

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN

DAIRYMEN'S ...

# Journal

Official Publication of the



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Vol. 14, No. 4

Adelaide, JANUARY/FEBRUARY, 1974

## PRICES & STATISTICS

### ADELAIDE METROPOLITAN MILK SUPPLY AREA

#### PRODUCTION (000 gallons/000 litres)

	For Month		Daily Average		12 Months' Cumulative	
	1973	1974	1973	1974	1973	1974
December ...	5 282	5 325	170.4	171.8	56 315	55 652
	<b>24 012</b>	<b>24 207</b>	<b>774.6</b>	<b>781.0</b>	<b>255 190</b>	<b>252 994</b>
January ... ..	4 559	4 541	147.1	146.5	56 329	55 634
	<b>20 725</b>	<b>20 643</b>	<b>668.7</b>	<b>666.0</b>	<b>256 072</b>	<b>252 912</b>

#### MILK SALES (000 gallons/000 litres)

	For Month		Daily Average		12 Months' Cumulative	
	1973	1974	1973	1974	1973	1974
December ... ..	1 860	1 792	60.0	57.8	22 667	21 872
	<b>8 456</b>	<b>8 146</b>	<b>272.8</b>	<b>262.8</b>	<b>103 044</b>	<b>99 430</b>
January ... ..	1 919	1 838	61.9	60.9	22 650	21 823
	<b>8 724</b>	<b>8 356</b>	<b>281.4</b>	<b>276.9</b>	<b>102 967</b>	<b>99 207</b>

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 Griffith Researches Mastitis  
 Fertilisation and Milk Prices  
 Borna Disease  
 Accidents for Farm Motor Cycles

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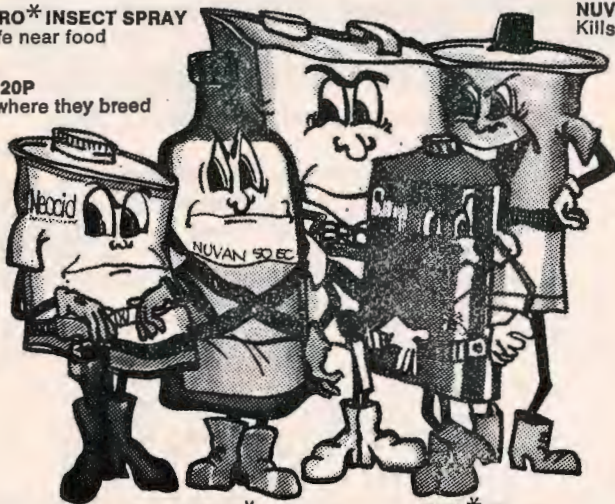
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## "DAIRYING AS AN INSTRUMENT OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT"

### International Dairy Congress Looks at World Problems

The XIX International Dairy Congress, held in New Delhi, India from 2nd to 6th December, challenged the dairy industry to play a leading role in the world of the future in which diminishing resources, including energy, coincide with expanding populations.

Mr. Brian Hannaford, Chairman of the Metropolitan Milk Board, who attended the Congress, was impressed by the emphasis given to this challenge by the first hard evidence of the needs of the developing nations which could be seen in India by the delegates attending the Congress.

Although it is difficult to predict when, or even whether, coordinated action, on an international scale, will be taken to implement the recommendations which were made by the Congress, there can be no doubt concerning the urgent necessity of such action.

The recommendations made by the delegates, who represented virtually every country which could boast of a dairy industry, large or small, or which had a significant trade in dairy products, were:

1. To achieve stability in world society it is necessary that poverty, ignorance, disease, malnutrition and over population be substantially eliminated in developing as well as in developed countries. The XIX International Congress draws the attention of the world to the use of dairying as an instrument of social and economic development to the ends. In particular, it points out to a pattern already established, and currently being further advanced, in dairy development in India. This may, the Congress believes, serve as a model not only for dairying but for other agro-industrial developments in the effective combination of social with economic objectives.

The present world economy, based largely on the use of irreplaceable resources, must start now to move towards a sustainable economy based on the use of replaceable resources. Dairying has many characteristics which make it uniquely suitable to take its place in a sustainable economy. The XIX International Dairy Congress recommends that dairy development during the coming decades should be directed to the strengthening of those characteristics. In particular it suggests the following guidelines:—

- (a) Increasing the efficiency in use and conservation of energy in farm and factory production.
- (b) Developing the use of replaceable energy sources, in particular the use of solar energy.

- (c) Measuring the efficiency of dairy production in terms of essential human nutrients, and paying accordingly.
  - (d) Utilizing for dairying purposes, to the maximum possible extent those very large quantities of forages and feedstuffs which are not directly usable as human food.
  - (e) Using milk and its constituents directly as human food, and not either for industrial purposes or unless it is important, as stock feed.
  - (f) In view of the need to increase the world food supply and to avoid environmental pollution every effort should be made to utilize all the valuable nutrients of milk and whey.
2. This Congress notes with regret that the recent U.N. World Food Conference did not include milk products in its program when considering World Food Distribution. Milk is a complete food especially for children and supplies are available which can be judiciously used for promoting dairy development and improving nutritional and socio-economic conditions. Models already exist for the effective use of milk for Development Projects under W.F.P., notably Operation Flood, international dairy schemes, etc. These succeed because of active participation of the recipient countries.
- Accordingly, this Congress calls on FAO and WFP, together with Milk Producing and other donor countries urgently to expand and develop schemes for further constructive and sustained use of milk products to foster economic and social progress with particular regards to nutritional aspects and that delegates to this Congress are urged to promote and support this proposal in their own countries for immediate action.
3. There is no doubt that the International Dairy Federation should, **as a matter of urgency**, devote considerable increased attention to the problems specific to developing countries. During this week, many such countries have approached the IDF officers, testifying to their interest in IDF activities, expressing their desire to be associated in these activities, and imposing on the Federation the urge and responsibility to act.

New perspectives are thus gradually emerging for IDF and this new situation may well cause the Federation to reconsider its structure, its financing and its program of work.

Whilst the problems of dairying in developing countries should receive proper attention in the existing Commissions, a more specific approach to those questions is also needed by the creation of working groups, seminars etc. The Congress recommends therefore that the appropriate bodies in IDF should urgently consider the issues at hand and take positive action in this field.

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## CHANGES IN ARTIFICIAL BREEDING IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

### INTRODUCTION

Artificial Insemination of dairy cattle was first undertaken in South Australia in 1958, when a modest experimental unit was established by the Department of Agriculture. By 1962 this had grown to a sizeable commercial enterprise and was taken over in 1962-63 by the newly created Artificial Breeding Board.

Since then Artificial Breeding has become accepted by the dairy industry of South Australia as an important technique of herd improvement, and, in recent years, has also been adopted by a large number of beef producers throughout the State.

Breeders of both beef and dairy cattle recognise Artificial Breeding as a valuable tool for accelerated herd improvement. It has also provided a means for introducing new strains and new breeds of cattle from overseas, thereby increasing the potential for improved herd productivity, whilst an important added benefit has been its special role in the control of venereal diseases of cattle.

### THE PRESENT SITUATION

Artificial Breeding in South Australia has now reached a critical point. It has become widely accepted as a valuable aid to cattle husbandry and herd improvement and is on the threshold of a marked expansion. The pioneering stages are over.

In recent years many people and organisations have established themselves in the various levels of the industry and a measure of exploitation in some areas has occurred. Many technical advances have been made. Many individual operators are in the field. A high degree of competition has developed.

The stage has now been reached for a consolidation of existing operations, to achieve the most efficient and most economic use of Artificial Breeding by producers.

### ARTIFICIAL BREEDING BOARD AND V.A.B.

Although the Artificial Breeding Board pioneered the development of the technique in South Australia, it has faced serious problems in recent years. As a production unit, the scale of its operation has been too small to provide scope for bull proving and to support adequate promotion and field services. Competition from larger interstate organisations on the supply side, and from individual operators in the field, have underlined the need to combine with a more substantial organisation to meet the requirements of the future. Above all, the Board has recognised the importance of establishing proper standards for semen quality and technical operation at this period in the growth of Artificial Breeding in South Australia. In this attitude both the Department of Agriculture and industry organisations are agreed.

After extensive consultations with the industry the Board recommended to the South Australian Government that its whole facilities and activities should be combined with those of its sister organisation in Victoria, the Victorian Artificial Breeders' Co-operative Society. Agreement was reached, and the two operations consolidated from 1st January, 1975.

The Board believes that this will provide producers in South Australia with access to greater resources and more sophisticated services in the future. Equally important are the greater economy and efficiency which will result from the amalgamation. The Northfield facilities will now be used to much better advantage and, dairy farmers at least will have the benefit of direct participation in the well-established bull proving scheme carried out by Victorian Artificial Breeders.

All available sources of semen will be open to both beef and dairy cattle producers, and the greater technical resources of V.A.B. will be put at their service. Thus South Australian producers will be able to share with Victorian farmers the benefits deriving from membership of V.A.B.

V.A.B. has already taken over the responsibility for the Northfield Centre and all existing field sub-centres, and will take immediate steps to expand A.I. services (including training courses) throughout South Australia.

## THE AMALGAMATED SERVICE

The agreement between the Artificial Breeding Board of South Australia and Victorian Artificial Breeders Cooperative Society Limited to amalgamate into the V.A.B. operation, the activities of the Board, has been followed by the leasing, by V.A.B. of the Northfield A.B. Centre as from 1st January, 1975, from which date the insemination and other services currently offered by the Board will be progressively integrated with those of V.A.B.

These moves are expected to bring greater benefits to South Australian dairy farmers, not the least of which will be ready access to A.B. proven sires now used in Victoria, under the same terms as apply in Victoria. Semen will also continue to be offered from all available interstate and overseas sources.

This article is designed to acquaint readers with the background of V.A.B. with particular emphasis on the sire selection and progeny tests methods employed by the Society.

### VICTORIAN ARTIFICIAL BREEDERS

Victorian Artificial Breeders Cooperative Society Limited is a **farmer-owned, farmer-controlled Cooperative** formed to provide the cattle breeding industry with the best possible semen supply service at lowest possible prices. Formed in 1958, the Cooperative now has in excess of 12 000 members and currently handles half of the total quantity of semen used in Australia each year. V.A.B.'s semen collection centre, "Parwan Park", which accommodates 250 bulls of 16 breeds, is situated at Bacchus Marsh.

The Society is the distributor, in Australia, of semen produced by the Milk Marketing Board of England and Wales, by the New Zealand Dairy Board and by the Canadian O.A.B./Semex consortium. It can supply semen collection, storage and insemination equipment, liquid nitrogen, heat detection aids and stock identification equipment. Services offered include insemination training, "on farm" custom collection of semen, free technical advice and assistance, and the arranging of beef A.I. programmes.

### PROGENY TESTING

In 1960 V.A.B. established a scheme for the **progeny testing** of dairy sires, incorporating principles and procedures from similar schemes operated by the New Zealand Dairy Board and the Milk Marketing Board of England and Wales which were, at the time, considered to be the best in the world.

Initially the progeny testing scheme included A.I.S., Ayrshire, Dairy Shorthorn, Guernsey, Jersey and Friesian breeds. Due to factors including lack of demand, inability to submit sufficient bulls to test, and costs, testing of the four lesser breeds was progressively abandoned. The scheme now concentrates on the Jersey and Friesian breeds only.

Today, **more than 1000 farmers co-operate** by the submission of a portion of their herds to under progeny test bulls. Since 1960 the Society has submitted 457 young bulls to test and has so far retained only 67 of these highly selected young sires for subsequent use in the breeding of herd replacement stock.

**More than 90 per cent of the total annual distribution, by V.A.B., of semen from the Jersey and Friesian breeds is from bulls which are proven to lift production.** To ensure that the high standards are maintained, the Society purchases virtually all its young sires through a contract mating program with stud breeders.

Selection of contract mating dams is based on herd test records covering pure-bred registered stock of the Friesian and Jersey breeds in Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales. The Breed Society Type classification of the prospective dams is also a very important consideration.

The production records cover a total of about 40 000 cows from which only 120 Friesian and 80 Jersey cows are finally contract mated, to top sires which have been proven through Artificial Breeding.

Progeny Test semen is despatched to co-operating herds on a one-for-one basis with semen from the best available proven bull of that breed. This sire, which is known as the Control (or Marker) Sire, is used as the yardstick for measurement and comparison of the production of resultant daughters on a herd to herd basis. Semen is used at random, and in rotation, to eliminate selection of dams.

Following the use of the testing sires during one year only, the sires are set aside ("lay-off") until their daughters can be assessed on the basis of production, conformation, fertility, and freedom from undesirable traits. The very best bulls are then retained (the retention rate being about 1 in 5) for extensive use in breeding herd replacements. **Each bull so retained currently costs the Society in the vicinity of \$20 000 for bull proving and accommodation expenses.**

The cycle of testing a sire continues over five years, as follows:—

- Year 1: Collection and distribution of semen for from 450 to 500 inseminations, spread over as wide a range of farms as possible;
- Year 2: Calves born to year 1 inseminations; bulls held in "lay-off";
- Year 3: Resultant female progeny of control and testing sires mated to calve at approximately 2 years of age; testing bulls held in "lay-off";
- Year 4: Heifers by control and testing sires calve, to commence recorded production of their first lactation; testing bulls held in "lay-off";
- Year 5: Production ability of resultant daughters assessed by the Herd Improvement Branch of the Department of Agriculture; bulls ranked in order of productive ability of their daughters at 150 days of production, and finally on full lactation (300 day) information.  
Preliminary culling of the tested bulls takes place on receipt of 150 day information. Semen from the top bull is stockpiled for use as control semen in year 6. Final culling takes place upon receipt of full lactation information.  
Traits, other than production, as reported by participating farmers, are taken into consideration in final cullings.
- Year 6: Top sire used as control sire.  
A selection of daughters of the better sires is inspected by V.A.B. representatives to check farmer assessments of jaws, feet and legs, teat placement, udder shape and attachment, ease of milking, temperament, tendency to bloat, and susceptibility to mastitis. The better bulls are submitted to the appropriate Breed Society for type classification.

The reasons for these procedures are:—

- To ensure that only the very best of these top sires are used to breed the next group of young sires to be submitted to progeny test in year 8.
- To maintain the highest possible standards for both production and basic dairy type characteristics.
- To confirm the daughter type assessment of farmers.

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## INCENTIVES TO PROGENY TESTING FARMERS

Incentives are offered to farmers to participate in the scheme, not the least of which is the prospect of more rapid genetic gain than might otherwise be possible. The more tangible benefits are:—

### Year 1:

Testing semen provided free of charge.

Control semen provided at reduced rates (currently \$1.00 per dose as against normal retail price of \$4.00 per dose).

First preference in the supply of semen from A.B. proven sires, from previous progeny test groups, for use over cows outside the scheme.

### Year 2:

A payment of \$5.00 is made to the farmer or his agent upon provision to the Society of a Calving Report which details heifer calves born to control and to testing inseminations in year 1. This Report is later used by the Herd Improvement Branch of the Department of Agriculture to locate and identify all heifers originating from the scheme.

### Year 3 and Year 4:

No payments.

### Year 5:

On average it is expected that 60 per cent of all heifers reared will be production recorded in their first lactation in this year.

Farmers are paid \$10 for each part-lactation report of a testing daughter used for sire survey.

**The sire breeding and proving scheme described above costs over \$200 000 per year to operate, but is self supporting through the cooperative system of semen production, distribution and insemination. Resultant proven sires are currently leaving daughters which outproduce their naturally bred herd mates by about 30 pounds of butterfat per year.**

As progeny testing is a necessary pre-requisite to genetic improvement, and as it is generally contended that only one scheme should operate to achieve maximum effectiveness in any given cattle population, it is reasonable to expect that such a scheme should be protected from loss of scale and efficiency. Such losses could be caused by the need to compete in the market place with semen originating from other sources within and outside the given cattle population, from bulls which have not been progeny tested or, at best, tested in a very limited fashion under natural mating conditions.

Legislation recently introduced in South Australia to regulate the standards of bulls used in A.B. is, therefore, a very necessary measure, and will ensure that only the very best bulls are made available to A.B. users in the future.

South Australian farmers are to be given the opportunity of participating in the V.A.B. scheme and will immediately reap the benefits of the past 14 years of intense selection and proving through ready access to semen from the top A.B. proven sires. The first two South Australian bred bulls to graduate from the scheme will have daughter type and production information available in May 1975. Their results will be awaited with a great deal of interest.

