

Fink Elementary Keeps Milk Cool

CARLISLE (Cumberland Co.) — The Lyall J. Fink Elementary School in Middletown has a cool, new way to keep its milk cold during lunch.

The school cafeteria now sports a portable, non-electric "School Cool" cooler it won in a random drawing for its participation in "The Totally Cool Milk Temperature Study," a program designed to ensure that cold milk is served in public schools.

"The Totally Cool Milk Temperature Study" is a joint effort to keep milk cold in schools through proper handling and refrigeration. Studies show that 60 percent of children who currently do not drink milk at school would drink it if it were colder.

"The bottom line is that students will not drink milk that is not ice cold," said Carolyn Weaver, nutrition education specialist for Dairy Council Middle Atlantic. "Students who bypass milk because it is served warm are losing out on the calcium and other nutrients milk provides."

Sponsored by Dairy Council Middle Atlantic, "The Totally Cool Milk Temperature Study" is one segment of the Food Safety and Quality project funded in part through a matching grant awarded by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Schools participating in the program were provided with Milk Temperature Quality As-

urance materials, including digital thermometers and data recording sheets. School foodservice personnel were instructed to record the temperature of the milk when it arrived at the school, prior to each lunch period, and at the end of the last lunch period.

"The goal was to ensure that the optimal temperature of 41 degrees Fahrenheit was being maintained," Weaver said. "Temperatures of the milk cooler also were monitored throughout the day for the same 41 degree temperature ceiling."

Foodservice employee Ruth Rodkey was in charge of the program at Fink Elementary. For three consecutive days, she dutifully monitored the temperature of the milk served to the 250-plus students during lunch.

"I thought it was a good idea," Rodkey said of the program. "We learned that the temperature of our milk was very consistent. We handle the milk rather quickly (after delivery), placing it into our coolers."

According to Weaver, school foodservice learned the importance of keeping milk cold and monitoring milk temperatures throughout the day. "The only way to guarantee that milk is cold is to check the temperature when it arrives at the school and at the beginning of each lunch period," she said. "The milk temperature kits we provided offer the tools and incentive to maintain optimal quality."

At Fink Elementary, students now can pluck a carton of their favorite milk from their new cooler, which features the popular "got milk?" logo. One hundred seventy-six Pennsylvania schools in Dairy Council's service area participated in the program this spring. And while the majority of schools are doing a good job in keeping their milk cold, some are not. "We will continue to work with these schools to ensure that children have cold milk to drink," Weaver said.

Pa. Farm Bureau Commends General Assembly

CAMP HILL (Cumberland Co.) — The state's largest general farming organization said recently they are pleased with the passage of two key pieces of legislation. S.B. 300 and S.B. 1417 were both passed in the General Assembly.

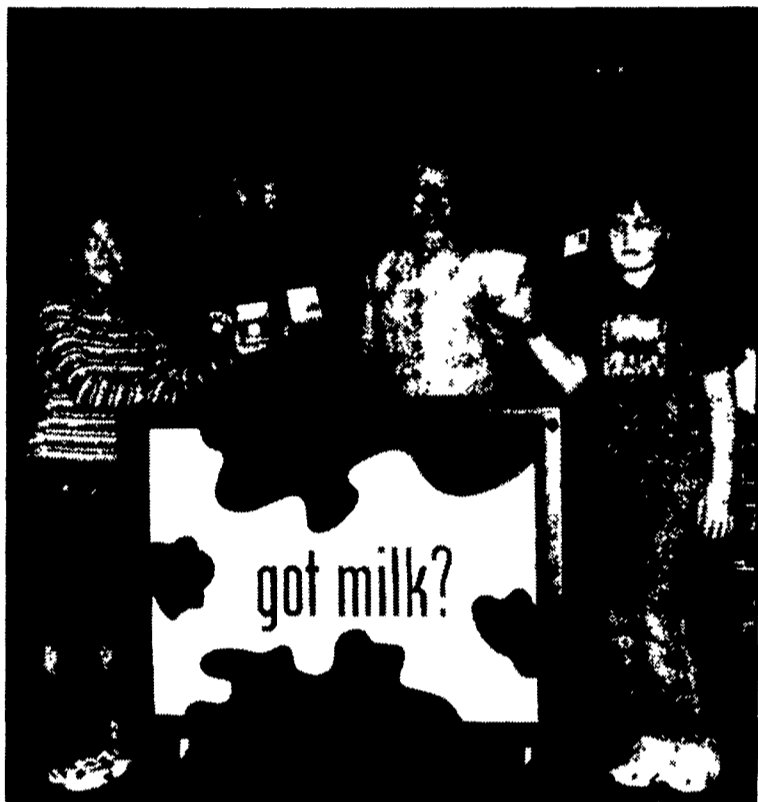
"The passage of S.B. 300 is a great step for Pennsylvania agriculture," said Guy Donaldson, president of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. "S.B. 300 ensures that local municipalities will have to comply with the current state laws affecting agriculture, which include, the Ag Area Security Law, the Right to Farm Law and the Nutrient Management Law."

