

# Sixteenth Annual Report of South Australian Dairymen's Association 30<sup>th</sup> June 1950.

## 1. Administration:

No change has taken place in the administrative personnel elected at the commencement of this financial year.

During the year the Central Council met on four occasions and the Executive held six meetings . Although only 13 meetings have been this year, considerable work has been carried out by the Association.

## 2. Membership:

The financial membership this year has decreased by 10.61% . The figures being;

1948/49	2283
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1949/50	2064
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A loss of 219 members.

The members register shows a total 2,200 members thus revealing 94% financial. The decreased membership is due to three causes.

(a). A fairly large number have gone out of dairying.

(b). The breakaway from equalisation by one wholesaler taking his suppliers with him (which has caused grave dissatisfaction in the area concerned), is clearly revealed by Meadows District figures for 1949/50.

(c). No organiser was engaged throughout the year until the last month, viz . June , when Mr. F. E. Hannaford, well known as an active worker for the S. A. Dairymen's Association , was engaged as a part time organiser.

Meadows district is down by 71 financial members and Myponga Co-op. District is down by 43.

However Myponga's figures are not a true reflection of the position because 17 subscriptions were received to late to be included in the financial year under review.

With Mr. Hannaford now working part-time organising the districts, it is hoped that the membership will be restored.

**It would appear that, for some unrecorded reason, no organiser had been employed, this resulted in little contact with members. No doubt the members were feeling neglected as a consequence, a lesson unlikely to happen again in the future. (John Sharp Archivist).**

### 3. Milk Prices:

During the year several changes have taken place in regard to whole milk and manufactured products prices. As these prices are quite distinct from each other they will be dealt with separately, and are shown hereunder.

#### (a). Whole milk Price:

At the commencement of the financial year, 1<sup>st</sup> July 1949, the price to producers licenced by the Metropolitan Milk Board was 1/8¼d. per gallon ( 1 shilling, eightpence, and one farthing).

As production costs had considerably increased an application to the Board for an increase on milk prices was made during the latter half of the previous financial year. At that time it was hoped a price announcement would be made by the 1<sup>st</sup> July and although the Milk Board had made a recommendation to the Government for an increase, it was not until further negotiations had had been made by this Association, particularly in supplying the Board with further information and figures , the Cabinet agreed to the increase, which came into operation on the 24<sup>th</sup> July 1949; the new price being 1/10½d. (one shilling, ten pence and one halfpenny) per gallon.

Production costs have continued to rise and further requests have been made to the Milk Board for an increase on the present price. The Milk Board is not prepared to grant an increase, excepting after a full investigation of production costs.

With this end in view a costs survey has been taken and it is regretted that although the Board sent out notices to 1,238 dairymen, i.e. those who own 20 cows or over, seeking their support and cooperation in a cost survey, the Board only received 188 favourable replies. Unfortunately, after some time had elapsed , 78 dairymen discontinued furnishing information.

This left 110 dairymen who have continued from the outset and have fully co-operated with the Board in furnishing monthly information on the actual cost of milk production.

It should be realised by all dairymen that an increase in price is not likely to be granted unless the Authorities have sufficient data to warrant the increase. Under the survey plan the milk Board has taken records to the end of June, 1950 and are now making an analysis which we are certain will reveal a considerable increase in the cost of production since our last increases were granted 12 months ago.

#### (b). Manufactured Milk Products:

In regard to Manufactured milk products, i. e. butter, cheese etc., cost surveys have been taken each year by the Joint Dairying Industry Advisory Committee. For the financial year ending June, 1949 the cost survey revealed that to give the producer his cost of production, commercial butter would need to be increased by 3d. per lb. As price control was now under each State Government , the Chifley Government approached the several States and asked that the price of butter to the consumer be increased by 3d. per lb.

This, the States would not agree to, and from June onwards to October there was a constant haggling between the Commonwealth and the States in regard to this 3d. per lb. commercial butter. Commonwealth elections were to take place on the 10<sup>th</sup> December and by October Mr. Chifley realised that the States would not increase the price of butter The announcement was made that the Commonwealth Government would grant a subsidy of £ 1,250,000 to be paid to producers for an increased price based on 3d. per lb. , commercial butter for the six months ending December, 1949.

No mention was made of a subsidy for the balance of the year , i. e. from January to June the Commonwealth still hoped the States would agree to an increase of 3d. per lb. on butter for the balance of that financial year.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> December a change of Government took place and to avoid any increases in the cost of living , and to stop further haggling between the Commonwealth and the States, Mr. Menzies announced that the Government would give a subsidy £ 1,250,000 for the balance of the financial year.