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## MASTITIS RESEARCH AND CONTROL

### Northfield Surveys Field & Institutes Program

Although perhaps the least spectacular of dairy cattle diseases, mastitis is, without doubt, the most economically damaging, as its effect is not only seen in decreased production and, eventually, the loss of the affected cow, but extends through to the quality and consumer acceptability of the finished product.

And again, as in the case of the cow, the economic loss is not only in the lower return received for produce that falls below the standard required by the market; the compositional changes induced by the disease give rise to a long, and costly, chain of technological problems during the manufacturing process.

The disruption that mastitis milk brings to what should be the smooth flow of modern automated dairy factories has forced the processing chemist to extend his field back from the manufacturing operation to the supply unit — the udder of the cow.

Activated by the dairy industry's obvious needs, and keenly aware of the estimated annual loss in Australia of \$50 million directly attributable to mastitis, the members of Northfield's technological research unit are devoting a significant proportion of their time to researching control of the disease.

Research work carried out so far, or still in progress, extends over the following fields:

#### MASTITIS INCIDENCE IN COMMERCIAL DAIRY HERDS

Two hundred and thirty dairy farms in the Adelaide Hills, of which 200 were then supplying milk in cans and 30 in refrigerated bulk, were surveyed for the incidence of mastitis in their milk supply during 1967-68, involving a whole of 3500 samples during the period of the survey.

In 1970 a second survey, this time comprising 184 farms, was carried out for the purpose of selecting farms for projected mastitis control programs.

The results of the first survey indicated that the California Mastitis Test (CMT) was capable of being used to identify herds with a mastitis problem, and, with supplementation by Hopkirk cell counts, herds were classified as

- clean** — where a low Hopkirk cell count was accompanied by an average CMT score less than 0.5;
- intermittent** — with a variable Hopkirk cell count, and an average CMT score between 0.5 and 1;
- chronic** — characterized by a high Hopkirk cell count and an average CMT score above 1.

Results of the two surveys, in terms of these classifications were:—

<b>clean</b> —	1967-68 — 42 per cent;	1970 — 37 per cent
<b>intermediate</b> —	1967-68 — 37 per cent;	1970 — 24 per cent
<b>chronic</b> —	1967-68 — 21 per cent;	1970 — 39 per cent

These results indicate a considerable increase in the number of farms classified as **chronic** in the later survey, with 63 per cent showing a positive CMT score compared with 58 per cent in the first survey.

During the 1967-68 survey a number of farms, classified in the **clean** herd group, having very low Hopkirk cell counts and negative CMT reactions, were subjected to close study. Good husbandry, with particular care devoted to udder preparation, was found to be practised on all these properties.

Farms are being selected on the basis of the combined data from these surveys, and follow-up mastitis control programs will be implemented.

### EFFECT OF POST-MILKING TEAT DIPPING ON MASTITIS INCIDENCE

The use of 5000 ppm iodine as a post-milking teat dip has been evaluated as a single control measure.

The iodine treatment did not significantly reduce the total level of mastitis in the treated animals, compared with the control animals. There was a 50 per cent reduction in the incidents of mastitis in quarters which were defined as **clean** at the beginning of the trial.

### MASTITIS QUESTIONNAIRE

Following the completion of the survey into the incidence of mastitis on commercial dairy farms, 25 farms were randomly selected from each classification group. A comprehensive questionnaire was compiled by members of the field staff for each of the 75 farms.

Some analysis of the data has been completed, and the following observations made:

- enforcement of a "milk mastitis cows lost" policy was not related to a category;
- the number of milking machines with vacuum levels greater than 15 inches was **significantly higher** in the farms with **chronic** cell counts than in those in the **clean** category. The number of milking machines with fluctuating vacuum levels was **marginally higher** in the **chronic** group.
- employed labor was **not** used for milking in any of the low count herds.
- **Ninety-one per cent** of herds in the low count group were **dehorned**, compared with only 58 per cent of herds dehorned in the high count groups.
- **No significant relationships** were found between the categories into which the farms were placed and
  - the temperature of the wash water
  - variations in udder stimulation period
  - post-milking teat dipping
  - variations in pulsator rates
- About 8 per cent of all cows had been treated with antibiotics during the preceding 6 months. Penicillin and combinations containing penicillin represented 96 per cent of the antibiotics used.

### CLOXACILLIN DRY COW THERAPY

Investigations were carried out to assess accurately the effect of cloxacillin treatment at drying-off on both milk yield and mastitis. To pair quarters of equal mastitic incidence in individual cows, prior to drying-off, CMT scores were taken weekly for 8 weeks, polymorph counts were taken every 14 days for 4 weeks, and bacteriological tests were made monthly over 2 months. Twenty-seven pairs of quarters were classified as **clean**, 21 pairs as **intermittent** and 7 pairs as **chronic**. Fifty-five pairs of quarters from 35 cows were used.

# REEVE

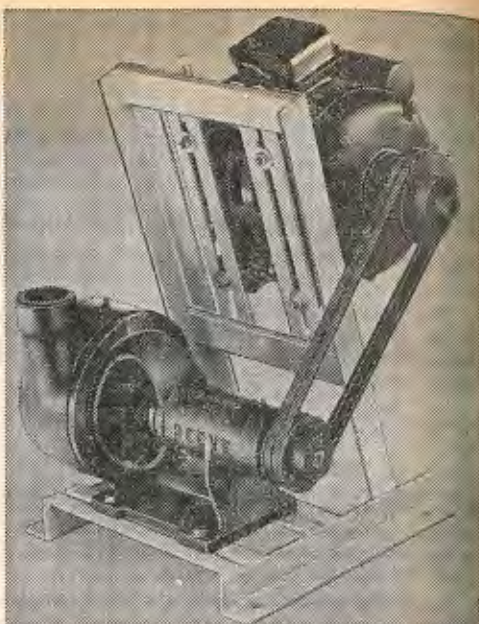
## Liquid Manure Pump

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**POWERFUL 3 H.P. UNIT** Operates two-way if required — fast pen/yard washdown, high head discharge, standard unit operates sprinkler. **Reeve will not block.** The special heavy duty impeller chops up all solids, straw, grass, etc. Also allows stones to pass without blockage. **Reeve will pump 900 ft.** Using 2" polythene pipe, the fine slurry can be sprayed by the Reeve 'Manurain Sprinkler' over a 100 ft. diameter area. **Reeve quality built to last.** Heavy cast iron construction, stainless steel shaft and two ball bearings. Also available 5 H.P. & 10 H.P. high performance models for large dairies and piggeries.

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Cows were quarter-milked on 9 occasions in the 3 months before drying-off, to determine the milk yield of each quarter. At drying-off one of each watched pair of quarters was infused with 400 mg of cloxacillin.

After calving, each cow was quarter-milked 5 times each month, and the milk weighed. Samples were tested weekly for CMT reaction and every 14 days for polymorph counts. Bacteriological examinations were made at drying-off and shortly before calving to measure infection developed during the dry period. Bacteriological estimations were also made monthly during the lactation which followed.

There was a significant 11.6 per cent greater milk yield, a 28.1 per cent lower positive CMT score, and a 12.9 per cent lower amount of infection in the treated quarters compared with the control quarters.

The higher milk yield for the cloxacillin treated quarters compared with the control quarters varied for the 3 classifications thus: **clean** — no difference; **intermittent** — 28.5 per cent higher; **chronic** — 16.6 per cent higher.

It was concluded that dry-cow therapy with cloxacillin should form an integral part of any system of mastitis control, but **treatment should be restricted to quarters known to be infected.**

### TEAT "SQUIRTING"

The effectiveness of fare-milk ejection was examined as a specific measure to reduce the incidence of mastitis in a single herd of 41 cows. With individual

cows, quarters were paired on the basis of similar mastitis history. All cows were managed similarly except that one of each pair of quarters was pre-milking teat squirted. Quarters were classified as **clean, intermittent-clean, intermittent-chronic or chronic** according to the incidence of mastitis.

During the testing period of 12 weeks no reduction in positive CMT score was observed in the squirted quarters in any group, nor was there any decrease in the incidence of infections by haemolytic cocci.

A significantly higher total CMT score was observed for the squirted quarters throughout the trial, suggesting that the teat squirting was irritating the teat.

### CLOXACILLIN DRY-COW THERAPY — FIELD LEVEL

A trial involving 16 herds, with an average of 50 cows, has been completed. The trial ran for 2 years, during which every cow went through a full cycle of **assessment period — treatment — dry period — next lactation.**

Post-treatment samples taken early in lactation showed an 82 per cent reduction of inflammation in quarters which were treated because of high cell count, and a 66 per cent reduction in pathogenic bacteria from quarters treated for that reason. The greater rate of cure in quarters with high cell counts compared with the rate of cure with detectable pathogenic bacteria suggests that the increased cell count represents an early stage of undetected pathogenic infection, and should, therefore, be treated.

It was concluded that **cloxacillin dry-cow therapy is effective over a wide range of field conditions.**

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## MASTITIS TREATMENT IN THE LACTATING COW

The problem of providing adequate treatment for mastitis in a lactating quarter has never been completely surmounted.

At the 18th International Dairy Congress significant success was reported by one contributor from the use of 'Masolin', and aqueous emulsion of a mixture of antibiotics, lyso-some, and a steroid prednisolone.

The efficiency of Masolin in the treatment of staphylococcal infections was tested in cows from the Northfield herd and from 12 commercial dairy herds. Equal numbers of quarters were treated with Masolin and a commercially available intramammary penicillin.

Results showed that Masolin had little or no advantage over penicillin in the elimination or reduction of pathogenic infection or cell count. The rate of yield recovering was similar for treated and control groups.

## LEUCOCYTE COUNT SURVEY — ELECTRONIC PARTICLE COUNTER

This survey is designed to monitor cell levels in bulk milk samples from 1400 herds. Samples are taken monthly and the survey will cover a 12 month period.

Progressive results indicate a similar situation to that which prevails in Great Britain.

Mean counts of areas range from 300 000 to 700 000 cells per millilitre.

For the earlier work reported above there has been developed an effective control program based on post-milking teat dipping and dry-cow therapy. This current survey will determine which herds are giving consistently high cell counts, thus allowing a more effective use of resources in reducing the incidence of mastitis.

## USE OF DIETARY ZINC IN MASTITIS CONTROL

Zinc deficiency in animals causes a delay in wound healing rate and impairment of enzyme activity. The previous work has indicated that, although polymorphs are present in large numbers in many infected quarters, there is little phagocytic activity.

It has been reported that the zinc content of each of the leucocytes in milk was negatively related to the numbers of cells. An experiment is in progress to relate the zinc content of the diet to the leucocytes and their phagocytic efficiency in dealing with pathogens of the mammary gland.

## METRICATION COSTS BRING MILK PRICE INCREASE

The Metropolitan Milk Board has increased the retail price of milk by 1 cent per pint bottle, from 1st February, the whole of the additional 8 cents per gallon going to the processing companies to compensate for the costs of changing from imperial to metric (600 ml) bottles.

It is expected that, at this rate, the costs of conversion will be reimbursed in about two months, after which time the Board will revise the margins to redistribute the 8 cents per gallon between the producers, processors and vendors.

## THE "BEST" ROTARY MILKING UNIT?

Although rotary milking units are no longer entirely novel in South Australia, they are too few in number, and too recently installed to enable any informed judgement to be passed on their superiority to more conventional arrangements for use by the generality of dairyfarmers, or on the advantages and disadvantages of the different makes available.

The December 1974 issue of "New South Wales Dairyman" describes and compares the three different types of rotary units now installed in that State — Turnstile, Minilactor and Rotella.

A copy of the article is available in Head Office, or alternatively, application could be made to the Dairy Industry Authority of N.S.W., 71-75 Regent St., Broadway, Sydney 2000, the publishers of the magazine.

## UREA KILLS FIFTY DAIRY COWS

Fifty out of a herd of 63 dairy cows died after drinking water containing a high concentration of urea on a Southern Hills property recently.

When commenting on this today, the Principal Veterinary Officer (Dr. J. T. Fearn) said that urea being used for spraying onto irrigated pastures had filtered back into the water troughs when a stop cock was accidentally left open.

Dr. Fearn said that urea, often used as a feed supplement for ruminants, was a very toxic substance particularly when in solution.

Extreme caution should always be taken to ensure that stock do not have unrestricted access to any urea especially if it was in solution. This applied equally to salt blocks containing urea that had been left out in the rain he said.

Animals suffering from urea poisoning became nervous and excited, breathe very rapidly and have an unco-ordinated proppy gait before going down.

Treatment by drenching with vinegar was effective but must be carried out promptly as death could occur within one to two hours of the onset of symptoms.

## AND OTHER ADDITIVES CAN BRING CORROSION HAZARDS

Any means of cutting costs, time, or effort are worth a dairy farmer's investigation, but the expected savings are sometimes offset by unforeseen side effects, such as in the instance cited above, which may reduce or cancel out the expected gains, even, on occasions, adding to the cost.

One such hazard, even when all risks to livestock and operators have been guarded against, is the risk to the irrigation equipment itself. Cases have been reported where concentrations of additives have occurred at sprayline joints, leading to costly corrosion of fluming and fittings.

Even though a final flushing of additive-free water is used there is no certainty that the entrapped concentrations are safely removed. Where doubt exists the precaution of opening and draining all connexions should be taken.

## PRICES & STATISTICS

(continued from front cover)

### INTERIM PRICES TO LICENSED SUPPLIERS

(Prices are interim only, and subject to retrospective adjustment.)

	Basic (cents per lb./kg butterfat)			Total* (cents per gallon/litre at above test)			
	Basic	C.M.B.	Total*	3.5%	4%	4.5%	5%
<b>1974</b>							
December ... ..	53.68	28.22	81.90	29.58	33.81	38.03	42.26
	<b>118.34</b>	<b>62.21</b>	<b>180.56</b>	<b>6.51</b>	<b>7.44</b>	<b>8.37</b>	<b>9.30</b>
<b>1975</b>							
January ... ..	53.68	34.54	88.22	31.87	36.42	40.97	45.52
	<b>118.34</b>	<b>76.15</b>	<b>194.49</b>	<b>7.02</b>	<b>8.03</b>	<b>9.03</b>	<b>10.04</b>

	RATIO (Sales to Production, per cent)				TOTAL PRICE*	
	For Month		12 Months' Cumulative		(Cents lb/kg b.f.)	
	1973	1974	1973	1974	1973	1974
December ... ..	35.2	33.6	40.3	39.3	68.92	81.90
					<b>151.94</b>	<b>180.56</b>
January ... ..	42.1	41.6	40.2	39.2	73.89	88.22
					<b>162.90</b>	<b>194.49</b>

(Authorised by Metropolitan Milk Equalisation Committee Limited)

## TWO RETROSPECTIVES AND HIGHER BASIC PRICE

Increased interim values for cheese declared by the Commonwealth Dairy Produce Equalisation Committee will result in two retrospective payments and a higher Basic Price for the current season.

The retrospective payment for the 1973-74 season is at the equalised rate of 2.35 cents per pound butterfat (**5.18 cents per kg**) for all production during that period, and that for the 1974-75 season is at the equalised rate of 3.16 cents per pound butterfat (**6.97 cents per kg**) for all production from 1/7/74 to 31/1/75.

The payment for 1974-75 will be included in the cheques to be paid early in March, and that for 1973-74 in the following month.

The Basic Price for February will be 58.80 cents per pound butterfat (**129.63 cents per kg**).

## REGISTRATION OF FARM MOTOR CYCLES

### Permits Available for Limited Journeys

Advice has been received from the Registrar of Motor Vehicles that a farm motor cycle need not be registered when a primary producer wishes to cross or travel a short distance along a road which divides areas of land which he works in conjunction with one another.

If a primary producer wishes to take advantage of this concession it is necessary to obtain a permit, without fee, in terms of Section 15(1) of the Motor Vehicles Act, which provides that

"The Registrar may, at his discretion, without fee, grant to any primary producer a permit to drive a motor vehicle owned by him, **without registration**, along any route specified in the permit, for the purpose only of enabling the motor vehicle to be used in connection with the working of two or more separate parcels of land worked in conjunction with each other by that primary producer."

