

Maryland, Virginia Returns 80 Percent Patronage Dividends

RESTON, Va. — Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative Association Inc. distributed 80 percent of its patronage dividends in cash to its members, totaling \$4.1 million, or 21 cents per hundredweight for milk shipped during 1997.

The remaining 20 percent, or 5 cents per hundredweight, has been issued in certificates held in the

cooperative's revolving fund.

To expedite the cash distribution of patronage dividends to members, the board of directors approved the distribution of dividend checks, 11 days early, on Friday, August 21. Part of this cash distribution was pre-paid to cooperative members in addition to the "13th check" on February 1, 1998.

According to President Jack Hardesty, a dairy farmer from Berryville, Virginia, "Because of the cooperative's excellent financial condition, the board of directors for Maryland and Virginia has been committed to returning as much cash as soon as possible to the cooperative members."

By law, cooperatives are required to return only 20 percent in

cash to its members, making Maryland and Virginia's 80 percent distribution four times higher than required. The cooperative distributed 70 percent for the three previous years, and averaged 57 percent over the last 10 years.

General Manager George Walgrove added, "Even though farmers in Federal Orders 4 and 5 are receiving over \$1 per hundredweight more than one year ago, we realize there's a lot of catching up to do. Maryland and Virginia is fortunate to be able to return more than the required 20 percent to members in cash."

This brings the 1997 cooperative earnings to over 75 cents per

hundredweight in cash above Federal Order market prices. In addition to patronage dividends, this total includes over-order premiums, quality premiums and profits of raw milk sales.

Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative Association, headquartered in Reston, Va., is a milk marketing and processing cooperative which markets milk for 1,150 dairy farmers throughout Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and Delaware. The cooperative includes Marva Maid, a milk processing division in Newport News, Va.; a manufacturing division in Laurel, Md.; and an equipment division in Frederick, Md.

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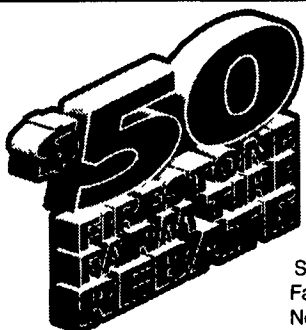
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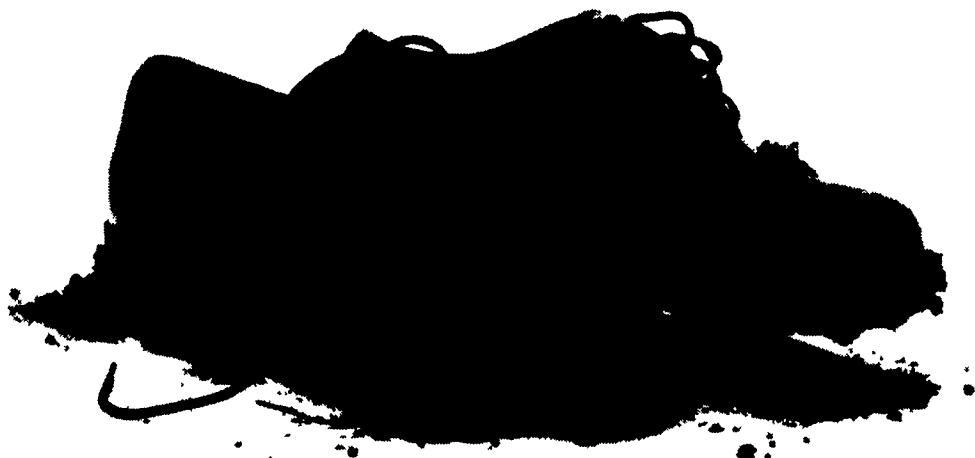
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Florida Dairy Bowl Teams Sweep National Dairy Bowl Contest

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. — Florida junior and senior dairy bowl teams came away with top honors at the National Ayrshire Dairy Bowl Contest held at the National Ayrshire Convention in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Four junior teams and seven senior teams participated in the contest.

Competing on the senior team were Christine Thomas, of Riverview; Sarah Bishop, of Okeechobee; Stacey Revels, Bushnell; and John Spann, Okeechobee.

Placing second in the contest was the team from Maryland with members Mike Creek, Mark Creek, Susan Richardson, and Stephanie Pomraning.

The winning junior team from Florida was made up of members Adam Spann, Okeechobee; Serena Churchwell, Plant City; Amanda Day, Sarasota; and Sarah Clemons, Naples.

The second place team in the junior division was from Iowa; Jason Steinlage, Justin Steinlage, Holly Zumbach and Christina Ehrman.

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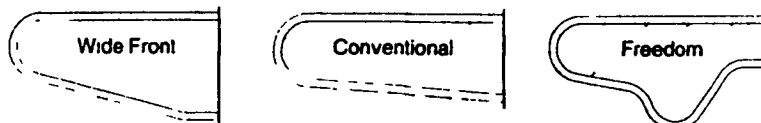


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