



OPINION

Increase Bulk Tank Milk Prices

Since January, 1998, wholesale prices of butter have taken a dramatic increase from \$1.12 per pound to \$1.98 per pound, according to charts released this week by the Progressive Agriculture Organization, headquartered in Meshoppen.

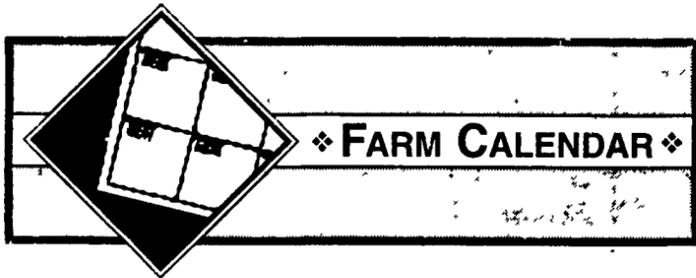
Naturally, the retail price has increased at the wholesale level.

Of course, many consumers believe dairy farmers are really making a big profit on these butter prices. But actually, there is no direct relationship between the price of manufactured dairy products and the dairy farmer's price.

Different economists will disagree as to why the butter and cheese wholesale prices have sky-rocketed, but one thing is sure, the value of milk at the farm level is not responsible.

"Consumers should realize that dairy producers will only receive a small amount of the current price increases, because butterfat accounts for only about 3.6 percent of the total makeup of milk," said Rodger Scholtz, director of National Farmers Organization, Ames, Iowa. "The current butterfat product pricing situation is certainly seasonal and is based somewhat on consumption forecasts."

The good side of all this discussion is that butter is now considered a healthy food that consumers are willing to pay more to get. And with July 5th a new basic formula price to be announced, the higher consumer prices will finally increase bulk tank prices to some extent. Now if we can just find a way to continue to bring extra consumer dollars back to the dairy farmer we will have added hope for the future of the dairy industry.



Saturday, July 11

Tioga County Annual Farm-City Day, David and Donna Cleveland's Farm, Wellsboro, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Turkey Hill Giant Ice Cream Sundae, Capitol City Mall, Camp Hill, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Summer Beef Field Day, hosted by Mullinix family, Woodbine, Md., carcass evaluation July 15, Mt. Airy Locker, Mt. Airy, Md., 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 12

Ice Cream Social, John and Bonnie Hess Farm, Gettysburg, 1 p.m.

Monday, July 13

4-H Dog at Work, Chester County Romano 4-H Center, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Eastern Apicultural Society Short Course and Conference, Short Course at Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Champion, thru July 15.

Pa. Wool Pool, Wyoming Fairgrounds, Meshoppen, noon-7 p.m., also July 14.

Tuesday, July 14

Western Pa. Junior Holstein Show, Crooked Creek Horse Park, Ford City, 10 a.m.

Centre/Clinton Holstein Association picnic, Paul and Dee Courter Farm, Mill Hall, 7 p.m.

Southeast District Dairy Show, Lebanon Area Fairgrounds, Jacktown Fair, Wind Ridge, thru July 19.

Wool Pool, Wyoming Fairgrounds, Meshoppen, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Christmas Tree Growers meeting, Helen and Ed's Tree Farm, Dorrance, 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

NPPC Pork Quality and Safety Summit, Hotel Fort, Des Moines, Iowa, thru July 15.

DEP CAFO Proposal Meeting/

Hearings, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, 6:30 p.m.

Grazing and pasture meeting, Dave and Ruth Ann Hallow, Jersey Shore, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Wednesday, July 15

Somerset County Holstein Show, Fairgrounds, Meyersdale, 6:30 p.m.

Eastern Apicultural Society Short Course and Conference, Conference at Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Champion, thru July 17.

World Sheep and Wool Congress, Fairplex, Pomona, Calif., thru July 19.

Thursday, July 16

Weed Science Field Day, Landisville.

Kent County Fair, Kent Ag Center, Tolchester, thru July 19.

Pa. Young Farmers Tours and Conference, Tulpehocken High School, also tour on July 17 (buses leave from high school).

Perry County Holstein Club picnic, Icksburg Park, Icksburg, 7:30 p.m.

Lycoming County Fair, Hughesville, thru July 25.

Berks County Grazing Walk, Papa Farm, managed by Brian and Karen Mohn, Bethel, 6:30 p.m.

Northeast Wool Pool, Furman's Warehouse, Northumberland, 7 a.m.-noon.

Friday, July 17

Weed Science Field Days, Rockspring.

Progress Through Communications For Agriculture Annual Tour of Local Agricultural and Forest Facilities and Picnic, Coolidge Farms, 1 p.m. tour, picnic at 7 p.m.

New England Sheep Sale, Big E Agricultural Complex, West Springfield, Mass., 9 a.m., thru



Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Develop Nutrient Management Plans

October 1, 1998 is rapidly approaching. This is the date all farms with more than 2 animal units per acre (concentrated animal operations) must have their nutrient management plans filed with their county conservation district.

An animal unit is 1,000 pounds of live animal weight. Based on recent reports from conservation districts, the number of nutrient management plans filed thus far is very low. It is very important to have all concentrated animal operations file nutrient management plans with their conservation districts.

If farmers do not voluntarily file their plans, agriculture weakens its position as being a good environmental steward. This will lead to more restrictive regulations for farmers. How farms will be regulated in the future will hinge greatly on how farmers respond now. If you have developed your nutrient management plan, file it now. If you have not develop your plan, begin the process now so you may meet the October 1 deadline.

If you have any questions, contact your county cooperative extension office or county conservation district office.

