

South Australian Dairymen's Association Inc)

Eighteenth Annual report 30th June 1952.

Administration : No change took place in the Administrative personnel elected at the commencement of this financial year.

Membership: The financial membership this year has again been further reduced showing a decrease of 15.7%. The comparative figures of financial members for the two years are: - p

1950/51 1643.

1951/52 1420.

Loss 223.

The Members register shows a total 1680 members , thus revealing 84.52% financial.

In our 16 Districts, (with the exception of one) the financial membership ranged from 75% to 100%. The Exception is Upper Torrens Valley, which has the extremely low financial membership of 54%.

The main reason for the small percentage in this District is due to the matter of changing over the method of collecting their subscriptions. For many years the Upper Torrens Valley collected subscriptions on a percentage basis, but last year adopted a uniform subscription of £ 1-6-0 (one pound & six shillings) per member. A complete changeover from one system to another, creates a considerable amount of work as each individual member must be interviewed and asked to sign a new Bank order. Owing to the large volumes of work, all members were not interviewed by the end of June and therefore it can be anticipated that during next year a considerable increase in membership will occur in the Upper Torrens Valley District.

Another factor in the overall loss of membership is due to the fact that we did not have an organiser out in the Districts as on the precious years. Mr. Hannaford, who did splendid service in this regard during 1950/51 , was unable this year to carry out this work.

From the forgoing it will be seen that it is essential to carry out a considerable amount of organising in the majority of District during the coming year.

Milk Prices: During the year there were several increases in milk prices, both in regard to whole milk and milk for manufacture. These prices are quite distinct, have no relation to each other, and therefore will be dealt with separately.

- (1) Whole milk : At the commencement of the financial year the price for city milk was 2/5 ½d. (two shillings & five pence half penny) per gallon. This increase came into operation on the 16th December, 1951.

In the early part of the New Year, producers' costs commenced to spiral, particularly in regard to bran and pollard, which had been increased about £ 5 per ton, with the result that another approach was made to the Milk Board for a further increase owing to the excessively increased production costs.

Finally, after further negotiations by this association with the Milk Board, the price of city milk to licensed suppliers was increased by 3d., thus making the price 2/11 ¼d. (two shillings, eleven pence and one farthing). This price came into operation on the 13th April 1952.

It will therefore be seen that both increases in the price of milk for the Adelaide trade were due wholly to the efforts of the S. A. Dairymen's Association (inc.)

- (2) Manufactured Milk Products: In regard to the manufactured milk products, viz, Butter and cheese, it should be remembered that at the commencement of the Financial year the Commonwealth was still haggling with respective States to put up butter by eleven pence & one half-penny per lb. to the consumer, to enable the producer to receive his guaranteed increased cost of production.

Notwithstanding that the new guaranteed price should be operating as from the 1st July 1951, it was not until towards the end of September that four States came into line to increase the price of butter to the consumer by eleven-pence & one halfpenny per lb. and the price of cheese by seven-pence & one-halfpenny per lb.

The Association then reported the matter to the Premier (in his capacity as Prices Minister) and on his advice the matter was placed in the hands of the Prices Commissioner. The Wholesalers only wanted to pay a basic price of three-shillings & eleven-pence, whereas the Association maintained it should be four-shillings & one penny and a farthing. It was on account of this difference of tuppence-halfpenny that neither side could come to terms.

Three weeks after placing the matter in the hands of the Prices Commissioner we received, on the 12th December 1951, his determination, which set out the net basic price at four-shillings & several pennies per lb. fat.

Milk Broken Hill: Under our equalisation plan, we supply the bulk of Broken Hill's requirements of milk, in regard to milk for human consumption, as well as milk for ice-cream purposes.

Our sales of milk for consumption as such in that city, have steadily increased during the year, showing a gallonage increase of approximately 29%, and (owing to a higher levy rate) a monetary increase of approximately 635 for 1951/52 in comparison to the previous year.

Due to the rise in price of milk in Adelaide last December, difficulty was met with at Broken Hill in that the New South Wales Prices Branch did not allow an increased retail price sufficient to give the Agents at Broken Hill tier correct handling margin.

In view of this, the General Secretary paid a visit to Broken Hill, and after negotiations the matter was straightened out.

Full levies therefore are now paid-in, on all milk for human consumption, that is sent to Broken Hill under our Equalisation Plan,

Production: The downward trend of production of milk for city consumption continues and to prevent any danger of a shortage of city milk trade, production will need to be consistently increased. Producers are advised to step-up their production, especially during the months of February, March, April and May, and so receive a higher financial return for their product as the quota for these months is consistently higher than during the flush period.

Pleuropneumonia: As the result of an outbreak of pleuropneumonia in the Meadows District, an immediate approach was made to the Minister of Agriculture that true dairying areas be prohibited Areas for far northern station cattle.

At the request of the Minister, the Association submitted areas which it considered should be prohibited areas for northern cattle from known pleuro areas. After several negotiations with the Minister, and interviews with the acting Chief Inspector, Livestock Division, and submission of our plan by the Minister to the Lands Department, the Association finally received word from Sir. George Jenkins that it would be exceedingly difficult to define the areas as as suggested.

However, as the result of our requests and invitations the matter of northern cattle being bought by graziers residing in dairying areas has been constantly tightened up and will be closely watched by the Livestock Division to prevent any further outbreaks.

M E M B E R S H I P

30th June, 1952.

DISTRICT	ON ROLL 1951/1952	FINANCIAL 1951/1952	PERCENTAGE FINANCIAL
Bolivar	60	45	75%
Finniss	36	28	78%
Gawler	41	40	98%
Hills River	20	18	90%
Jervois	58	48	83%
Meadows	266	247	93%
Milang	61	54	89%
Mount Barker	136	123	90%
Myponga Co-operative	152	152	100%
One Tree Hill	44	37	84%
Onkaparinga	114	108	95%
River Murray	156	156	100%
South Coast	122	103	84%
Two Wells	33	30	91%
Upper Torrens Valley	311	169	54%
Willunga	68	60	88%
Miscellaneous	2	2	100%
	1680	1420	85%
Corresponding period last year	1982	1643	83%