"This is a giant step forward for agriculture. It ensures that future generations will have the opportunity to farm in their communities," said Donaldson.

S.B. 300 also prohibits municipalities from passing ordinances which would restrict agricultural operations or changes and expansions to agricultural operations in areas where agriculture was traditionally present. The only exception to this part of the law would be if it would have a direct adverse effect on public health and/or safety.

The state legislature also passed S.B. 1417 recently. Farm Bureau strongly supported the bill, which will prorate the unused drought funds among eligible farmers so that all \$60 million in state drought assistance is distributed to producers.

"By distributing these additional funds, farmers will continue to work toward recovering from their terrible losses due to last summer's drought," said Donaldson.



Gathered around the new milk cooler at Lyall J. Fink Elementary School in Middletown are, from left, students Mande Rushow and Keith Jeffries, interim school foodservice director Carl Broniman of Nutrition Inc., Carolyn Weaver of Dairy Council Middle Atlantic, school principal Joseph Rasimas and student Brittany Holsky.

Mini-Dairy

Continued From A24

operation manager is Betty Van Arsdale. Before beginning operations, the plant had to receive its licensing and certification to process milk. With the first full month of production and retail sales in June, the cooperative planned promotions every weekend to draw people into the store.

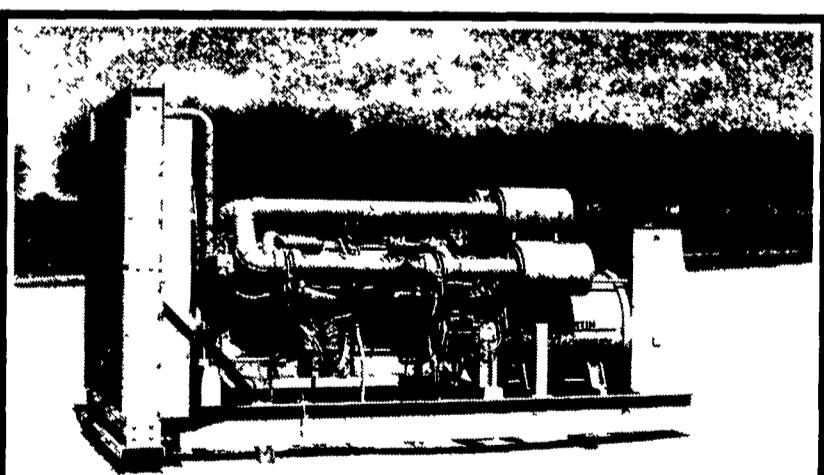
"We really want to appeal to a niche market," said Graybill. "Our products have no preservatives, and farmers don't use

any BST on their cows."

"Once the plant is at full capacity, we do anticipate that the farmers will get a slightly higher price for their milk," said Graybill. A governing board of farmers oversees the operation for the cooperative.

The cooperative has self-imposed milk quality standards that are much higher than the state requires. "Our emphasis is on producing a high quality, full flavor dairy product through the mini-dairy."

got milk?



GENERATORS

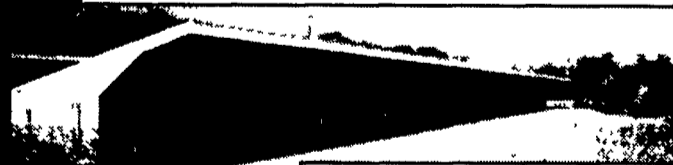
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