To Understand Leafhopper Damage

Potato leafhoppers have been reported feeding on alfalfa in Lancaster County, according to Robert Anderson, Lancaster County

July 18.

Dauphin County Holstein picnic, Dale and Ray Kennedy Farm, Middletown, 7 p.m.

Saturday, July 18

Gratz Area Antique Machinery Association Inc. Show, thru July 19.

NYS Percheron Association Picnic and Field Day, Cayuga County Fairgrounds, Weedsport, N.Y., 11 a.m.

Pa. Cattlemen's Field Day, McElhane Stock Farm and Hookstown Fairgrounds.

Va. Angus Association Tomorrow's Future For Today's Cattlemen Seminar, Rockingham County Fairgrounds and Ramada Inn, Harrisonburg, Va.

Sunday, July 19

Alleghany County Ag Expo, Alleghany County Fairgrounds, Cumberland, thru July 26.

Rough Riders 4-H and Pony Club Annual Open Horse Show, Water Gap Equestrian Center, Atglen, 9 a.m.

Jefferson County Fair, Brookville, thru July 25.

Monday, July 20

6th Annual Hoss's Fore FFA Golf Tournament and Dinner/

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Extension Agronomy Agent. Each year these small green insects reach Lancaster County from southern straits. Once established in an alfalfa field, their population may increase rapidly. Feeding damage is caused by both the adult hopper and nymph.

The first visual sign of damage is often a yellowing of the alfalfa leaf, especially on new growth. The brassy yellowing often occurs in a v shaped wedge. Often by the time the yellowing is noticed, significant losses have already occurred. Severe damage causes stunted plants with shortened internodes. Stunting and leaf loss results in the loss of quantity and quality of hay. In addition, severe feeding reduces plant vigor and winter hardiness. Stunted alfalfa allows light penetration into the canopy, encouraging weed growth.

To Scout For Leafhoppers

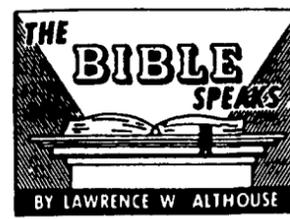
As alfalfa is cut, the leafhopper

will move to adjoining fields. Robert Anderson, Lancaster County Extension Agronomy Agent, recommends the regrowth of subsequent cuttings must be scouted carefully.

Considerable damage may be caused by large populations moving from a cut field to the new growth of an adjacent field. Fields should be scouted every 5 to 7 days. Begin checking new growth immediately after harvest.

Using a sweep net, take 20 sweeps in five different areas of each field. Average the number of hoppers and nymphs per sweep. For hay less than 10 inches tall, consider an insecticide application if more than 0.1 hopper is found per sweep. If hay is over 10 inches tall, consider an insecticide application if 2 or more hoppers are found per sweep.

Feather Prof.'s Footnote
"Success does not come to you. You go to it."



WISE UP!

July 12, 1998

Background Scripture:

Proverbs 2:1-15

Devotional Reading:

Psalms 53:106

Children are often confused about the words they hear in church. As a boy, I thought the words in the Apostles' Creed meant that Jesus was coming to "quicken" the dead. So I do not find it hard to believe a colleague of mine who said that in his younger years he always thought the hymn was "Wise Up, O Men of God."

Every time I sing that hymn I think of that alternate wording and contemplate that many times in our lives it would be quite relevant. Men and women of God often need to "wise up" as well as "rise up." In fact, there is some danger in "rising up" before we "wise up."

Many years ago when I first read Proverbs 3, I intended to take it with a grain of salt. I had observed that obeying God does not always keep us from misfortune or hardship. Sometimes good people suffer and bad people even prosper. So, when I read, "My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments; for length of days and years of life and abundant welfare will they give you" (3:1,2), I tended to be a bit cynical.

FAITH & HEALTH

For the past 35 years I studied and taught the relationships between health and religion. In the beginning of that quest we suspected that one's spirituality had a significant effect upon healing and health. As time went on, we found that there was good evidence to believe what we formerly had suspected.

Today, physicians such as Larry LeShan, Deepak Chopra, Bernie Siegel, Andrew Weil, Carl Simonton and Herbert Benson attest to the healing power of faith. Dr. Larry Dossey, citing hundreds of clinical studies, has written several books on the power of prayer to heal.

Just recently, I read that more than 250 studies show that religious people are generally significantly healthier than those who

are not. They get sick less frequently, do not remain sick as long, have fewer side effects, heal faster and live longer. Now do not misunderstand: the findings guarantee nothing, except that the percentages are more favorable with religious people when it comes to health.

BETTER PERCENTAGES

This too, is what Proverbs is saying: in general, the percentages for healthier, happier living are with those who live by the wisdom of God. The sage outlines some of those side benefits: "for length of days and years of life and abundant welfare will they give you" (3:2), and "it will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones" (3:8). But the sage also recognizes that even the wise man will sometimes suffer and he regards these experiences as "the Lord's discipline, for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights" (3:11,12).

Something else the sage says strikes a chord with my own experience: "Let not loyalty and faithfulness forsake you; bind them about your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart" (3:3). I used to think that his advice was purely symbolic. But there have been times in my life when I knew the answer to my current problem, but forgot the answers as soon as I arose from prayer. I found that one way to keep these answers in my mind was to write them on pieces of paper to position at various places in my house and office: my shaving mirror, pillow, briefcase, desk, and so forth. Constantly reminded by these visual cues, I kept them more prominently in my consciousness — like the one that still graces my desk: "I am called, not to be successful in my ministry, but to be faithful in my witness. That will be success enough."

I have experienced for myself the truth of the sage: "Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gets understanding, for the gain from it is better than gain from silver and its profit better than gold" (3:13,14).

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