Owing to these delays the producers were not paid the increase until January 1950, and in the desire to assist the Australian Dairy Farmers Federation in their negotiations with the Commonwealth, this Association sent a representative to Sydney on three occasions; the General Secretary in October 1949; Mr. Gormlie in November, 1949; and Mr. Elliott in January, 1950.

Under this guaranteed price, the producers in our Equalisation plan received an increase of 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. fat on surplus milk.

It will be seen that this Association took a very active and vital part in the negotiations with the Commonwealth, by its attendance at special meetings of the Australian Dairy Farmer's Federation , and although the negotiations have been fairly costly to the Association , the result warranted the expenses.

In an endeavour to overcome any future delay in payments to producers such as occurred during the year under review, a deputation from the Australian Dairy Farmers Federation ( Including Mr. Elliott) flew to Canberra and interviewed the Minister for Commerce & Agriculture. The main points stressed to the minister were :-

- (1) For the continuance of the Joint Dairying Industry Advisory Committee to carry out their annual surveys.
- (2) That the announcement of the result of these surveys to be made by the Minister, not later than June.
- (3) and that the Industry disapproves respective payments. They pointed out that announcements of any increase should be made in ample time to prevent a retrospective payment. The Minister promised that everything possible would be done to permit him to make an announcement not later than June.

The Joint Dairying Industry Advisory Committee made a further survey , early 1950 on the cost of production, and submitted a recommendation to the Minister in time for him to make an announcement prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> July.

The Minister honoured his promise to the producers and made an announcement during June of the increased cost of 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. commercial butter. This increase has worked out at 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. butterfat and the basic price, as from, the 1<sup>st</sup> July (including Commonwealth Subsidy) will be (two shillings, eleven pence and a farthing). Per lb. fat.

## Sixteenth Annual Report of South Australian Dairymen's Association 30<sup>th</sup> June 1950 (Part two)

### Grade Herd Testing:

In our report last year we mentioned that through our persistence efforts , grade Herd Testing had not only been revived but, in addition , the Government had approved an additional £ 2,000 being placed on the Estimates for the current year as its third share of the cost of a further nine Associations.

We are now pleased to report that during the year- although it is regretted one Association was closed through lack of support- five new Associations were started, Viz., two in the Southeast last May, one at Clare in September, one at Myponga, and one at Ponde.

Furthermore another Association will be started on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1950 , in the Murray Bridge area, taking in the River swamps; i.e. River Glen, Swan port, Monteith, Long Flat, and part of Woods Point.

When the latter Association starts it will make 20 Grade Herd Testing Associations in South Australia. At the time of compiling this report there are 405 herds with 12,223 cows under test. When the Murray Bridge area starts in August, the totals will be 428 herds, and cows slightly in excess of 13,000.

The active interest taken by the Association in this matter is now showing results which must be to the benefit of the Dairy Industry generally in South Australia.

### Cream Ban- Butter Rationing:

The cream ban was lifted on 23<sup>rd</sup> May ,1950. Since it was lifted sweet cream sales have increased by 1,100 percent. During the last year of the ban, the sales of sweet cream averaged approximately 9,000 lbs. per month, and during June,1950 ( the first full month after the lifting of the ban ) sweet cream sales jumped to 109,700 lbs.

Providing the sales of sweet cream are maintained at this ratio for the year, it will bring an increased revenue to the City Milk Bonus funds of approximately £ 40,000 for the financial year 1950/51.

Butter rationing ended 16<sup>th</sup> June, but it is too early yet to say what effect it has had on the normal sales of butter, although it is understood that the increase is quite appreciable.

**Note: We need more information regarding the Cream Ban and Butter Rationing, including the reason for, and rationale behind. (John Sharp Archivist.)**

DISTRICT <i>1948/49</i>	ON ROLL 1949/1950	FINANCIAL 1949/1950	PERCENTAGE FINANCIAL
<i>Bolivar</i> Bolivar <i>42</i> <i>78</i>	81	76	94%
Finniss <i>77</i>	52	48	92%
Gawler <i>67</i>	58	58	100%
Hills River <i>51</i>	39	39	100%
Jervois <i>64</i>	73	67	92%
Meadows <i>380</i>	305	280	92%
Milang <i>47</i>	73	71	97%
Mt. Barker <i>183</i>	166	156	94%
Myponga Co-operative <i>246</i>	203	203	100%
One Tree Hill <i>72</i>	67	60	90%
Onkaparinga <i>140</i>	134	129	96%
River Murray <i>175</i>	178	168	94%
South Coast <i>183</i>	165	161	98%
Two Wells <i>47</i>	42	42	100%
Upper Torrens Valley <i>460</i>	452	406	90%
Willunga <i>120</i>	109	97	89%
Miscellaneous	3	3	100%
	2200	2064	94%
Corresponding period last year	2439	2283	94%