The issue of such a permit does not remove the necessity for the motor cycle (or any other motor vehicle coming within this provision) to be covered by Compulsory Third Party Insurance, the premium for which is paid at the time of application for a permit. The present premium for a motor cycle not exceeding 250 cc used in a country area is \$10 per annum.

The Registrar adds that "another alternative is not to ride the motor cycle when crossing a road, when, of course, there is no need for the cycle to be registered or insured."

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These include the latest developments in cleaning and sanitizing, to ensure the supply of a first-class product to the industry.

The **NIGHTINGALE** products are available from every dairy factory in South Australia.

**NIGHTINGALE** regard Good Service to the industry as being as important as Good Products, and maintain full-time Field Officers to advise on any problem associated with Dairy Sanitation.

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THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN

DAIRYMEN'S . . .

## Journal

Official Publication of the



Published Bi-monthly

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Adelaide, MARCH/APRIL, 1977

## PRICES &amp; STATISTICS

## ADELAIDE METROPOLITAN MILK SUPPLY AREA

## PRODUCTION (000 gallons/000 litres)

	For Month		Daily Average		12 Months' Cumulative	
	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
February ... ..	3 820	3 576	136.4	127.7	56 424	55 390
	<b>17 366</b>	<b>16 257</b>	<b>620.1</b>	<b>580.5</b>	<b>256 509</b>	<b>251 808</b>
March ... ..	3 662	3 437	118.1	110.9	56 365	55 165
	<b>16 648</b>	<b>15 625</b>	<b>536.9</b>	<b>504.2</b>	<b>256 240</b>	<b>250 785</b>
April ... ..	3 336	3 416	111.2	113.9	51 196	55 245
	<b>15 766</b>	<b>15 529</b>	<b>505.5</b>	<b>517.8</b>	<b>232 742</b>	<b>251 149</b>

## MILK SALES (000 gallons/000 litres)

	For Month		Daily Average		12 Months' Cumulative	
	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
February ... ..	1 737	1 777	62.0	63.5	22 570	21 863
	<b>7 897</b>	<b>8 078</b>	<b>281.9</b>	<b>288.7</b>	<b>102 605</b>	<b>99 391</b>
March ... ..	1 997	1 898	64.4	61.2	22 558	21 764
	<b>9 079</b>	<b>8 628</b>	<b>292.8</b>	<b>278.2</b>	<b>102 551</b>	<b>98 941</b>
April ... ..	1 823	1 866	60.8	62.2	22 505	21 807
	<b>8 288</b>	<b>8 483</b>	<b>276.4</b>	<b>282.8</b>	<b>102 310</b>	<b>99 137</b>

For other Prices &amp; Statistics see page 16

In this issue—

Central Council Minutes:

Land Tax

Flavored Milk Prices

Charges for Water

Bulk Tank Premium

International Dairy Price Agreements

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1975  
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Top Production Jersey Herd in Australia or N.Z. 1970-71 (90 cows av. 10513 lbs. milk, 568 lbs. b.f.).

Roslyn Vale cows hold S.A. Jersey Milk Records for J2, S2, J3, S3, J4 and S4 age groups.

Roslyn Vale *Misty Morn* 23rd holds S.A. Jersey J3 b.f. record with 785 lbs., and has an average of 709 lbs. for first 5 lactations.

## ROSLYN VALE JERSEYS

**Immediate  
Past  
Herd  
Sires**

	Herds	Dhtrs.	Lacts.	Rating
<i>Leroy Golden Lad</i> ... ..	5	20	58	+ 34
<i>Leroy Royal Rex</i> ... ..	10	44	122	+ 27
<i>Eurarie Velvet 22nd's Designer</i>	10	25	39	+ 27
<i>Eurarie Royal Ruler</i> ... ..	7	23	41	+ 38
<i>Eurarie Some Leader</i> many J2's over 500 lbs.				

**Present  
Herd  
Sires**

*Berry Bank Butterboy*  
Dam, *Rudella Royal Princess H.C.*  
7 yrs. 868, 8 yrs. 1041, 9 yrs. 640, 10 yrs. 681, 11 yrs. 693,  
2nd cow Vic.; also top cow Vic., successive years.

*Maple Regal Royal (Imp. N.U.)*  
Dam, *Maple Perfect Lil V.H.C. Ex. C.P.*  
6 yrs. 786, 7 yrs. 615, 8 yrs. 844, 9 yrs. 1054, 10 yrs. 1120,  
11 yrs. 922, show champion, production record holder;  
at 11 yrs. to 82 lbs. milk per day.

*Mersey Bank Masterpiece*  
Dam, *Mersey Bank Maryanne H.C.+*  
S2 588, J4 632, 5 yrs. 902, 6 yrs. 1068, 7 yrs. 1076,  
8 yrs. 1054. Holds Aust. Jersey milk and Tasmanian b.f.  
records.

**Junior  
Sires**

*Berry Bank Joy Designer* (B. B. *Star Kingdom*—B. B. *Joybell*),  
B. B. *Royal Lustre* (*Maple Finest Star*—B. B. *Royal Treasure*),  
R. V. *Distinctive Boy* (B. B. *Butterboy*—R. V. *Misty Morn 23rd*).

## ROSLYN VALE JERSEYS

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Future  
Shaping  
Up**

THE LATEST 14 COWS TO COMPLETE LACTATION  
AVERAGED 595 LBS. B.F.

THE LATEST 4 J2'S TO COMPLETE LACTATION  
AVERAGED 537 LBS. B.F.

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# THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DAIRYMEN'S JOURNAL



Published by

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Aston House, 13 Leigh Street, Adelaide, 5000. 51 3034

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## CENTRAL COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

### 13th February, 1975

#### LAND TAX

The Secretary reported that, following the decision made at the previous meeting of the Central Council, namely that the Secretary and the Executive Committee look at the possibility of seeking a higher statutory exemption and take whatever action appears to be appropriate, a combined meeting held at Meadows had decided to seek a deputation with the Premier. A deputation, comprising representatives of the Association in the Meadows area, together with the General President, the Senior Vice President, and the Secretary, had conferred with the Premier early in December.

After hearing the case put forward by the deputation the Premier had recommended that we submit a proposal for an increase in the statutory exemption applicable to primary producers. Subsequently a case had been prepared, along the lines recommended by the Premier. No mention was made, in the case, of the proposed scheme for equalising land tax, as subsequent discussion with taxation officials had indicated that equalisation was not necessarily in the interests of primary producers, even though it was being advocated by the U.F. & G. The effect of equalisation would appear to be to gradually increase valuations, and hence land tax, during the period between quinquennial assessments, and, although it might be regarded as easing the load, the result was apparently to remove the advantage that the primary producer gained from being on a lower valuation during this period. On the other hand there was a very logical reason for increasing the statutory exemption, and this action had been recommended in earlier discussions by the Valuation Department, prior to meeting the Premier.

In replying to a question from Mr. Manning as to whether the case applied only to dairyfarmers, the Chairman stated that, although it appeared at present that dairyfarmers were being most hard hit, this was because so many dairyfarmers occupied land in areas which were now coming under subdivisional pressure, and, consequently, their valuations were increasing rapidly. Sooner or later the effect of higher valuations would be felt by all primary producers, and it would be invidious to attempt to confine our case to dairyfarmers only.

Mr. Kenny said that although he believed we should, at this time, seek whatever relief we could for primary producers, such as through an increase in the statutory exemption, this should not deter us from pressing for the total abolition of land tax. He believed that a study of land taxation would show that the costs of administering and collecting the tax resulted in very little gain being received by the Government from this source.

The Secretary stated that objections to a progressive land tax had been raised with the Premier, but he had stated that it provided a significant contribution to the State's revenue, and would, consequently, be retained. It was significant that land tax existed in every State of the Commonwealth, and, in each case, had been introduced by a non-Labor Government, although, in some States, some form of relief, up to total exemption, was given to primary producers.

Mr. Kerr said that he believed we should pursue the possibility of a minimum tax, both to offset the loss of revenue that would follow an increase in the statutory exemption, and thereby make the reduced statutory exemption more acceptable to the Government, and to bring about a more equitable situation in the case of primary producing land that was now being subdivided, and consequently returning less revenue than when it was in single holdings.

Mr. Kenny supported Mr. Kerr, stating that previously minimum rates under Local Government were regarded as purely notional; now they were of substantial magnitude, and the application of a similar principle to Land Tax would possibly help our case.

### FLAVORED MILK PRICES

The Secretary reported that flavored milks were introduced on to the Adelaide market in approximately 1964. At that stage the matter had been considered by the Executive Committee, and, in conjunction with the Directors of the Metropolitan Milk Equalisation Committee, it had been agreed that we would not seek to have the prices of flavored milk fixed by regulation until such time as the Merchants had had an opportunity of exploiting the market potential for the product. Since then other Merchants had entered the market for flavored milk, and sales had gradually increased, until, at present, they stood at 6.6% of the total milk sales. There were a number of aspects of flavored milk which had given rise to some concern; questions such as whether the higher margin received by shopkeepers for flavored milk was acting to the detriment of white milk, either in direct sales over the counter or in replacing shop-mixed milkshakes and flavored milks; the question as to whether, now that the Free Milk Scheme for Schools had been abandoned, the Companies were more interested in getting into school canteens flavored milk, which carried a higher margin, rather than trying to make up the loss suffered by the industry through the abolition of free school milk by increasing the sales of white milk through canteens, and the extent to which impulse sales from vendors might be replacing white milk with flavored milk. As a consequence of these misgivings, and the knowledge that the price paid to producers for milk used for flavored milk was only the same as that paid for manufacture milk, and, because the flavored milk contained less butterfat than white milk, the actual return per gallon was less than 1/3rd of that received from white milk sales, the view had been expressed by dairyfarmers, in recent years, that the pricing of flavored milks should be brought under Milk Board Regulations, at least as far as the return to the producer was concerned.

The Association's views on the matter had been made known to the Board, and in recent years several meetings had been held with the Board and the Merchants on the matter of the pricing of flavored milks and of modified milks

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in general. Following these meetings the Association had been informed by the Board, late last year, that it was the Board's intention to bring the pricing of flavored milk under regulation at the time of the next general price review. There had now been a price review, from 1st February, but this related, at present, only to the costs of metrication, and could not therefore be regarded as a "general price review". There would, however, be a general price review early in April, when the 8 cents per gallon increase that had, at the beginning of this month, been granted to the Merchants to reimburse them for the costs of metrication, would be allotted to the 3 sectors of the Industry. It was the Board's intention to introduce regulations fixing the price to be paid to the producers for flavored milk at that time. The Merchants were not happy about this proposal, and would be discussing the matter with the Board on 19th February. They had asked for the opportunity to confer with the Executive Committee before this meeting, to put to the Association the reasons why they believe that flavored milk should not be brought under price regulations at this time. It was believed that the reason for the Merchants' opposition to the move was the fact that, although the margins appeared to be large, they applied to a relatively small and highly fragmented volume which, when viewed in relation to the economics of cheese manufacture, would make flavored milks totally unattractive of the cost was moved much above manufacturing milk price. For this reason there seemed to be substance in the claim that the Merchants would, if prices were regulated, cease production of flavored milks. It was perhaps significant that in Victoria, where flavored milks were under price regulations, the quantity sold was very insignificant.

Mr. Kretschmer said that the Jervois District had discussed this subject at length and strongly believed that we should not press for the prices of flavored milks to be set by regulation, at least during the next twelve months; although the Jervois District had not expressed its views in terms of a resolution, he believed that the Executive Committee should take note of this when it discussed the subject with the Merchants.

Mr. Turner said that he believed it was a pity that as we had, after some time, been able to get the Milk Board to move in this matter, we should withdraw from the favorable position that we now had. It had taken us a long time to arrive at this, and it might, if we did not press now, be difficult for us to be in as strong a position in another twelve months' time.

The Secretary stated that he believed, although he knew how strongly the Central Council felt about this, that the Council should not bind the Executive Committee before the Executive had had an opportunity to hear the case which the Merchants wished to put.

In answer to a question by Mr. Diener as to an estimate of what the regulated price might be, the Secretary stated that, to be consistent, it should not be less than the equivalent, in butterfat terms, of the price for white milk.

Mr. Kenny said that although we might, after we had heard the Merchant's case, be prepared to modify our attitude, we should not overlook the fact that flavored milk was, in part at least, offsetting the decrease in white milk sales, a fact which was admitted by the Merchants, and it was even more to the producers' detriment if a significant portion of flavored milk was of a very low fat content.

Mr. Ielasi then moved "that the Executive Committee be empowered to determine the appropriate action to be taken in respect of the pricing, by regulation, of flavored milks, after the meeting with the Merchants."

Seconded by Mr. Schoell and carried.

### INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION — DAIRY INDUSTRY INQUIRY

The Secretary reported that, as instructed by the Central Council, he was preparing, for consideration by the Executive Committee, a draft for a submission to be made, on behalf of the Association, to the Industries Assistance Commission, as to the form of assistance which should be provided for the Australian dairy industry.

The Chairman stated that the Association had already made its views known at special meetings of the Australian Dairy Farmers' Federation which, in collaboration with the Australian Dairy Industry Council, had already made preliminary submissions to the I.A.C., and would be making final submissions within the next few weeks. The Federal dairy organisations, including those of dairy produce manufacturers, had submitted their views to the I.A.C., and the I.A.C. was now in the process of visiting each State to obtain the views of State organisations, several of which would be heard, as well as our own, when the I.A.C. visited this State.

### FARM MOTOR CYCLES

The Secretary stated that there had been no further outcome from the Association's request for evidence to substantiate the increase in premiums for Third Party Insurance on farm motorcycles, no doubt because the Premium Committee still held strongly to the view that, in the long run, it was probably better to have a broad base than a narrow base for the calculation of premiums, as, when there were relatively few vehicles coming into the category, such as farm motorcycles, one or two very large claims could impose a very great burden upon that category. There had, however, been a further development in respect of farm motorcycles in that it was now possible to obtain a Section 15 exemption for farm motorcycle registration, in certain circumstances, details of which would be published in the next issue of the Journal. The exemption was similar to that for farm tractors used in working scattered sections of a property. Although farm motorcycles could be exempted from registration under this Section, it was still desirable to take out Third Party (Bodily Injury) insurance.

### "BULK MILK HANDBOOK"

Although it is almost 10 years since it was published as a supplement to the South Australian Dairymen's Journal, in September, 1975, the 48 page HANDBOOK OF REFRIGERATED BULK MILK STORAGE AND TRANSPORT contains much information that will be of interest and value to dairyfarmers who may now be considering installing bulk tanks, or have recently invested in a tank for the first time.

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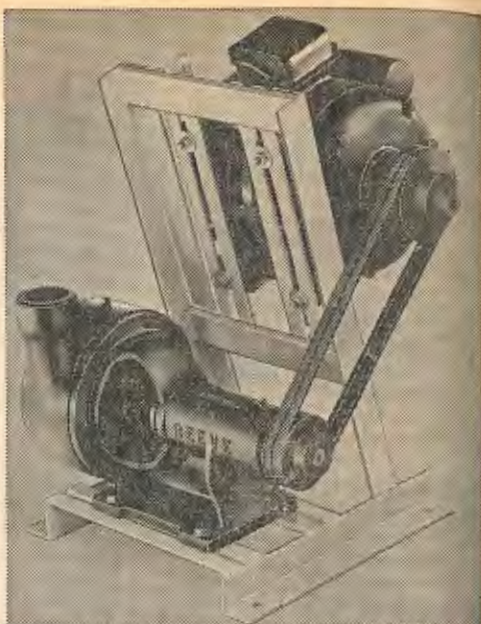
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## HIGHLAND IRRIGATION CHARGES

Mr. Kretschmer said that one of the reasons why the Jervois District did not support the idea of an Association badge was because its members were disappointed that the Central Council had not given them the backing that they had hoped for in respect of the charges for highland irrigation. Although the subject had been debated for a considerable period at the previous meeting, the Jervois District believed that the Central Council had not fully comprehended the situation, which was that dairyfarmers drawing water from the irrigation channel were now being charged rates for water which was not always available, and, when it was available, was of poor quality. The Jervois District had, therefore, resolved "that the Central Council be asked to reconsider its decision to test, in the Courts, the validity of the charge on water drawn from the drainage channel".

