

Farmers Find Success, Fellowship Through Cooperative Purchasing

Attention Dairymen

ARMPPA, Inc. Dairy Meeting June 8, 1999

Fellow Dairy Farmers:

No matter what your financial position or situation is, YOU deserve better pay prices. Our present prices are at 1979 levels, while our costs have risen dramatically. What is one to do?

The Capper Volstead Act of 1922 still gives farmers the legal right to set their own prices. Join the American Raw Milk Producers Pricing Association, Inc., a national agency dedicated to pricing milk at the farm gate at cost of production plus a reasonable profit. No longer must we accept prices set by government bureaucrats who know nothing about the realities of the farm.

Join us Tuesday, June 8, 1999 at the Harvest Drive Restaurant, Intercourse, PA, 8:00 p.m. (daylight savings time). For more information, call or write me at any time.

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ARMPPA 888-276-7720

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a cash-up-front basis, the group recently purchased 150,000 gallons of fuel, and members were billed individually.

Usually, though, one person will collect ahead of time and write one check for the total purchase.

Another part of the group's success, agree Wilcox and Rand, is that it meets not only to buy products and supplies - but for social and educational purposes, too.

"We meet the first Wednesday of every month," explained Rand. "During the summer - in July, August, and September - we meet at a farm. We have a picnic or lunch. Sometimes guys in the group will supply everything, and sometimes everyone will kick in \$5, and we'll cook hotdogs or hamburgers.

"We do other things, too," he added.

"We've had vets come in to talk to us, guys talk to us about crop insurance, and George has talked about dairy issues.

"Basically, during the winter we do most of our buying, then in summer the meetings are more educational. We just had a meeting last Wednesday, and we're going to try and work on buying feed for our cows.

"We're going to spend more time talking about that - talk about what it costs to feed the cows, what other people are paying. We'll probably put our feed out on bid, and are going to invite in some feed mills that are interested in working with the group and see what they've got to offer."

A few members of the group also plan to experiment with silage corn, says Rand, planting between five and 10 trial plots to see which are most efficient in overall terms of cost and nutrition.

Looking toward the future, Rand says, he believes the group will continue to benefit by shared information and purchasing projects.

"Our group will still be going," he said. "It's not going to come apart.

"It's funny, when we started this thing, there were a lot of younger guys. They were pretty excited about this, but we invited some older guys - in their '60s and older. They were pretty negative, but really changed their minds.

"Farmers are kind of set in their ways; they don't want to change - and that hasn't really been a problem for us. We've all changed."

Schuylkill To Hold Pageant Beaver-Lawrence Plans 25th Pageant

POTTSVILLE (Schuylkill Co.) — The Schuylkill County Dairy Princess Banquet will be held Sunday, June 13, 12:30 p.m. at the Schuylkill County Agricultural

Center, Pottsville.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 6-12; and free for children under 6. Call (717) 385-1815 or (717) 345-4173.

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Huber's Animal Hlth-Myerstown Pa	June 17 1999
Snider's Hlth, Inc. Lemasters Pa	June 18 & 19
Daniel's Farm St - Leola, Pa	June 24 1999
Green Lawn Tack St - Chambersburg Pa	June 25 & 26

time 8 am - 5 pm
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