

Dairy Co-ops

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reform is to be completed, the cooperative leaders acknowledge the time frame for generating additional income to dairy producers via the current compact, is a short one. However, given uncertainty over the future of federal involvement in milk marketing, the compact structure is further seen as a tool for pricing within a fluid marketing region. Compact discussion continues under way in several other parts of the nation, with numerous states having passed, or in process or trying to pass, supporting legislation.

One question being raised on the compact issue is the potential of increased production within the region in response to higher milk prices. More production would lower the Class I utilization in the compact area, and the volume on which the compact price would be paid, diluting the premium. Milk volume in the compact area is already reported to be higher, whether due to production response from within the compact areas, normal seasonal production upswings or more milk flowing into the compact's boundaries than before to take advantage of the price.

The compact structure does have built within it a pricing mechanism to withhold premium monies from payment to producers if production within the region climbs faster than that of the rest of the country, and to an extent where product would have to be purchased by the Commodity Credit Corporation to remove it from the market. According to Gardner, a large portion of the February premium will be escrowed, with

funds held in anticipation of helping to fund possible CCC purchases. With most of the funds in escrow, the February compact premium per hundredweight as estimated to be a few cents.

Traditionally, dairy production trends upward in the spring due to improved grazing conditions with warming weather, closely followed by diminished Class I utilization as schools recess for summer vacation. The trend generally reverses in late summer, sometimes dramatically, as hot weather curtails milk output and schools return to classes.

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
TERRE HILL (Lancaster Co.)
— A new produce auction, Weaverland Produce, will soon open southwest of here on Long Lane Road between Quarry and Martindale Road.

The Weaverland Produce Company, composed of 34 produce growers in the region, received conditional approval from the East Earl Township supervisors recently to begin construction of the proposed 27,600 square foot building.

The building will accommodate growers and buyers from the region, similar to the Leola Produce Auction on Brethren Church Road in Leola.

According to Carl Hoover, on whose property the auction will be constructed under private contracts with the company, the auction still needs Department of Environmental Protection approval before construction can begin. The site is on approximately five acres of land of which nine has been subdivided. The site can be

"Time is of the essence," emphasizes Lewis Gardner, Potter County dairy producers and chairman of the Northeast Council of Dairy Farmers of America. "Dairy producers operating under the Northeast Compact are seeing a return of a larger part of the consumer's dollars spent for milk. We encourage Pennsylvania dairy producers to show their support for passing compact legislation here by attending the hearing."

expanded as the business grows, according to Hoover, who is secretary of the company.

The members of Weaverland Produce have raised about \$400,000, of which half is spent on obtaining the necessary permits and other items, according to Hoover.

Hoover noted that enough area was needed for a water retention pond, a sand mount area for sewer, an alternate sewer mount area, stabilization and swails, and grass areas. In addition, according to the township, the company must plant 65 trees.

Hoover, who plans to grow about three acres of produce himself, finishes steers on the property and has his own tractor repair shop.

President of the corporation is Moses B. Sensenig, East Earl.

Hoover noted that the starting date is set for perhaps June 1, though the company would like to begin in mid-May if they could. "We talked to a lot of groups interested in buying at the auction," said Hoover.

The auction, with access to Rt. 897 to the east and Rt. 322 to the west, can be reached by many growers. When the company was formed in October last year, Hoover noted the intent was to involve as many growers as possible that were familiar with auctions such as Leola as an outlet for their crops.

Also, this week, several auctions announced the starting dates and times for several auctions. Many begin with flowers and bedding plants or special Easter sales. They are:

• Cumberland Valley Produce Auction, Shippensburg. Begins March 31 and every Tuesday and Thursday at 9 a.m.

• Hope Produce, Mount Hope, Ohio. Begins April 28 up to June at 10 a.m., then also Tuesdays and Thursdays in June.

• Kirkwood Produce, Kirkwood. Begins April 8 at 10 a.m., continuing Wednesdays through April and including Tuesdays and Thursdays in June.

• Kutztown Produce, Fleetwood. Begins March 24 at 10 a.m., every Tuesday and Thursday.

• Leola Produce, Leola. Specializes in flowers before Easter. Begins Tuesday, March 31 at 10 a.m. and, April 2, is held Tuesdays and Thursdays.

• Morrison Cove Produce, Roaring Spring. Begins Tuesday, March 31 with Easter flowers each Tuesday for a few weeks.

• Shippensburg Produce Auction, Shippensburg. This produce auction runs all year.

• Windmill Produce Auction, Penn Yan, N.Y. Begins May 1 at 10 a.m. and continues every Friday.

Carroll County Milkers' School Set

WESTMINSTER, Md. — Milkers' School has been scheduled for Carroll County on March 25.

Recently, cooperatives and processors have increased their emphasis on milk quality. As we all know, milk quality starts on the farm.

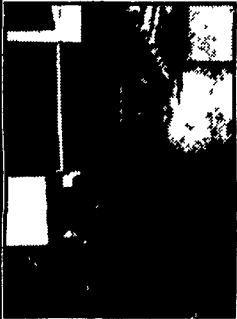
This school is designed to provide milkers with the latest information on milking techniques and associated practices. Topics included are anatomy of the udder, milk letdown, somatic cells and the CMT, costs of mastitis, milking equipment performance, causes of mastitis, teat dipping, cleaning milking equipment, treatment and prevention of mastitis, milking techniques, residue avoidance, and much more.

Past participants in this program have found it to be very rewarding and of great use. It is targeted to the folks that are milking the cows, but herdsmen and herd owners are encouraged to attend with the milkers to allow cooperative learning.

This school will be held at the Carroll County Extension Office on March 25 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The registration fee is \$25 per person and will include lunch and reference materials. Checks should be made payable to Carroll County EAC and sent to 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD 21157. The registration deadline is March 23.

For more information, call (410) 848-4611.

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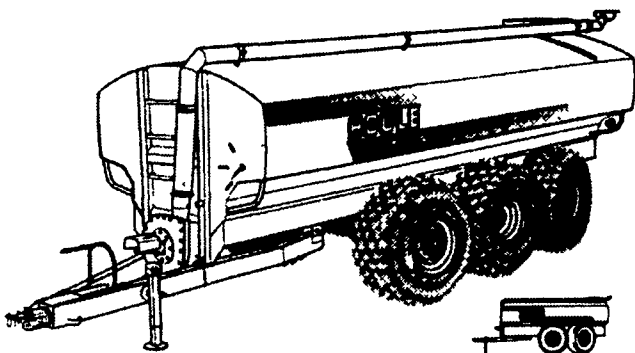
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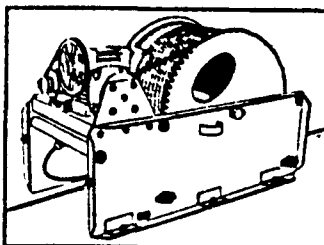
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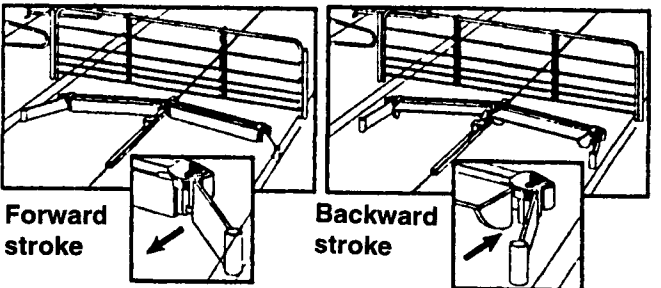
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