The Chairman stated that the matter went back over some years, and related to dairyfarmers on the Murray Swamps, below Mannum, some of whom had put in equipment, often at very great expense, to draw water from the drainage channels for the irrigation of fodder crops on their highland holdings. No charge had been imposed by previous Governments; in fact a promise had been given that no charge would ever be made, and, in the light of that assurance, some very extensive plantings had been made. However, in about 1967, because of concern about the continued availability of River Murray water, restrictions had been placed on the issuing of new licences, and, about the same time, the Government had decided to impose a charge of \$5 per acre on land irrigated from the drainage channels. The Association had approached the Government,

pointing out that this type of irrigation involved dairyfarmers in very high expenditure, at no cost to the Government, and the Minister at the time had agreed not to impose the charge.

The charge had been re-imposed, last year, by the present Government, and the Association had made many approaches, both by letter and deputation, and through questions asked in both Houses of Parliament, because the Association believed that, in addition to the inequity of the charge, it had been imposed in a manner for which no provision was made in the legislation. This view was supported by our solicitor, although strongly contradicted by the Government and the Crown Law Department. Despite these approaches, the final letter received from the Director of Lands concluded with the statement that, if the Association was not prepared to accept the view held by the Department, it should consider testing the matter in Court.

It was this point of view that had been put to the Central Council at its previous meeting; the cost of testing the validity of the charge, by defending a member who had refused to pay his account, would, with an appeal to a superior Court, be approximately \$1500, but the snag was that, if the Association won its case, the Government could then plug the loophole, and the result would be that the charge could be re-imposed, and the Association would be \$1500 worse off. Alternatively the Government could increase the general rate for irrigation, which would enable it to reimburse from all the other irrigation settlers the revenue lost by being deprived of the charge for water drawn from the drainage channel, a solution which would not be acceptable by those irrigators who were denied access to water in the drainage channels.

There had been considerable criticism of the Association's attitude, but he believed that the decision made by the Central Council was based on practical economics; we could, at the cost of \$1500, obtain a moral victory, but we would not obtain any lasting benefit.

Mr. Kenny said that he fully supported the Chairman. In common with other irrigators, those drawing water from the drainage channel paid a general rate of about \$20 an acre to irrigate their swamps, and the surplus water which they did not use was pumped back into the river, at Government expense. If, on the other hand, they drew off water for their own purposes, under present conditions they were forced to pay \$5 per acre, regardless of the fact that the water was often not available when needed. It would appear that the charge was more onerous than that applied to people drawing directly from the River, although the latter alternative carried rather more restrictions, and severer penalties. Overlooking the possibility that, without a charge on drainage water, the general rate for irrigation would be higher, there appeared, as the Chairman had said, to be a moral case which might receive the support of the Courts, but we should not overlook the fact that, in the end, the Government had the power to take one of several options, each of which would negate whatever success we might have had in the Courts. But we should realise that, in the eyes of the members concerned, the creditability of the Association was at stake, and the Central Council should view the matter in that light.

In reply to a question by Mr. Zweck as to whether this matter was an appropriate subject for consideration by the Ombudsman, the Chairman stated that two requests had been made to the Ombudsman, but, in each case, the reply had been that this matter did not come within his province.

Mr. Camac said that in a matter like this we should not divide the membership of the Association into those who are affected and those who are not; it was a matter for unified action, and if it was necessary to test a case in the Courts, the results would be seen as a victory for the Association on behalf of all its members, not only of those directly affected.

Mr. Kretschmer said that the Central Council should not regard the present debate as being in the nature of a vote of no confidence. A promise had been made, admittedly by a previous Government, that no charge would be imposed, and, as had been stated, on this basis expenditure, at times considerable expenditure, had been incurred. For this reason he believed that despite the rebuffs we had received we should make one last personal approach to the Government, on moral grounds, and if this was unsuccessful we should move to have the matter tested in Court, even though it might cost us \$1500, and even though we might lose, in order to restore faith in the Association. Subject to the personal approach that he had requested, he consequently moved **"that the Association support a test case relating to the charge for water drawn from the salt channel"**.

Mr. Winter seconded the motion.

Mr. Silver said that because of the conflicting views among the irrigators themselves, he believed it would be most desirable if the Association were to call a meeting of all affected dairyfarmers, perhaps with our legal adviser in attendance, so that all aspects could be studied, and a decision made on a majority basis.

Mr. Turvey said that although the justice of the case was clear enough the charge imposed was very reasonable when compared with the costs to persons drawing water elsewhere than from the Murray, and as there was, as far as he could recall, no precedent for the Association expending a considerable amount of money on a legal test case which affected only a small fraction of the members, he believed we should limit our activity in the matter and offer to pay perhaps an amount of, say, \$500 toward the cost of a test case, rather than commit the Association to an open cheque for an unknown cost with a very doubtful possibility of success. If every member was affected there would be no doubt that the Association should pursue this matter to the end, regardless of cost, but this was a case in which the Association could, in any case, not be an active party; all it could do would be to assist in meeting the costs of a Court case undertaken by an individual.

Mr. Zweck said that he felt that there might be some opposition from the members not involved unless they were convinced that every possible alternative had been explored, and he supported the proposal that a meeting be called between the Executive Committee and the irrigators, including those who did not have access to the drainage water, so that the issues could be put clearly to both parties. Although he realised that there was a possibility that we might lose the case, so that there would be no gain to anybody, a general conference between the Executive Committee and the parties concerned would demonstrate that the Association was acting in the interests of all its members.

Mr. Diener said that he believed we should take the course of action that had been proposed, and, when all the points had been argued out, because there was a moral issue, the Association could offer to take the case through the Lower Court. If we obtained a favorable decision we would have established the moral basis of the case, and if the Government decided to appeal, the costs of defending the appeal could be borne by the irrigators themselves.

Mr. Brazzalotto said that a meeting should certainly be called of all irrigators, where the arguments could be put forward, including the possibility that a majority of the irrigators would be penalised by an additional general rate if the Association were successful in its test case, but he believed that if the decision of such a meeting was in favor of a test case, the Association should go all the way, irrespective of the total cost.

Mr. Camac then moved an amendment **"that the Executive Committee convene a meeting at Murray Bridge of all members of the Association drawing water from the River Murray and that the Executive Committee be empowered to take whatever action it considers appropriate in accordance with the views expressed at the meeting"**.

Seconded by Mr. Silver and carried.

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## BULK TANK PREMIUM

The Secretary tabled a letter from the Secretary of the Wholesale Milk Buyers' and Distributors' Association which stated that the Wholesalers had now directed him to inform the Association of their intention to cease the current practice of paying 12½% on the capital value of tanks. The weighted average compensation paid by members for refrigerated bulk farm tanks for the year ended 30th June, 1974, was 1.90c lb. fat. Wholesalers had agreed that they would pay 2 cents lb. fat on all milk received on and after 1st April, 1975. This would be paid monthly at the same time as the basic milk price payments were made.

The Secretary stated that the present Bulk Tank Premium originated with Myponga Co-op., which undertook to pay its suppliers 7½% on the capital cost of the tank for a period of seven years, the apparent intention being to offset the interest that would be payable on the loan and so encourage early conversion to bulk. The practice had been followed by other Merchants as they converted to bulk, but as the Bulk Milk Handbook which had been published as a supplement to the Association's Journal in September 1965 had contained the information that the cost of running and maintaining a bulk tank was approximately 15% of the capital value, a group of suppliers on the Murray had negotiated with the Company which they were supplying an increase to 12½%, and this higher figure had then been adopted by all Merchants.

A change in the method of payment had been proposed by the Merchants on several occasions, but had been rejected every time by the Association, on the grounds that the present method was more equitable in that it had regard to the investment undertaken, and hence recompensed the small producer for what was a relatively much greater outlay than that undertaken by a large producer. Against this the Merchants had submitted the argument that when the actual cost of collection was divided by the amount of milk in each bulk tank, cases were found in which the supply of milk was so small that the premium amounted to something in excess of 9c lb. fat, compared with an average, over the whole scheme, of less than 2c. This meant that the average to larger producer was, in fact, subsidizing the cost of pick-up from the smaller producers to a far greater extent than could be economically justified on the basis of the original cost of the tank.

Unfortunately in later years the equitable aspect of the Scheme had been somewhat reduced by the fact that bulk tanks now cost much more than they did when bulk pick-up was introduced, so that a producer buying a tank now paid as much as twice the amount paid by another producer who had bought the same size tank at the beginning of the Scheme, and consequently received twice the premium, even though it could be argued that, in delaying so long, he had actually imposed additional costs on his fellow producers. Other aspects which destroyed the logic of the original Scheme were such things as the values to be ascribed to secondhand tanks when properties changed hands. The simple fact of the matter was that if the proposal was adopted, the industry as a whole would gain about 5% above the total of the present Scheme, but would, at the same time, result in the transfer of amounts of up to \$200 or so from the smaller producers to the benefit of the lesser number of larger producers.

Mr. Silver said that he believed the Association should oppose the Scheme. Although it was realised that the Scheme was one that had been offered by the Merchants to the producers, without any compulsion, and without any undertaking as to how long it would last, with the exception of Myponga Co-op., which had earlier stated a seven-year period, he believed that the majority of dairyfarmers would have purchased tanks in the belief that the premium would continue indefinitely. Furthermore it should be realised that there were still producers supplying milk in cans, and as these were probably all small producers, the removal of the present Incentive Scheme would probably ensure that they would never, voluntarily, convert to bulk handling.

Mr. Len Schubert said that although he was aware that he could be accused of arguing on behalf of the larger producers, he believed that the present Scheme had served its purpose; the industry had now reached the stage where conversion to bulk was almost complete, and a continuation of an incentive to convert had now been almost eliminated. It was obvious that inequities and abuses were creeping in, and he believed that we should adopt a proposal for the premium to be paid on a quantity basis.

Mr. Ielasi stated that the Jervois District had considered the proposal put by the Merchants, and had decided to favor the Scheme, and he formally moved **"that the Association accept the proposal for a premium payment of the equivalent of 2c per lb. butterfat"**.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Winter.

Mr. Leslie stated that the proposal had also been discussed by the Onkaparinga District, where it was strongly opposed, on the grounds that it would add to the burden which was being borne by small producers. He said that members of the Onkaparinga District were aware that the present premium did not provide full compensation for the cost of purchasing and running a bulk tank, and to change the system now would be a breach of faith, particularly in the case of those producers who were still buying their tanks on hire purchase, and he consequently believed that the Scheme should at least be deferred.

Mr. Zweck said he wondered whether this change would have any effect on the suppliers to Golden North. Moves were now being made for a substantial swing to bulk tanks by the suppliers to Golden North, and although no Scheme had yet been discussed there was a strong possibility that whatever action was taken in the Adelaide area would at least be considered for adoption in the Northern area.

Mr. Turvey said that we should not overlook the affect of this change on those producers who had taken notice of the requests made by the Dairy Companies, and had installed tanks larger than they needed at the time, in order to allow the adoption of every-other-day pickup during part of the year. They had played the game and had helped the industry to achieve the economics that were essential to offset the high costs of bulk transport, and under the previous Scheme had been compensated for their co-operation. On the other hand, those who had either refused to conform with the Companies' request and had insisted on installing a tank that was just large enough for their need, or who had since expanded their herds to about the capacity of the tank, had forced the Companies to continue to maintain every-day pickup and even, at times, twice-a-day pickup, thereby depriving the industry of the economic advantage of bulk transport. These producers had, until now, been forced to pay a penalty for their lack of cooperation. Under the proposed Scheme both would now receive the same amount, and furthermore, there would not be an incentive for the owner of a tank that was too small to permit every-other-day pickup to change up to a larger tank, because he would receive no greater premium than if he stayed where he was and continued to involve the industry in unnecessary expense.

Mr. Turner said that we should be aware that the payment was, in effect, a concession made by the Companies. Except in the original case of Myponga, which could now be considered no longer binding, no precise undertaking had been entered into by any Merchant, and they really had the prerogative to cancel the present Scheme whenever they wished, without even offering an alternative. We should realise, furthermore, that the premium was not really paid by the Merchants, but was regarded by them as a cost, and was therefore really a reduction in the Basic Price, and if they wished to do so they could terminate the present premium and increase the Basic Price by approximately the amount that they were now offering in the new Scheme.

Mr. Leslie then moved the amendment **"that the Association request the Merchants to continue the present Bulk Milk Incentive Scheme until September, when the situation would be reviewed"**. He said that this would give producers time to give full consideration to the proposal, and adjust to the idea, and it would also avoid a very great drop in income, as the new premium would be paid on a much larger production for each producer than if the change were made in April.

The amendment was seconded by Mr. Schoell and lost.

Mr. Philp said that we should take into account the fact that transport costs were increasing, and that the savings from bulk transport would probably increase correspondingly, and we should not, therefore, be prepared to accept 2c indefinitely. One of the objections to the previous Scheme was that it had continued at the same rate for so long, regardless of changes in the cost situation, and he believed that we should ask for the rate of premium to be reviewed from time to time in the light of cost changes.

The mover and the seconder of the motion agreed that the motion be amended to include a provision for review, and the motion **"that the Association accept the proposal for a premium payment of the equivalent of 2c per lb. butterfat at present, subject to review in September of each year"** was carried.

## CALF FOOD

Mr. Len Schubert referred to the rapidly increasing cost of calf milk replacers and the fact that the paper bags in which the feed was packed were incompletely filled. He stated that as the cost of bags was probably also rising, this was an additional factor in the total increase, and suggested that the Association investigate whether calf feed replacer could be obtained in bulk. It was agreed that this matter be examined by the Executive Committee.

## DAIRY INDUSTRY CONTROL — STATE

The Secretary reported that, as the result of requests from the United Farmers' and Graziers' Association and the South Eastern Dairymen's Association, the Minister of Agriculture had convened an informal Inquiry under the chairmanship of Mr. B. D. Hannaford, at which the three producer organisations would submit their views on the extent to which dairy industry control in the State should be brought under a single authority.

The meetings were scheduled to be held on the last Tuesday in each month, and the first of these had been held on 28th January. The Association had not been represented at this meeting, but a draft submission was being prepared for the approval of the Executive Committee, and would be presented to a later meeting.

Although there was merit in a streamlining of dairy industry control, particularly in the field of milk pricing outside the Metropolitan Area, it was essential that the interests of market milk producers be preserved, and the Association's submission would be based on this principle.

## FACTORY AMALGAMATION (Secretary's Report)

A motion was submitted by the Milang District **"that for the future survival of dairyfarmers, rationalization is essential, and that the Association endeavour to arrange with the Wholesalers an approach to the Federal Government for funds to bring this about"**.

During 1973 the Australian Minister of Agriculture (Senator Wreidt) stated that provision would be made in the next Federal Budget for funds for dairy factory rationalization. This does not appear to have been done, and although provision has been made in the Dairy Adjustment Program, which has taken the place of the Marginal Dairy Farm Reconstruction Scheme, for money to be made available for the conversion of dairy factories from cans to bulk transport, it is not known what other plans the Federal Government has in mind. An attempt by the Opposition to have assistance for factory rationalization included in the Dairy Adjustment Program was rejected by the Government on the grounds that this was not the appropriate legislation for such provision.

The Association will be including a recommendation on this subject in its submission to the Industries Assistance Commission, and it is believed that the manufacturing sectors' organisations will be making similar submissions.

The apparent uncertainty at Federal level may be due to the fact that the Government prefers to wait for a comprehensive recommendation from the Industries Assistance Commission than to put into effect piecemeal action which may not accord with what is hoped to be a tightly coordinated recommendation from the I.A.C. concerning the whole dairy industry.

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## INTERNATIONAL DAIRY PRICE AGREEMENT (Secretary's Report)

A motion was submitted by the Mt. Barker District "that an approach be made to the Australian Dairy Farmers' Federation for an International Price Scheme for control of financial returns on exported dairy produce".

It has been the policy of the Australian Dairy Farmers' Federation for many years to support a scheme for minimum prices for all dairy produce entering the World's export markets, and the continued attendance of representatives of the ADFF at the Annual Meetings of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, the cost of which is borne by the Australian Dairy Produce Board, which also sends a representative, has been almost solely based on the hope of such a scheme being obtained.

Nevertheless it should be realized that a floor price arrangement for exports of whole milk powder had been in force for some years, and an arrangement for skimmed milk powder had been operating since 1969, whilst an arrangement for milkfat products (anhydrous milk fat, butteroil, and ghee) had been negotiated early in 1973. The problem was that the floor prices contained in these arrangements were set very low, so low that, in present day terms, they were virtually dumping prices, as illustrated by the fact that the floor price for skim milk powder was approximately half of the present World price for powder, and that for milk fat products, although less than a year old, was only 23c per lb., and was thus of virtually no value when it was remembered that this was the price for the manufactured product, and not the return to the producer, which would be perhaps no more than 14c.

