

Eastern Milk Members In Washington

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Eastern Milk Producers' members and staff stormed the capital this week in an effort to communicate dairy-men's needs to Congress. With the 1995 Farm Bill looming in the not-too-distant future, EMP members

were sure to make their message known to legislators while making rounds with the Northeast Council of Farmer Cooperatives (NCFC).

"Even though you as members are quite small, your value to the community is quite high," said

Bob Gray, executive director of NCFC, in an address to the Eastern delegation. "These legislative visits give farmers a personal contact here that they can connect with about issues that are important to the Northeast dairy industry."

Some issues of great importance to the cooperative are the preservation of Federal Milk Marketing Orders, control of assessments, and funding for environmental mandates.

These issues, and more, were also addressed during discussions with Representative Steve Gunderson, Wisconsin, chairman of the House agriculture subcommittee on dairy and livestock. He highlighted two issues of vital importance in the upcoming bill.

"The purchase program is wide open for discussion," he noted.

"We realize there needs to be a mechanism for transition to a free market. We need to research it, but I think we are just dumb if we don't figure out how to have support to take advantage of exports."

"Secondly, the reality is that if we don't solve the Federal Milk Marketing Order dispute across the country, there will be no FMMO system. We're going to articulate a lot of questions and you need to discuss this with other regions of the country. "I've got to plead with you that our door is open. Talk to us."

And talking is just what the cooperative did. Several of Eastern's cooperative officers, directors, staff, and Young Cooperators voiced their opinions on dairy issues to their Senators and Representatives. YCs gave some insight

into the challenges meeting beginning farmers in the current dairy climate, as well as learned about the legislative process and their role in it. They stressed the importance that a personal contact with legislators plays in their future.

"I am one dairy farmer who will go home from here with a new understanding of the process," said Jackie Root, a Young Cooperator from Lawrenceville. "I will write letters and call my Congressman about issues that are important to me because I feel that real people will listen to me." Gray agreed.

"It's important to touch base with your legislators," he stressed. "Not only do you make that contact for yourself and your business, but you also give them a resource to call on if they have a question about your industry."



Eastern Milk Producers President Lew Gardner, left, gets legislative assistance from Jon Brackman and Jackie Root, young cooperators.

Get MOOVin' with Dairy Foods

Pa. DHIA Hires Baird

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technician in the Warren County area in August, there came the opportunity for Sue to work full

opportunity for Sue to work full time. Her circuit of 12 herds quickly grew to 26 herds.

When talking to Sue about her job responsibilities as a technician, it doesn't take long to realize that she truly loves her job.

When Sue was asked what she likes most about working as a Pa.DHIA technician, she quickly said that she enjoys the relationships that have been developed through working with dairymen; the idea of being associated with the dairy industry; and just being able to wave to her dairymen as she passes them on the road.

She said the knowledge and experience gained through working as a technician is unmeasurable.

Workshop Set For Lancaster

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — A March 3 workshop to be held at the Lancaster County Extension Office is to focus on how to use Pennsylvania Dairy Herd Improvement reports to help make smart decision for improving herd profits.

The workshop, "How To Use Pa.DHIA Reports," is open to all dairymen, and is to be presented by Glen Shirk, Lancaster County Extension dairy agent.

The workshop is to start at 12:30 p.m. and end about 2:30 p.m. No reservations are necessary.

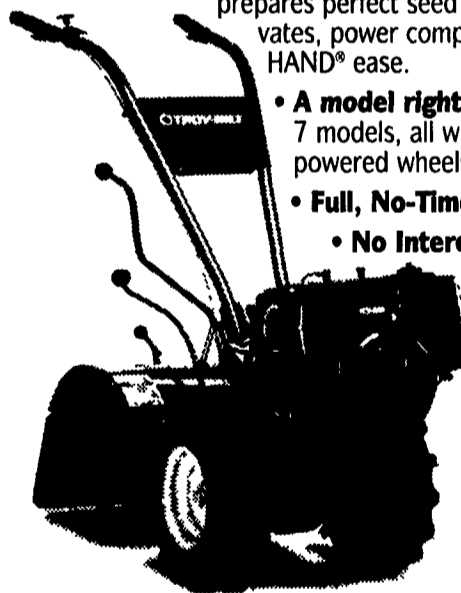
Glen is to go over the Pa.DHIA herd management reports. He is to provide clues on how to make smart decisions and use the reports for early detection of potential problems.

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