

MD-VA Coop Holds Annual Meeting

KAREN BUTLER
Maryland Correspondent
 Hagerstown, Md - Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers coop is going to be a very different

organization after this month, according to George Walgrove, general manager of the association.
 "It will be stronger, an

organization better able to cope with the future," Walgrove predicted recently at the 79th annual meeting of the coop held here at the Ramada Inn.

Walgrove referred specifically to the consolidation of Maryland and Virginia with Carolina Virginia Milk Producers Association, an alliance that becomes effective this April. Ninety-seven percent of the voting membership of Maryland and Virginia and 95 percent of Carolina Virginia members voted to approve the proposed consolidation last month.

The merger creates a coop that will effectively be positioned to take a more active role in securing Class 1 milk sales, according to Walgrove, an issue that takes on increased significance with the anticipated elimination of support prices at the end of this year.

The coop consolidation is also a step toward expanding the Class 1 milk base in the future, Walgrove said, and will enable the organization to supply customers with a more substantial supply of milk.

"We will not jeopardize the Class 1 customers that we have in the area," he assured producers, "The milk that will go south will go there in lieu of powder. We will continue to show our customers that we have strength."

The new coop will keep the name Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative Association, Inc. It will be headquartered in Richmond, Virginia, with a regional office in Charlotte, North Carolina, and will market milk for over 1560 producers in 10 eastern states.

Robert Shore will take over as general manager this month with the retirement of George Walgrove after 15 years with Maryland and Virginia. Shore has been assistant manager for the past eighteen months. Before coming to Maryland and Virginia, he was general manager of Carolina Virginia for thirteen years.

Shore shared policy updates with the group, and talked on Federal order reform, Class 1 pricing, and the new BFP.

"I'm afraid we're not going to like what we see in these areas," he said. Still, he told the group, he is excited and optimistic about the future.

"Our future in general is good. It's going to be about change. We face the future with the right attitude and the right resources to be successful in the future," said Shore.

During the afternoon program Young Cooperator awards were presented and eight dairy operations were honored for shipping milk to the coop for 50 years.

The Outstanding Young Cooperator for 1999 is Teresa Pomraning of York County, Pennsylvania. Teresa and her husband Myron operate My-T Farm in Delta. They milk a mixed herd of 55 Holsteins, Jerseys, Ayrshires, and Guernseys, and raise about 50 replacement heifers. Teresa also runs a home-based income tax business and works at a local farm machinery dealership. The Pomranings have four daughters: Stephanie, Kimberly, Suzann, and Jessica. The Pomranings started farming 20 years ago, and have been milking for 19 years.

"I am very honored to be



Tim and Carol Motley, Chatham, Va., were named first runners-up in Maryland and Virginia's outstanding young cooperator contest. Shown with them are their three children, from left, Adam 17, Melissa 13, and Julie 6.



The Pomraning sisters are from left, Suzann 11, Jessica, 17 (York Co. dairy princess), Stephanie 15, and Kimberly, 13.

selected as Maryland and Virginia's Outstanding Young Cooperator," said Teresa, "I am eager to represent Maryland and Virginia both locally and nationally, and hope that I can be an inspiration to other young producers."

Tim and Carol Motley from Chatham, Va. were named first runners-up and will attend the National Milk Producers Federation Young Cooperator Conference and annual meeting in Nashville, Tenn. in November.

Stephan Lethbridge from Union Bridge, Md. was selected second runner-up and will attend the National Institute on Cooperative Education in Snowbird, Utah in July.

Timmy and Tammie French from Woodstock, Va. and Ronnie and Cyndi Messick from Midland, Va. were named third

and fourth runners-up, respectively, and will attend the Pennsylvania Council of Cooperatives Young Cooperator Leadership Conference in Carlisle, Pa. in July.

Inducted into the "50 Year Club" were: Cardette Farm Partnership, The Carder Family, Culpeper, Virginia; Glebe Farm, Culpeper, Virginia; the Earhart family, Nokesville, Virginia; Gloria and Donald Toms, Frederick, Maryland; Enfield Farm, the Enfield family, Knoxville, Maryland; Orchard Crest, Inc., the Edwin Potts, Sr. and Edwin Potts, Jr. families, Purcellville, Virginia; Harvue Farms, John O. Hardesty and Son, Berryville, Virginia; and Lyle C. Tabb and Sons, Inc., Vinemont Ayrshires, Kearneysville, West Virginia.



Timmy and Tammie French, Woodstock, Va. were selected third runners-up. Their two sons are Tyler 1 1/2, and Tabb six weeks.



Ronnie and Cyndi Messick were forth runners-up. Their children are, from left, Stephanie 10, Eric 8, and Amanda 9.



Stephen Lethbridge, Union Bridge, Md., was selected second runner-up. He and his wife, Donna, have three children, from left, Allyson, 9, Collins, 5, and Brittany, 7.

Lancaster Farming



Check Out Our Web site

www.lancasterfarming.com