It was probably unrealistic to assume that the countries involved in these agreements, all of which were large-scale producers or consumers of dairy-products, would ever agree to, or abide by, a price that would unduly tie their hands in the event of a surplus.

## INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR DAIRY PRODUCTS

### (1) OECD Gentlemen's Agreement on Exports of Whole Milk Powder

(From 1963)

Minimum price under Agreement ..... \$Aust 447 per tonne  
 Prevailing World price (May 1975) ..... \$Aust 745-819 per tonne  
 Membership — Australia (since 1971), New Zealand, European Economic Community, Sweden, Switzerland, Finland, Austria.

### (2) GATT Skimmed Milk Powder Arrangement

(From May 1970)

Minimum price under Arrangement ..... \$Aust 261 per tonne  
 Prevailing World price (May 1975) ..... \$Aust 558-596 per tonne  
 Membership — Australia, Canada, Japan, European Economic Community, New Zealand, South Africa, Switzerland, Spain.  
 Austria, Hungary and the U.S.A. attend as observers.

### (3) GATT Milk-Fat Protocol

(From May 1973)

Minimum price under Protocol ..... \$Aust 506 per tonne (23c lb.)  
 Prevailing World price (May 1975) ..... \$Aust 819-893 per tonne  
 Membership — Australia, Canada, Japan, European Economic Community, New Zealand, Switzerland.  
 Austria, Hungary, Spain and the U.S.A. attend as observers.

## COMMONWEALTH EQUALISATION (Secretary's Report)

The Commonwealth Equalisation Scheme which had been in operation from the late 1920's until June 1974 had been designed to permit dairy companies to pay approximately equal returns to their suppliers, regardless of whether their output was sold on the higher-priced domestic market or on export markets that returned a wide range of generally lower values, and, until recent years, the Scheme had worked to the advantage of dairyfarmers in all States, which with the possible exception of Western Australia, had each contributed to the export surplus.

More recently the decline in the number of dairyfarms and the increase in population had resulted in Queensland, New South Wales, and Western Australia arriving at a position where their output of dairy products, in terms of butterfat content, was equal to or less than consumption within each of these States (in butterfat terms South Australia is just about on balance, depending on the season) and the industry in these 3 States, the so-called "deficit" States, had voiced objection to the continuation of the Equalisation Scheme on the grounds of their now total participation in domestic markets, and required them to subsidize the low-priced export surplus which was now being produced only by Victoria and Tasmania (the amount of butterfat in the cheese exported from South Australia is balanced, in the terms of this argument, by the butterfat imported from Victoria for sale in this State).

This dissatisfaction had led to the necessity, some 18 months ago, to examine an alternative which would be acceptable to the deficit States, which otherwise might withdraw from the Equalisation Scheme, thereby gaining a brief advantage just prior to the total collapse, from which there would be no recovery, of the whole Australian dairy industry, including the market milk sector. An acceptable alternative had been found in the "80% retention scheme" which had operated from 1st July, 1974, but would expire on 30th June, 1975, because of the opposition of the Victorian industry to its continuation beyond that date.

The basis of the Scheme was to set different equalisation values for each State to give the same affect as though each State were retaining the whole of the return from 80 per cent of the sales, on the domestic market, of butter produced within the State. The affect of the modification had been to increase the amount which companies in the deficit States could pay to their suppliers, ranging from a minimum of 2.9c more than equalisation in South Australia (as the modification applies to butter only, this increase has very little effect on the returns received by producers supplying milk mainly for cheese manufacture) to a maximum of 5.5c in Western Australia, whilst producers in Victoria and Tasmania suffered a reduction of 0.95c and 0.42c respectively. In these latter two States the loss was offset by levies of 1c and ½c respectively imposed on all dairy farmers. It must be realized that the Scheme applies only to butter; cheese, skim milk powder, and casein are still subject to the unmodified equalisation arrangement.

Although the Victorian industry is opposed to allowing the modification to go beyond the present financial year, the deficit States are opposed to a return to the normal equalisation Scheme, and, during the past 7 months, consideration has been given at all levels of the industry to devising an alternative that would be acceptable to the two opposing groups. The three major alternatives at present were the Murray Goulburn Scheme, which proposed the setting up of a massive co-operative marketing organisation to handle the overall marketing of all manufactured dairy products on behalf of Co-operative Companies throughout Australia and in which participation of non-Co-operative Companies would be permitted upon request, the Kraft Plan, which proposed the pooling of the returns from all manufactured dairy products, thereby eliminating the temporary advantages received by Companies which happened, at any one time, to be producing products for which export prices are booming, and the Lavery Plan, which was rather more intended to overcome the problem of the differential in returns between butterfat products and milk protein products.

## INTERIM PRICES TO LICENSED SUPPLIERS

(Prices are interim only, and subject to retrospective adjustment.)

1975	Basic (cents per lb./kg butterfat)			Total* (cents per gallon/litre at above test)			
	Basic	C.M.B.	Total*	3.5%	4%	4.5%	5%
February	58.80	37.90	96.70	34.93	39.92	44.91	49.90
	<b>129.62</b>	<b>83.55</b>	<b>213.18</b>	<b>7.70</b>	<b>8.80</b>	<b>9.90</b>	<b>11.00</b>
March	58.80	40.90	99.70	36.01	41.16	46.30	51.44
	<b>129.62</b>	<b>90.17</b>	<b>219.80</b>	<b>7.94</b>	<b>9.07</b>	<b>10.21</b>	<b>11.34</b>
April	58.80	42.80	101.60	36.70	41.94	47.18	52.43
	<b>129.62</b>	<b>94.36</b>	<b>223.99</b>	<b>8.09</b>	<b>9.25</b>	<b>10.40</b>	<b>11.55</b>

## RATIO (Sales to Production, per cent)

	For Month				TOTAL PRICE*	
	12 Months' Cumulative		1974		1975	
	1974	1975	1974	1975	(Cents lb/kg b.f.)	
February	45.5	49.7	40.0	39.5	77.63	96.70
					<b>171.14</b>	<b>213.18</b>
March	54.5	55.2	40.0	39.5	82.89	99.70
					<b>182.74</b>	<b>219.80</b>
April	54.7	54.6	40.0	39.5	82.25	101.60
					<b>181.33</b>	<b>223.99</b>

(Authorised by Metropolitan Milk Equalisation Committee Limited)

However, none of these Schemes had so far found favor with all sectors of the industry, and Murray Goulburn and Kraft had, late in 1974, given notice of their intention to withdraw from equalisation. Fortunately these Companies had agreed to withdraw their notice, providing the industry was able to devise an acceptable scheme. The problem here, of course, was the difficulty of providing a scheme that was acceptable to both these competing Companies, and the complexity of the situation could be seen in the fact that the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, which could not be regarded as having a vested interest in the industry had, in its Study "Equalisation Arrangements for Dairy Products", been unable to nominate which of the many alternatives were preferred, but had concluded that the effect of a break-down of equalisation would tend to push domestic prices down to export parity levels, and a loss of revenue of approximately 32 per cent of present market values. Although the BAE did not deduce such a result from their findings, it can be said that, when manufacturing costs are deducted from prices 32 per cent lower than the present, the return to producers would be so low as to ensure that there would be few, if any, survivors.

Because of the growing urgency of the situation, and the impossibility, so far, for individual persons or organisations to devise a Scheme that was workable and acceptable, a proposal had been put to the Australian Dairy Farmers Federation and the Australian Dairy Industry Council for the setting up of a "think-tank" comprising a management consultant organisation, "Spectrum", and persons from within, or having a knowledge of, the dairy industry. This proposal had been accepted by both the ADFF and the ADIC, and the "think-tank" was now in existence, and beginning a survey of the situation.

## METRIC CONVERSION AND MILK PRICES (Secretary's Report)

The Metropolitan Milk Board had increased milk prices, from 1st February, 1975, by 8c per gallon (the retail price being increased to 16c per pint bottle), the whole of this increase going, initially, to the milk factories, to reimburse them for the costs of converting from imperial measure bottles (pint and half pint) to metric measure bottles (600 and 300 millilitres). It was intended that this arrangement should continue for approximately 8 weeks, during which time it was estimated that the increased margin would provide a return sufficient to cover the costs of changing over to metric bottles.

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THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN

FARMERS' ...

# Journal

Official Publication of the



Published Bi-monthly

Vol. 14, No. 6

Adelaide, MAY/JUNE, 1975

## PRICES & STATISTICS ADELAIDE METROPOLITAN MILK SUPPLY AREA

### PRODUCTION (000 gallons)

	For Month		Daily Average		12 Months' Cumulative	
	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
May ... ..	3,908	3,756	126.1	121.2	56,145	55,093
June ... ..	4,029	3,871	134.3	129.0	56,220	54,935

### MILK SALES (000 gallons/000 litres)

	For Month		Daily Average		12 Months' Cumulative	
	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
May ... ..	1,871	1,945	60.4	62.7	22,470	21,910
	<b>8,506</b>	<b>8,842</b>	<b>274.6</b>	<b>285.0</b>	<b>102,151</b>	<b>99,605</b>
June ... ..	1,786	1,793	59.5	59.8	22,366	21,917
	<b>8,119</b>	<b>8,151</b>	<b>270.5</b>	<b>271.9</b>	<b>101,678</b>	<b>99,637</b>

For other Prices &amp; Statistics see page 16

This issue—

Annual President's Annual Report — 1975  
 Report of Annual Meeting of Central Council  
 Wage Rates for Farm Labor

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\* No such herds in the other breeds.

Year	ROSLYN VALE JERSEYS			COMPETITOR BREED			Roslyn Vale Production as a Percentage of the only 'Other Breed' Herds above them
	Number of Cows	Average B-F.	Ranking among all Breeds	Number of Herds above R.V. Average	Average Number of Cows	Average B-F. of Herds	
1969-70	76	558	6th	5	37	577	97%
1970-71	90	568	4th	3	39	606	94%
1971-72	91	542	4th	3	38	588	92%
1972-73	81	545	2nd	1	48	574	95%
1973-74	93	537	3rd	2	42	582	92%
1974-75	96	532	5th	4	43	571	93%

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## THE GENERAL PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT for Year Ending 31st March, 1975

### FORTY YEARS OF PROGRESS

I take much pleasure in presenting this, the Fortieth Annual Report of the South Australian Dairymen's Association, because, as well as recording the work of the Association during what has been an unprecedentedly busy, and, indeed, critical year in the history of the Association and of the dairy industries in this State and the Commonwealth, it records the many and wideranging achievements of an organisation which, since its formation on 19th July, 1935, has attained a position of prestige and authority.

The chief of these achievements is, without doubt, the part played by the Association in establishing, in February 1936, only months after the Association's formation, the Milk Prices Equalisation Scheme which, with only minor variations to match changes in the industry, has continued to serve the interests of dairy-farmers and dairy companies for 39 years, and which may soon set the pattern for changes in milk marketing in other States.

It is through its direct participation in the operating of the Equalisation Scheme, which is unique both in being administered directly by the industry and in the degree of control exercised by its representatives, that the Association has acquired much of its status, and although the sense of responsibility which this position brings may, at times, appear to impose on the Association's actions a modifying effect which does not always accord with sectional views, it has resulted in action based on knowledge and awareness, and a steadier progress than might otherwise have been achieved.

The Association has not, however, been inhibited in its pursuit of reform, and the advances that have been made in both the South Australian and the national dairy industries owe much to its efforts, either alone in this State, or as an active member of the Australian Dairy Farmers' Federation, from the inception of that organisation.

But it is not only our pride in recording 40 years of activity that makes 1975 a bench-mark in the history of the dairy industry. Economic and social movements, external pressures, and internal tensions have all contributed to a situation where changes are now taking place which will remould the dairy industry to a far greater extent, and at a faster pace, than hitherto, replacing the gradual progress of unguided evolution by circumstances which must be turned, by quick, informed, and intelligent action, to the industry's advantage, or lead to its rapid dissolution.

## THE FUTURE OF DAIRY EQUALISATION

Of these the first, by reason of its basic importance to the continued stability, and even to the existence, of the industry, is the demand, from sections within the industry, for change in the equalisation scheme which, in one form or another, for almost 50 years, allowed the dairy industry in every State to enjoy a stability and degree of protection which assured both its survival and its growth. Whether, when, in the late 1950's, the collapse of returns for exported dairy produce coincided with a massive increase in the output of dairy produce, the equalisation scheme should have been replaced by some form of multiprice quota scheme is a question to which the Association gave its answer at the time. It is certain that the adoption of a scheme of that nature would have brought a reduction in total milk production, and consequently in the volume of exported dairy produce and the diluting effect of export returns on dairyfarmers' incomes, with the greatest decrease probably occurring in the high-cost States.

But the decline in output that has, in recent years, taken place in the so-called "deficit" States has not come from any such rational solution to the problem of uneconomic returns, nor has the disappearance of their export surpluses been caused only by a corresponding (and no doubt deplored) decline in the number of dairyfarmers in those States. It is therefore difficult to see why the "deficit" States have so vehemently insisted on replacing the equalisation scheme with some alternative which, whilst more immediately advantageous to their own situation, may put the survival of the whole dairy industry at risk, and we can only be thankful that commonsense has, belatedly, provided, in the "O'Brien Scheme," what we hope will be an acceptable compromise.

The "O'Brien Scheme" must not, however, for all that it is no worse than a practical distortion of the equalisation principle, be regarded just as a stop-gap, to be used only for a year until we are granted the benefit of some panacea prescribed by the Industries Assistance Commission after a protracted diagnosis.

Too little note has been taken of the extremely limited terms of the inquiry undertaken by the I.A.C., namely "what assistance should be provided after 30th June, 1976, to the Dairy Industry and for what period of time should the recommended assistance be provided?" Although the Association made a submission to the I.A.C., presenting the dairy industry's problems in a different light from that generally seen, and offering more radical proposals than those of the Australian Dairy Farmers' Federation, it must be realized that the I.A.C. may well accept neither radical nor orthodox proposals, but may decide not to recommend any legislatively-backed utopian scheme, and quite bluntly state (seeing that, from 1st July, 1975, the amount of assistance received directly by the industry will already have been virtually eliminated) that no direct assistance or intervention is recommended. The industry would then have cause to be grateful for the "O'Brien Scheme", however makeshift it may be, and for its ability to be continued beyond the one-year period that is at present intended, for the warning of the disaster that awaits the Australian dairy industry if equalisation, or some adaption of its principle, is not retained has now been given often enough, and with sufficient authority, to convince even the most optimistic, and although only a minority of the growing number of dairy products is subject to equalisation, the relative volume and aggregate value of those products would ensure that the other commodities not covered by equalisation would share the same fate.

## MARKET MILK TRENDS

This is particularly true of liquid milk and table cream and the growing range of short-life products associated with milk processing, and the Association has been as much aware of the need for market stability of these commodities as it has of manufactured dairy products for which the major portion of the milk produced by its members is used. It is consequently with very great concern that a significant fall in milk sales has been observed during the past two years, replacing the steady upward trend of the preceding 20 years.

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- Hydropulse conversion kit \_\_\_\_\_ 5

## Bulk Tanks (new low prices) 6

## Galvanized Bails & Yards

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Part of this fall is, of course, due to the termination by the Australian Government, from the beginning of the school year in 1974, of the Free Milk for Schools Scheme to which reference was made in my previous Annual Report, and a further fall has, as the Association predicted, followed the introduction of six-day deliveries which resulted from agitation by milk vendors, and which they, too, must now be deploring.

But although each of these factors has contributed to the accelerating rate of decline, no cause has, as yet, been found for the initial down-turn which began a full year before the cessation of the Free Milk Scheme.

Although, since the inception of the Metropolitan Milk Board and the accompanying availability of precise statistics, the consumption of milk per head in the metropolitan area has declined at an average annual rate of 0.7 per cent, the reduction has, until now, been more than offset by population growth, resulting in a general average increase in total sales of just over 2 per cent per year, reaching a maximum of 22.7 million gallons of milk and cream in the 12 months ended 31st January, 1973. From that time onward the previously steady increase has been replaced by a downward trend, and in the following 12 months total sales fell by 0.7 per cent.

