious serial review in the crop and soil sciences, and Geoderma and is a member of the editorial boards of Soil Science and Trends in Soil Science.

Sparks has received many other honors, including Fellow of the Soil Science Society of America and American Society of Agronomy; recipient of the F.D. Chester Distinguished Performance Award from the College of Agricultural Sciences; Research Award of the Northeastern Branch of the American Society of Agronomy; and the M. L. and Chrystie M. Jackson Soil Science Award for the Soil Science Society of America.



"Mayflower" a yearling Southdown/Ram recently received top honors as Supreme Grand Champion Ram overall breeds at the North American Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky. Bred and owned by Scenic View Farm, Steve and Gary Kwisnek of RD #1 Clarksburg. "Mayflower" qualified after receiving Grand Champion Ram honors at the 1994 National Southdown Show also held in Kentucky.

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