In the next 12 months the rate of fall increased almost six-fold, to 4.1 per cent, and, although the loss of school milk accounted for the greater part of this acceleration, the general decline persisted.

Now, well beyond the time when the removal of school milk has any influence on statistics, the decline continues, though at a lesser rate, and for the year ending 31st March, 1975, the combined sales of milk and cream have fallen to below those of the same period in 1968.

## STATE DAIRY ADMINISTRATION

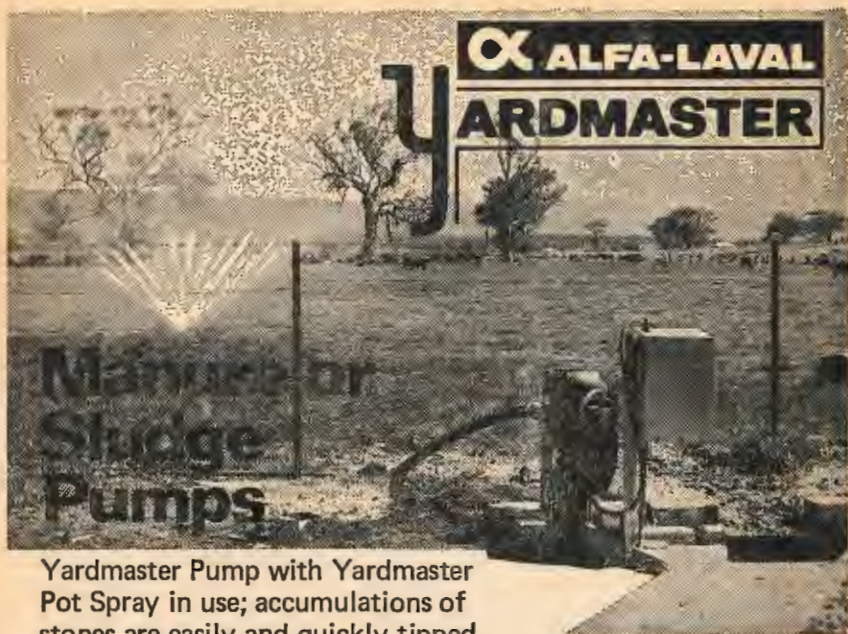
In view of this serious situation the Association was most disturbed to learn, late in 1974, that requests had been made to the Minister of Agriculture for an inquiry to be held into the setting-up of a single dairy authority for the purpose of equalising market milk returns between dairyfarmers throughout the State. The Minister's response to the request was to convene a series of meetings under the chairmanship of the Chairman of the Metropolitan Milk Board, at which the views of the Association, and of the organisations making the requests, could be heard.

The Association, in its submission, referred to the success that had been achieved by introducing orderly marketing in the metropolitan area of Adelaide, and the contrast between this situation and that in other areas when there are serious shortcomings in the pricing of milk and the control of distribution, and recommended an extension of regulatory powers to bring about a greater degree of uniformity in the administration of the market milk industry, and the establishing of regional equalisation schemes.

Mr. Hannaford's report to the Minister, and any recommendations that he may have made, have not yet become available to the organisations which participated in the discussions, but I believe we can be confident that such recommendations as are made will take into account the effect that major changes in farm incomes would have on the well-being of dairyfarmers, and on the stability of the industry, at this critical time in the dairy industry's history.

## FLAVORED MILK

The extent to which increasing sales of flavored milk may have contributed to the fall in market milk sales is at present being examined, but information now available indicates that the rapid growth that took place in the sales of this product in recent years, which, by June 1974, had raised the annual total



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## "INCOME TAX FOR PRIMARY PRODUCERS"

The Minister for Agriculture, Senator Ken Wriedt, has announced the release of a new edition of the booklet "Income Tax for Primary Producers."

This publication is prepared by officers of the Australian Taxation Office and published by the Australian Department of Agriculture to assist primary producers by keeping them informed on the special taxation concessions made available to them and by explaining as clearly as possible the requirements of income tax law as it applies to their fields of income.

Senator Wriedt said the information in the booklet would be helpful also to accountants, management consultants and others involved in providing expert financial advice to those engaged in fishing or forestry operations as well as the agricultural industries generally.

Copies of the booklet are available on request from the Regional Office of the Australian Department of Agriculture in Adelaide (telephone 223 9911) or from the Deputy Commissioner of Taxation (telephone 50 2911).

to more than 5 per cent of the sales of all milk and cream, has now, similarly, been replaced by a decline, and, as a consequence, the Executive Committee, after conferring with the milk processing Companies, agreed to defer action for the setting of flavored milk prices by regulation.

Although the downturn in white milk sales was separated by almost 18 months from any earlier price increase, and could not, under the circumstances, be regarded as a reaction to price variation, we cannot overlook the fact that the continued decline in the sales of both white milk and flavored milk may, at least in part, be related to prices, either of the commodities themselves or, particularly in the case of flavored milk, to the price of what may be regarded by the consuming public as a substitute.

### MILK PRICES AND PRODUCTION COSTS

It is therefore of the utmost importance for the industry to ensure that production costs, and consequently retail prices, are kept as low as possible, commensurate with its economic survival, by striving for the most efficient use of resources. Two outstanding examples of the application of this policy are the recent amalgamations that have taken place, between the 3 cooperative dairy companies, Dairy Vale, Jervois Co-op., and Myponga Co-op. and between Southern Farmers' and Jacobs Dairy Produce. We congratulate the Directors and the management of these two groups for the action they have taken, which accords with the expressed views of the Association, and with the approaches that we have made to the State Government and to the Australian Government, seeking support and assistance for the merging of dairy companies.

The dairyfarmers, for their part, have continued to increase the efficiency of their operations by further improving the productivity of their properties, during the year, by 6.3 per cent, to an average of 38,500 gallons, thus, within a space of 10 years, exactly doubling the output per dairyfarm.

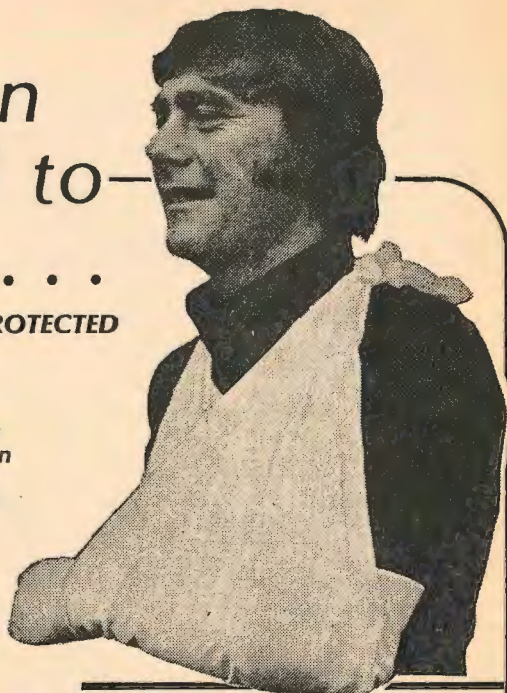
Unfortunately and effort even of this magnitude has not been able to counter rising production costs, which, as shown by the Metropolitan Milk Board's survey, have increased by over 25 per cent during the year under review. The price received by dairyfarmers for market milk is, as a result, and despite a shortening of the period between price variations, rapidly falling behind the assessed production cost, and should be the subject of an early review.

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The variations which still exist between the productivity of individual farms show that further increases in output are possible, but each increment is gained with greater difficulty. Although the dairyfarming sector, running a grave risk of over-capitalization, is ready to adopt new technologies as soon as their superiority is assured, they are relatively few and infrequent. Probably the outstanding recent example is the change to bulk milk storage and transport, conversion to which is now almost complete.

### **DAIRY ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM**

The assistance now made available by the Australian Government, in its Dairy Adjustment Program, for the purchase of refrigerated bulk milk tanks may enable most of the remaining dairyfarmers who have not yet done so to change from supplying milk in cans, but the provision of this assistance so far appears to be rather more restricted than our interpretation of the Australian Government's intentions had led us to expect. Whether the other forms of assistance provided in the Dairy Adjustment Program, covering farm sale, farm build-up, and diversification will be similarly disappointing has yet to be seen.

### **COSTS OF NON-PRODUCTIVE FACTORS**

More efficient management, and new techniques cannot, unfortunately, cope with those cost increases which leave the dairyfarmer no choice in the use of resources, the most obvious examples of which are the charges levied on the dairy property, all of which have increased by amounts that can never be hoped to be countered by greater productivity.

Of these charges land tax is probably the most pervasive, and the most objectionable, because of the pressure it imposes on dairyfarmers to sell their properties for non-productive purpose, thereby inducing social, economic and environmental changes that must be deplored as much by the State Government by which the tax is imposed as by the community generally, and by the dairy industry which sees its most productive and intensively-used areas withdrawn from milk production. During the year the Association made representations to the Government, based on these factors, and we are gratified that some relief to primary producers has been granted through recent amendments to the Land Tax Act.

Less wide in application, but equally galling to the dairyfarmers concerned, are the charges imposed on the occupiers of the reclaimed swamps on the Lower Murray for the use of water from the drainage channels. This charge has been the subject of discussion between the Minister of Irrigation, the Association, and individual dairyfarmers, for some time, and it is with great relief that I can announce the Minister's decision to withdraw the charge.

### **WITHDRAWAL OF ASSISTANCE**

Unfortunately conditions are changing so rapidly that the report of success in one area is followed by news of some other factor which cancels out the gain made. To the loss of revenue from the Free Milk Scheme for Schools, to which reference has earlier been made, must be added the loss of the bounty on superphosphate, concerning which the Association has made a submission to the Industries Assistance Commission in its inquiry into the dairy industry, whilst we note that, within a few weeks, we will be deprived of the lost remnant of the bounty provided under the Dairy Stabilization Scheme.

### **THE POSSIBILITY OF IMPROVEMENT**

The ability of the dairyfarmer to offset these losses by his own efforts is extremely limited, and the extent to which relief, and even relative prosperity, can be obtained by the coordinated efforts of all sectors of the industry, and its associated organisations should not be overlooked. The Association offers its continued support and assistance in any field which shows a potential for such improvement.

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As far as marketing is concerned (and so many previous annual reports have referred to this subject that repetition would be tedious), the Association believes that the development of the domestic market, particularly for liquid milk, is of paramount importance, and has recommended to the Metropolitan Milk Board expansion of the educational program to which the now much-diminished promotional activity is confined.

In the areas of production techniques we have been involved in the changes that have taken place in connection with artificial breeding in South Australia, and are now participating in the pilot study of a program of mastitis control, each of which may provide a contribution to greater productivity and consequent economies.

In all these activities we believe that we have the support of the members of the Association, and of dairyfarmers generally, and it is disturbing to note the number of dairyfarmers who are not members of the Association, but who benefit equally with those who contribute to the costs of the Association's efforts. As might be expected, the rate of decline in the number of dairyfarmers is greater than that in the Association's membership, as those whose dependence on the industry is slight probably lead in the exit from it, but the result is still that only a portion, although a predominant portion, of dairyfarmers support the Association's work. To these members I express my gratitude for their loyalty.

My thanks are given also to the Central Council delegates, who have the responsibility of representing the views of the members of the Districts from which they come, particularly to those delegates who, appropriately in International Women's Year, enable the Annual Report, for the first time in 40 years to begin with "Ladies and Gentlemen." I thank also the members of the Executive Committee who devote much thought and considerable time to putting those views into effect, and the staff who assist them.

On behalf of the Association I record our appreciation of the cooperation and assistance given by the members and staff of the Metropolitan Milk Board, and the officers of the Department of Agriculture, and particularly by the Minister of Agriculture, The Honorable T. M. Casey, MLC.

N. M. GREEN,  
General President.

**MASTITIS DETECTORS**

Stocks of the N.I.R.D. Mastitis Detectors held at the Association's office, Astor House, 13 Leigh Street, Adelaide, are continually being replenished, and are available to members at a concessional price.

The Detectors, which are made of clear plastic, with moulded-in-place stainless steel gauge, were developed by the National Institute for Research in Dairying (N.I.R.D.), Reading, England, for the detection of clinical mastitis during the milking process, thereby avoiding the extra time needed for other detection methods, and eliminating the possibility of false readings from the occurrence of foreign material not contained in the milk.

The Detectors, which may be left permanently installed in the milk-line, are not affected by hot water or chemicals used in cleaning and sanitizing milking machines.

They come in packs of 6, together with a dummy for use when a Detector is not required or is not available, and a simple cleaning jet.

## CENTRAL COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING

### ELECTIONS BRING FEW CHANGES

#### DAVID TURNER RETIRES AFTER 19 YEARS ON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Apart from the election of Mr. Ron Reid, to replace Mr. David Turner as a member of the Executive Committee, the only other changes that occurred at the Annual Meeting of the Central Council on 23rd June were rearrangements of the offices held, although the election for four executive committee was contested by seven candidates.

Mr. **Norman Green**, of **Monteith**, was re-elected **General President** of the Association for the successive year; Mr. **Tony Kenny**, of **Ponde**, and Mr. **Ken Turvey**, of **Milang**, were elected as **Senior Vice-President** and **Junior Vice-President** respectively, the remaining members of the Executive Committee being Messrs. **Michael Diener**, of **The Point**, **Bill Kerr**, of **Dutton**, **Aub. Kretschmer**, of **Welling-ton**, and **Ron. Reid**, of **Back Valley**.

Other highlights of the Annual Meeting, in addition to the General President's Annual Report (printed elsewhere in this Journal), and the election of officers, were the presentation of a cheque for \$3667, by Mr. Des. Mangan, Assistant Manager for South Australia of Federation Insurance Limited, being over-riding commission on business done with the Association's members during the previous half-year, and an address by the newly-appointed Minister of Lands, Hon. T. M. Cosey, M.L.C.

Mr. Casey gave an interesting and informative survey of agricultural and economic conditions in the Middle Eastern countries which he visited recently on a fact-finding tour with the aim of ascertaining the possibilities for trade in primary commodities and agricultural machinery between South Australia and the countries surveyed, and the extent to which South Australian dry-land farming techniques could be adopted to their use.

Unfortunately, although Australian cheese sold to Middle East countries brought the highest returns of all our export markets, Mr. Casey said that this cheese was mainly in processed form, and was supplied by a well-known multi-national company, which had an exclusive franchise for the area. However, Mr. Casey believed that there might be outlets for South Australian natural cheddar cheese, which had a reputation for quality which was essential in any trade with these countries.

## EXTRACTS FROM CENTRAL COUNCIL MINUTES

### CHARGES FOR IRRIGATION WATER

At its previous meeting the Central Council had resolved "that the Executive Committee convene a meeting at Murray Bridge, of all members of the Association drawing water from the River Murray, and that the Executive be empowered to take whatever action it considers appropriate in accordance with the news expressed at such meeting."

In accordance with this resolution a meeting had been convened to take place at Murray Bridge on 5th March, but late in the week prior to that date a letter had been received from the Minister of Irrigation stating that he had decided to terminate the charge. The meeting had consequently been cancelled, and a letter of thanks had been sent to the Minister.

# REEVE

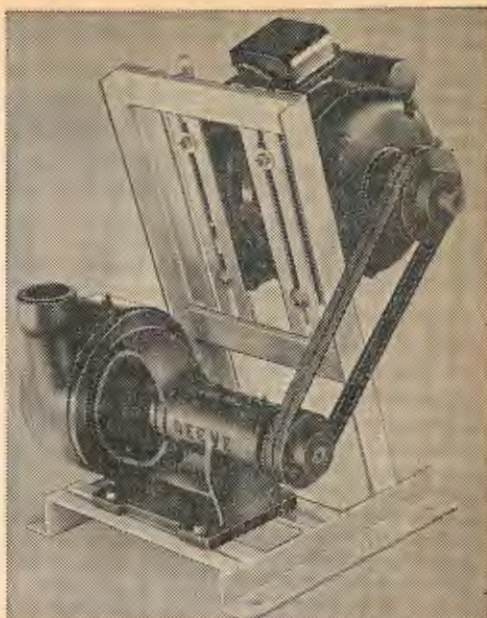
## Liquid Manure Pump

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## LAND TAX

The Land Tax Act has now been amended, to increase the statutory exemption allowed on land used for primary production, from a sliding scale cutting out at \$12,500 to a fixed allowance of \$40,000. The amendment was in line with the submission made by the Association early this year, following a deputation to the Premier late in 1974, and would have the effect of probably reducing the land tax paid by most dairy farmers and substantially reducing the tax paid by farmers in those Hills areas which had been reassessed within the last two years, although farmers whose holdings were small and which had not been reassessed for some time might obtain little or no relief.

A claim had been made, at the previous meeting, that the net revenue received from land tax was relatively small, because of the high cost of collection, and the Central Council had instructed that this matter be examined. It had been found not possible to obtain the cost of collecting land tax, but the overall cost of running the State Taxes Department, which collects other taxes as well as land tax, was approximately \$1,050,000 per year, and as the estimated gross revenue from land tax was of the order of \$12 million it could hardly be claimed to be a insignificant revenue earner.

## FLAVORED MILK PRICES

Although, following the Association's request to the Metropolitan Milk Board to regulate the prices of flavored milk, the Board had stated that it intended to take such action at the time of the next general price review, the price revision

which had taken place on 1/2/75 related only to the costs of metric conversion, and was not, therefore, regarded as a general price review. It was intended, at that time, that there would be a general price review early in April and it was expected that the Board would, at that time, introduce price regulations relating to flavored milk, at least to the extent of the price to be paid to licensed producers, but the milk processing companies were not happy about the proposal, and had requested the opportunity to confer with the Executive Committee on the subject.

The Central Council, at its previous meeting, had resolved "that the Executive Committee be empowered to determine the appropriate action to be taken in respect of the pricing, by regulation, of flavored milks, after the meeting with the Merchants."

The meeting between the Executive Committee and the Merchants had been held, and, as the result of evidence submitted by the Merchants, the Executive Committee had requested the Metropolitan Milk Board to defer the regulating of the price of flavored milk.

The reasons given by the Merchants against the pricing of flavored milks included a downturn in sales, in contrast to the previously steeply rising sales, the fact that increases in white milk prices had now put the retail price of flavored milk above those of soft drinks and fruit drinks, and the urgent need for milk for cheese manufacture. The combination of these factors brought about a situation whereby it could be to the advantage of the Merchants to cease the manufacture of flavored milk if the price of the raw material were increased. The Executive Committee would be provided with costing figures to support the Merchants' claims, and had asked for statistics of the sales decline. If it became apparent, after the close of the financial year, that there had been any improvement in the sales situation, the Executive Committee would re-examine the position, and take the appropriate action.

Mr. Diener said that although, at first glance, it was difficult to believe that the profitability of such a high-priced commodity as flavored milk was equal only to that of cheese, it should be realised that, if diverted to cheese, the additional milk would increase throughput and factory efficiency, while, of itself, it was a relatively low-volume, high-cost product, with a small profit margin that could be wiped out by a cost increase.

Mr. Silver said that although it was hard to believe, in view of the extremely high prices charged by shops for flavored milk, it was clear that one of the reasons for declining sales was the excessive margin added by shopkeepers, as the product was not under price control, and an increase in the price to the producer could be followed by the addition of even higher retail margins.

## INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

A submission had been presented to the Industries Assistance Commission, on behalf of the Association, in connexion with the reference concerning assistance to the Australian dairy industry, and oral evidence had subsequently been given to the Commission during its visit to Adelaide.

Submissions had also been made by the South Australian Government in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and the Metropolitan Milk Board, by the Dairy Section of the United Farmers' and Graziers and by the South-Eastern Dairymen's Association, and by the manufacturing sector. Although the submissions, being presented by bodies having differing interests, covered a very wide range of viewpoints, it could be regarded as significant that the Commissioners themselves displayed very keen interest in any references to milk equalisation and two-price quota schemes. The Commission's report was scheduled to be presented to the Parliament in October.

## BULK TANK INCENTIVE PREMIUM

At the previous meeting the Central Council had received a letter from the Wholesale Milk Buyers' and Distributors' Association stating their intention to replace the 12½ per cent bulk tank incentive with a uniform premium of 2 cents per pound fat, and, after consideration, had accepted the change.

Since then some concern had been expressed by members at the action taken by the Central Council, but it should be realized that the letter received from the Merchants was not in the nature of an offer; the 12½ per cent incentive had been devised by the Merchants, and there had never been any undertaking as to the period for which the incentive would be paid beyond the original proposal for 7 years, which had expired almost 2 years ago, therefore it was expected that, sooner or later, the Merchants would wish to change to a simpler method that avoided the problems that had crept into the 2½ per cent scheme over the years, including increasing tank prices, the purchasing of second-hand tanks, and the transfer of ownership of tanks when properties changed hands.

The immediate affect of the change had been to reduce the amount of premium received by the smaller producers, with a corresponding increase in the premium received by the lesser number of large producers, and although the difference between the amounts received under the old scheme and the new scheme was much greater in the autumn months than during the flush period, a further objection was that the new scheme did not provide any incentive for producers whose tanks were too small to allow skip-a-day pick-up to buy larger tanks and thereby help to cut transport costs.

The Chairman stated that, because of these factors, and the concern expressed, the Executive Committee had informed the Merchants of the concern that had been expressed and asked whether they would be prepared to consider alternatives.

Mr. McEwin said that although the change was a decision by the Merchants, and not sought by the Association, it would be to our advantage to ensure that the 2 cents premium was retained, as an addition to the basic price, otherwise we ran the risk of losing it altogether.

Mr. Manning said that, whatever attitude we took to the principle of a premium, its original intention was to encourage change-over to bulk transport to bring about savings in transport costs. The Merchants had now removed this incentive, and, with it, the ability to make even greater savings; perhaps we should be looking for a scheme that penalized producers who did not contribute to the savings that come from skip-a-day bulk transport.

Mr. Schoell said that the Onkaparinga District felt very strongly about the change. One producer would lose almost \$250 per year, which would be subsidizing larger producers.

Mr. Kretschmer stated that a notice of motion seeking the return of the previous scheme had been placed on the agenda of the next general meeting of Dairy Vale Metro Co-op. This direct dealing between a company and its suppliers was the best course to take, as it would demonstrate where the support of the suppliers lay, and positive corrective action would follow an affirmative vote if that was the decision of the meeting.

Mr. Perry said that although it was obvious, from the facts given, that a number of suppliers would receive less money under the new scheme, at least some of these were due to the higher prices of tanks today. Had they bought their tanks earlier, at lower prices, they might not have suffered any losses at all, perhaps even a gain.

Mr. Jacobs said that reference had been made to the vagueness of the time provision. In this case (and the letter which the Chairman had received seemed to show that Mr. Hein was in the same position) the company had stated that the incentive of 12½ per cent would be paid for 7 years, and so far only 4 years had elapsed.

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Mr. Harper said that the 12½ per cent scheme had developed from a competitive situation, with far too much vagueness about the time limit, and in trying to get into positions of advantage the Merchants had, instead, got themselves into a bind. The unhappy result was that, although the new scheme was more rational, some producers were losing money.

He considered that the Executive Committee should take up with the Merchants individual cases of hardship resulting from the change from a premium based on capital cost to one based on output, to see whether these cases could not be solved, without abandoning the new scheme which, otherwise, was fair and simple.

Mr. Turner said that although, except in the early days of the original scheme, no real assurances had been given that the 12½ per cent would be paid for 7 years, there was a general understanding, which appeared to have been fostered by the Merchants, that this would be so, and he believed that the only fair way was to continue to pay the 12½ per cent premium to each supplier for a full 7 years from the date of purchase, after which they would go to the production-based premium.

Mrs. Pope said that, under those circumstances, the situation could develop where a supplier whose tank was so small as to prevent skip-a-day pick-up, and even require twice-a-day pick-up during part of the year, could involve the industry in even greater cartage costs than would result from a similar number of can suppliers.

Mr. Schoell then moved:  
"that the Executive Committee continue discussions with the Merchants with the intention of devising a fairer method of compensating producers for the costs of bulk milk handling."

The motion was seconded by Mr. Leslie, and carried.

(To be continued in next issue)

## LATEST WAGE RATES FOR FARM LABOR

Wage rates payable under the **Pastoral Industry (South Australia) Award**, which covers most farm labor, including persons employed on dairy farms, were recently increased, and became effective on and after 15th May, 1976. The revised rates are as follows:—

### Station Hands (the category covering dairy farm employees)

The minimum rates to be paid to male and female adult station hands engaged by the week shall be:—

	Per week of 44 hours \$
<b>Without keep—</b>	
1. Station hand with less than 12 months experience in the industry .....	<b>95.10</b>
2. Station hand with 12 months experience or more in the industry (but who does not conform to the definition of General station hand) .....	<b>96.10</b>
3. General station hand .....	<b>97.20</b>

### With keep—

The rates prescribed above less **\$20.54** per week.

The minimum rates to be paid to adult station hands engaged by the day shall be **\$19.00** per day without keep.

### Juvenile Rates:

The minimum rate to be paid to employees under 21 years of age engaged by the week shall be:—

	Percentage of Adult Rate	Per week of 44 hours \$
<b>Without keep:—</b>		
At 15 years of age .....	45	42.80
At 16 years of age .....	50	47.55
At 17 years of age .....	55	52.30
At 18 years of age .....	65	61.80
At 19 years of age .....	75	71.35
At 20 years of age .....	90	85.60

### With keep:—

The rates prescribed above less **\$20.54** per week.

## ANNUAL LEAVE

The provision for annual leave is unchanged, being **three weeks leave** with pay, for every completed year of service with the employer. "With pay" means the amount of wage the employee would have received in respect of ordinary time, plus, in the case of an employee engaged "with keep", the value of the "keep" deduction (i.e. currently \$20.54 per week). An employee leaving or being discharged before he has completed a year of service shall be paid an amount equal to three-fortyninths of his pay rate for ordinary time for the period of service.

### NOTE — Exhibition of Rules

The Award requires that a copy of the rates to be paid shall be made available by the employer at the place of employment for perusal by any employee applying for it.

### FOR SALE

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### INTERIM PRICES TO LICENSED SUPPLIERS

(Prices are interim only, and subject to retrospective adjustment.)

1975	Basic	C.M.B.	Total*	3.5%	4%	4.5%	5%
	(cents per lb./kg butterfat)			(cents per gallon/litre at above test)			
May ... ..	58.80	42.67	101.47	36.65	41.89	47.12	52.36
	<b>129.63</b>	<b>94.07</b>	<b>223.70</b>	<b>80.80</b>	<b>92.34</b>	<b>103.89</b>	<b>115.4</b>
June ... ..	58.80	38.19	96.99	35.03	40.04	45.04	50.05
	<b>129.63</b>	<b>84.19</b>	<b>213.82</b>	<b>77.23</b>	<b>88.26</b>	<b>99.30</b>	<b>110.3</b>

### RATIO (Sales to Production, per cent)

	For Month		12 Months' Cumulative		TOTAL PRICE*	
	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
May ... ..	47.9	51.8	40.0	39.8	83.82	101.47
					<b>184.79</b>	<b>223.70</b>
June ... ..	44.3	46.3	39.8	39.9	81.75	96.99
					<b>180.22</b>	<b>213.82</b>

(Authorised by Metropolitan Milk Equalisation Committee Limited)

## WHAT IS MILK?

Milk is the only natural material which is a complete source of food; its nutritional potential is unsurpassed by any other food used by man. The proteins in milk are ideal in quality and balance to satisfy human amino-acid requirements. The content of minerals and vitamins is unique, not only in proportion but in quantity. With the exception of vitamin C and iron, milk provides all the nutrients essential for man's growth and development.

The widespread use of milk and milk products as a part of the daily diet in highly developed countries confirms this. These societies enjoy almost complete freedom from disease associated with malnutrition among infants, children and young adults and commonly found in developing areas with only a primitive milk supply or none at all.

Not only is milk a complete food, but the quality of its nutrients both enhances and extends many nutrients present in poorer quality foods. For example, the aminoacid pattern and content of milk proteins are such that they can supplement and make good the deficiencies of most cereal proteins. Thus, supplementing cereals with milk improves the quality and quantity of the protein supply.

An indirect value attached to milk frequently goes unrecognised. The ruminant animal produces milk from sources not ordinarily used by man. This lack of food competition on the land not only extends the human food supply but improves its quality.

In technically developed countries, milk not only provides insurance against deficiencies in the diet, but it is an important source of animal protein, calcium and riboflavin. It is, therefore, not surprising that these societies are committed to maintaining and improving an adequate supply of high-quality milk.

Whereas nutritionists stress protein-calorie malnutrition in their work in the developing countries, many would agree with the late Lord Boyd-Orr, food and nutrition scientist, Nobel prize winner and first Director-General of FAO, when he said:

"All that research has taught me about calories, amino-acids, proteins, carbohydrates, trace elements, vitamins and enzymes is that: if people are hungry they need food. If they are ill-nourished they need good food."

Man has yet to devise a product superior to natural milk for preventing or correcting malnutrition.

—From "Payment for Milk on Quality", published by the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations in its FAO Agricultural Studies series.

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THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN

DAIRYMEN'S . . .

*Journal*

The Official Publication of the

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Adelaide, JULY/AUGUST, 197

**MASTITIS CONTROL**

A NUMBER OF REGIONAL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD THROUGHOUT THE ADELAIDE MILK SUPPLY DISTRICT TO ENABLE MEMBERS TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSAL FOR A MASTITIS CONTROL PROGRAM TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSAL IS CONTAINED IN THIS ISSUE.

in this issue:

Dairy Administration — Regional Equalisation  
 Mastitis Control Program Proposals  
 Iodine Residues in Milk  
 More About Tail-Tagging  
 Land Values and Section 61  
 Central Council Proceedings

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SUCCESSIVE  
YEARS  
OVER  
500 LBS.  
B-F. AV.**

**BULL A.**

Sire's Yrs.	Dam Lbs.	Rudella Milk	Royal %	Princess, Lbs. B-F.	H.C., E.M.R.
7	14,460		6.0	868	
8	14,220		7.3	1041	2nd cow
9	9,630		6.7	640	and top
10	10,980		6.2	681	cow, Vic.
11	11,280		6.2	693	

A SON  
OF  
BERRY  
BANK  
BUTTERBOY

Dam Yrs.	Roslyn Vale Lbs.	Proud Milk	Miss, %	E.M.R. Lbs. B-F.
J2	9,120		5.4	490
J3	10,710		5.5	589
J4	12,480		5.2	644
5	14,310		5.3	755
6	13,410		5.2	704
7	13,410		5.1	678
8	10,860		5.2	562
9	13,470		5.3	708
11	11,490		4.9	566

G. Dam Roslyn Vale Stormy Petrel, M.R.  
J2 520, S3 536, S4 561, 366, 828, 782.

**ROSLYN  
VALE  
JERSEYS**

**BULL B.**

Sire's Dam Maple Perfect Lil, V.H.C. Ex. C.P. M.R. (N.Z.)

Yrs.	Lbs.	Milk	%	Lbs. B-F.	
6	12,090		6.5	786	
7	10,110		6.1	615	Highest
8	14,374		5.9	844	B-F. cow
9	17,170		6.1	1054	over 10
10	17,978		6.3	1120	in N.Z.
11	16,464		5.6	922	

A SON  
OF  
MAPLE  
REGAL  
ROYAL  
(IMP. N.Z.)

Dam Yrs.	Roslyn Vale Lbs.	Morns Milk	Harmony %	2nd, E.M.R. Lbs. B-F.
J2	8,700		5.3	463
J3	12,930		5.6	726
J4	13,500		5.8	785
5	13,440		5.5	745
6	11,910		5.5	656
7	10,050		5.0	503
8	11,040		5.5	604
9	11,370		5.2	589
10	12,120		5.0	603

G. Dam Roslyn Vale Morns Harmony, E.M.R.  
Life-time 4,712 B-F. Top yields 662 and 626.

**TOP  
PRODUCTION  
JERSEY  
HERD  
IN  
STH. AUS.  
FOR THE  
PAST  
7 YEARS**

**BULL C.**

Sire's Dam Mersey Bank Mary-Anne, H.C. + E.M.R.

Yrs.	Lbs.	Milk	%	Lbs. B-F.	
J2	11,475		5.1	588	Tas. B-F.
J3	Withdrawn		—	Sickness	record
J4	11,559		5.5	632	
5	17,775		5.1	902	Tas. Milk.
6	20,370		5.2	1068	Tas. Milk, B-F.
7	21,510		5.0	1076	Tas. Milk, B-F.
8	19,770		5.3	1054	(also
10	14,535		5.4	785	Aust.
11	16,611		5.1	848	Milk
12	16,931		5.0	851	record)
13	Approximate			700	

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OF  
MERSEY  
BANK  
MASTERPIECE

Dam Roslyn Vale Merrigold 3rd, E.M.R.

Yrs.	Lbs.	Milk	%	Lbs. B-F.	
J2	8,190		6.3	514	
J3	10,530		6.1	638	
J4	11,430		6.3	719	
5	10,920		6.1	666	
6	11,010		6.2	678	
7	12,780		6.1	780	Top
8	12,420		6.0	743	Jersey
9	9,630		6.4	614	S.A.

G. Dom Roslyn Vale Merrigold, E.M.R.  
Life-time 6,836 B-F. Top yield 728 at 10 yrs.

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# THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DAIRYMEN'S JOURNAL

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## PARTICIPATION IN MARKET MILK SUPPLY How Widely Should it Extend?

### The Association's View

The question of how widely the right to participate in market milk supply should extend has been asked for many years, and early in 1975 the then Minister of Agriculture (Hon. T. M. Casey, M.L.C.), following the receipt of requests from the South Eastern Dairymen's Association and the United Farmers and Graziers of S.A., convened a series of conferences.

The request from the U.F. & G. was basically for the setting-up of a Dairy Authority to coordinate the activities now carried out by the Metropolitan Milk Board and the Dairy Branch of the Department of Agriculture, the powers of which would include the administering of "a less costly and simpler method of payments to producers" than the present milk equalisation scheme.

The S.E.D.A.'s request went beyond the proposal for a statutory Authority, and sought as well "to bring all dairyfarmers in S.A. under one control . . . to take the place of the Metropolitan Milk Board and the Metropolitan Equalisation Committee", and thereby to equalise payments to all producers on the basis of quality of milk received regardless of the end product.

Both these requests contained proposals which would have direct effects of very great magnitude on the interests of the members of the South Australian Dairymen's Association, which were regarded very seriously by the Executive Committee.

After considerable study of the original requests and the arguments put forward in their support at the first two conferences, the Executive Committee prepared a submission on behalf of the members of the Association. The basis of the submission was the desirability, on the one hand, of bringing greater uniformity into the administration of the market milk industry throughout the State, but emphasised, very strongly, the necessity to take no action which would, in any way, destroy the existing equity of dairyfarmers, to maintain the level of their returns, and to protect their investments.

The Executive Committee believed that these aims could be achieved by "regional equalisation", the grounds for which were set out in the submission as follows.

### REGIONAL EQUALISATION

#### Regulation of Prices — Producers

The State may be regarded as containing five discrete areas of market milk supply and distribution, namely the metropolitan producing district, the pick up areas of Golden North, G. W. Falland, and Port Lincoln Dairies, and the Mount Gambier area.

There are very great differences in the physical characteristics of these areas, as regards to the relation of the requirements of market milk to the total output of the area, the extent to which the area is self-sufficient for its supply of market milk throughout the year or has to draw accommodation milk from other sources, the density of establishment of the dairy farms throughout the area, the levels of milk production of the farms, and the distances involved in transport from farms to processing plants and from processing plants to market.

The economic characteristics are correspondingly diverse, with the capital structures of dairy farms being strongly influenced by land values which, in turn, are influenced by alternative land uses within the area.

The result of this physical and economic diversity has been to establish a near equilibrium situation in each case in respect to the "average" farm concept; and the Association believes that the policy to be followed in the setting of producer prices should be to maintain this equilibrium in line with area and general cost movements, recognising in each case the advantages and disadvantages peculiar to each area.

This would be achieved by setting producer prices which did not set out to be uniform but were related to the levels of production costs in each area, and in particular by the investment commitments undertaken by the dairy farmers, these commitments being, in turn, correlated between production factor costs and expected market returns.

To apply uniform prices for producers throughout the State would be either to impose unnecessary burdens on the consumer if due regard was not paid to regional variations in costs arising from such influences as access to cheap sources of supplementing fodder, availability of irrigation water supplies, and, most importantly, land values, or, alternatively, to depress returns in some areas which, although so located as to incur minimal non-farm costs such as transport, may not be so advantageously served in respect to milk production costs.

### **Milk Price Equalisation**

Since 1936 the price of market milk has been equalised with that of milk for manufacture for all licensed farms within the metropolitan producing district, and the proposal has been made, from time to time, that the return from market milk should be equalised for all dairy farmers throughout the State.

The Association would support, most strongly, the view that market milk prices should be equalised with manufacturing milk prices within any area which is supplying a milk market (and the pricing methods used by Golden North, G. W. Falland, and Port Lincoln Dairies, although not strictly equalisation schemes, have practically the same effect) but believes that there are no economic grounds supporting a case for extending any equalisation scheme beyond the geographical limits of the area supplying the market, particularly a State-wide scheme.

Action of that nature would, if the return to producers in an existing scheme was not to be diminished, require increases in consumer prices which were greater than those resulting from factor price movements, and would, at the same time, give to the newly-included producers wind-full gains of considerable magnitude, whilst the extension of a scheme without retail price increases would yield somewhat smaller windfull gains at the expense of existing producers.

The Association believes that there is no economic reason for either alternative, and that the improving of returns for producers not participating in a prices equalisation plan should, if such is considered necessary, be regarded as a welfare matter, and be the subject of Governmental contributions.

Several criteria are necessary for the operation of an equalisation scheme, and these criteria do not exist on a State wide basis. They do, however, exist, or can be created, on a regional basis, and the Association believes that, where the majority of dairy farmers within an area from which market milk is drawn supports an equalisation scheme, such a scheme should be formally instituted.

## MASTITIS CONTROL

For several years the Department of Agriculture's Dairy Research Centre at Northfield has been carrying out a large-scale survey of the incidence of mastitis in selected areas within the Adelaide milk supply region, as a fore-runner to the introduction of a mastitis control program.

The Association has followed the progress of the survey with keen interest, and the Executive Committee has been kept fully informed throughout the period with further detail being added during the Committee's periodical visits to Northfield.

The Dairy Branch of the Department has now discussed with the Executive Committee a proposal for an all-embracing Mastitis Control Program, an explanation of which, provided by the Dairy Branch, is printed below.

The proposal is supported by the Executive Committee, but, because of its importance to all dairy farmers, a series of Regional Meetings (details of which are enclosed with this Journal) has been arranged, which will be addressed by officers of the Department of Agriculture and members of the Executive Committee.

## MASTITIS — DOLLARS AND SENSE

**Mastitis is costing the South Australian dairy industry over 3 million dollars each year. Two thirds of this loss could be avoided if farmers adopted an effective control programme!**

Most of the loss is suffered directly by the farmers themselves, through reduced milk yields from affected cows, but there is an additional loss to the manufacture sector, as mastitic milk produces poor cheese, and this loss is ultimately borne by the farmers who receive lower prices, and smaller bonuses, as a consequence.

The farmer knows, too, that there are many other cost disadvantages caused by mastitis — cash paid out for ineffective antibiotics, unsaleable milk withheld from factory supply, the time lost in treating and handling diseased cows, and very often the total loss, by culling, of what were potentially valuable producing animals.

If we are to increase the return from our export markets we must similarly improve the quality of our products. One way to achieve this is to reduce the number of white cells in the milk. High cell counts in milk are associated with a high incidence of mastitis in the herd. Already our competitors, such as New Zealand, have introduced mastitis control programmes. We must do the same if we are to remain in business.

### MASTITIS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Surveys conducted in South Australia by the Department of Agriculture have shown that **35 per cent** of our dairy herds have a mastitis problem! **30 per cent** of quarters are infected and **95 per cent** of these are **not readily detected** by the farmer because they are **sub-clinical**. Milk from these infected quarters is seriously altered in composition, to the extent that a practical method of detection is possible by measuring the white cell count of the milk.

The Department has recently drawn up a policy statement on the control of mastitis, which has received the Minister of Agriculture's approval. The statement sets out methods which can be used by dairy farmers to maintain herds in a satisfactory condition, and, in the case of those farmers who have a high incidence of mastitis in their herd, proposes a system which will enable the cell count to be reduced steadily and consistently to a satisfactory level. The policy advises a three-pronged approach that the farmer should adopt:—

1. a check on the milking machine and milking management;
2. the adoption of teat dipping;
3. the use of dry-cow therapy (the treatment of infected quarters with an appropriate antibiotic at drying-off).

## A PROPOSED CONTROL PROGRAM FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The only practical approach to mastitis detection is by regular testing of herd milk for cell count.

Bulk milks from all the herds in the Metropolitan Milk Board area have been cell counted at monthly intervals since March 1974. Results have shown that many of our herds have a high cell count, **34 per cent being above 500,000 cells per millilitre of milk.** (See survey monitor results this issue). Adoption of the control measures recommended in the program will enable a reduction of these cell counts to a level that is well below 500,000/ml.

(A farmer milking 50 cows whose cell count in the bulk milk is above 500,000/ml could be losing up to \$1000 per year in loss of milk).

### CELL-COUNT REPORTS AND FOLLOW-UP

Under the proposed scheme milk producers in South Australia would receive a monthly report on the cell count status of their herd milk. To enable this service to be provided at minimum cost (\$20-25 per year for each farmer) would require all farmers to participate in the scheme.

A producer whose herd milk cell count has consistently exceeded 500,000/ml would use the service to pinpoint the cause of the trouble. For a further cost of \$15 he would be visited by a dairy officer who would discuss the effects of an excessively high cell count. The officer would also explain the mechanics of correct machine maintenance and adjustment (and, where necessary, check and adjust the machine) and discuss milking management. The correction of a faulty machine can often remedy a high cell count.

### DRY COW THERAPY

Depending upon the severity of the mastitis incidence in the herd (as reflected by the cell count in the milk) the scheme offers a choice of two methods of control to the producer:

1) If the cell count is very high (over 1 million/ml) the dairy officer will suggest that each quarter of every cow be given antibiotic treatment at drying-off. This treatment will cost the farmer only the price of a dry-cow antibiotic preparation for each quarter;

2) If the cell count is less than 1 million/ml the dairy officer will advise the producer to have quarter-milk samples taken from each cow so that individual quarters with excessive cell counts can be treated. The cost of testing a herd of 50 cows would be about \$25 per year but this cost is balanced by a reduced spending on antibiotics, for there is no useful purpose in treating healthy quarters with antibiotics.

### POST-MILKING TEAT-DIPPING


The importance of teat-dipping with a suitable disinfectant cannot be too strongly emphasised. In the case of a herd with a low incidence of mastitis, teat-dipping will assist considerably in keeping the incidence low.

It is also essential to teat-dip herds that have a high incidence of mastitis where dry cow therapy is used. It does not make sense to clear up the infection only to leave the quarter exposed to a new infection when the cows recolve. Some farmers start teat-dipping before calving as an added protection.

### RECAPITULATION

The control program consists of two parts:

1) a cell count of all herd bulk milk, each month, with the farmer receiving a report of the results. It is essential that all farmers participate in order to keep costs low;



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2) a service available to producers with a high cell count in their milk, whereby the problem is discussed and action taken on

- a) a blanket dry cow treatment of ever yquarter or
- b) a selective treatment of quarters showing a high cell count in the milk.

The benefits to be had from using this control program are **cash, satisfaction, a bigger quantity of better milk and less disease.** Reduction of mastitis in your herd should show a 10 per cent increase in your present milk cheque.

All the measures recommended in the scheme have been tested at Northfield and have been proved to reduce the incidence of mastitis.

Mastitis control will help us to improve milk quality, but more important is the fact that it will be a positive step in increasing the returns from our export markets.

## THE CELL-COUNTING SURVEY

For the dairy farmer, however conscientious he may be, the problem of controlling mastitis has been more in diagnosis than in treatment, and the effectiveness of the many remedies that have become available during the last 30 years has, as a consequence, been much less than the claims made for them. The problem is that by the time the infection becomes obvious (the "clinical" stage) it is almost invariably too late for really effective treatment; production loss is well under way and the value of the cow as a producer has already been diminished. The examination of fore-milk by the use of a strip cup, once regarded as the work of a "progressive" dairy farmer proved to be time-wasting, misleading, and largely ineffectual, and although the successors to this technique, the California Mastitis Test and its several variants, are more effective, they too are time consuming, and the correct interpretation of their results requires a very high level of skill.

Fortunately, today it is now possible to measure the amount of mastitis in a herd by carrying out a routine test on the bulk milk, known as the "cell-count" which is able to reveal the presence of subclinical mastitis.

When an infection enters the udder the mastitis bacteria attack the secretory tissue and so affect both the milk yield and the milk composition. At the same time, the cow's body defences are alerted and activated, and white blood cells enter the udder to attack the invading organisms.

At the subclinical stage of the disease the milk appears normal, but infection is present. This is the "hidden" form of the disease which is not easy to detect in the milk shed, yet for each obvious clinical case in the herd there could be thirty cases of subclinical mastitis.

Measuring the number of white blood cells in the milk gives an indication of the level of infection. Some recent work in America has linked bacteria with cell count and one research worker has published the following figures —

- 250 quarter samples — high staphylococcus —  
a mean of 3.0 million cells per millilitre
- 200 quarter samples — high streptococcus —  
a mean of 3.3 million cells per millilitre
- 1250 quarter samples — non-mastitis bacteria —  
a mean of 0.4 million cells per millilitre

As about 95 per cent of the cases of mastitis in Australia can be attributed to either staphylococcus or streptococcus it is obvious that the cell-count is a reliable indicator of infection.

To count these cells the laboratory of the Department of Agriculture's Dairy Branch is using an electronic cell counter (the "Coulter Counter"). With this instrument the prepared sample of milk flows between two electrodes and when a cell interrupts the electron flow it generates a pulse which is counted. The white blood cells are measured in thousands of cells per millilitre of milk. The following table will serve as a guide when assessing a cell-count:—

<b>Class (cells per millilitre)</b>	<b>Herd Mastitis Level</b>
1. Under 250,000	Low — no problem
2. 250,000—499,000	Medium
3. 500,000—749,000	High
4. 750,000 and over	Very High

What does a cell-count tell the farmer? This question can best be answered by some figures given in the United Kingdom in 1971:—

Counts under 500,000 cells per millilitre indicated that less than 20 per cent of the cows in the herd were infected;

Counts between 500-750,000 cells per millilitre indicated that between 20 and 40 per cent of the cows were infected;

Counts between 750-1,000,000 cells per millilitre indicated that between 40 and 60 per cent were infected;

Counts over 1,000,000 cells per millilitre indicated that between 60 and 80 per cent were infected.

To get an accurate assessment of the herd mastitis level, the cell-counts need to be carried out once a month. They fluctuate from month to month, the variation being caused by such factors as the stage of lactation and the degree of stress.

A meaningful interpretation of cell-count results is only possible after three months' results have become available. A single cell-count is virtually meaningless, and only when a consistent rise is observed over a number of tests can it be interpreted as a worsening mastitis situation.

When cows are subjected to stress factors an increase in cell-count will occur. If this condition is only transient, levels will return to normal fairly quickly.

In March, 1974 the South Australian Department of Agriculture began a monitoring survey aimed at defining the problem to allow for the later introduction of a control scheme. This survey was supported and assisted by the South Australian Dairymen's Association and the Wholesale Milk Buyers' and Distributors' Association.

The survey included all the herds in the area under the control of the Metropolitan Milk Board, numbering about 1300. Once a month herd bulk samples were taken at the collecting factories. The sample was then preservativeised and subsequently counted at the Northfield Laboratories using the Coulter Counter. Results have been returned regularly to each factory and most factories have then passed the information on to the producers from whose herds the samples were taken.

The results have shown considerable differences between and within factory pick-up areas, and have demonstrated the existence of a seasonal relationship. For the whole twelve-month period the mean arithmetical count for all tests was 464,000 cells per millilitre of milk. Overall monthly means ranged from 553,000 to 404,000, with a general minimum appearing in the winter months of May, June, July, and August, and was a corresponding peak in early autumn, during February, March, and April.

However, as might be expected, herds on the Murray Swamps tended to reach the maximum cell-count levels in the winter months with the corresponding minimum during the summer, thus reflecting the difference in lactation seasons between the river areas and the remainder of the Adelaide milk supply region.

The present state of the general level of cell-count in milk from the region is shown in the following table of relative distribution of classes, in which, for purposes of comparison, the corresponding figures from Waikato, in New Zealand, are also given.

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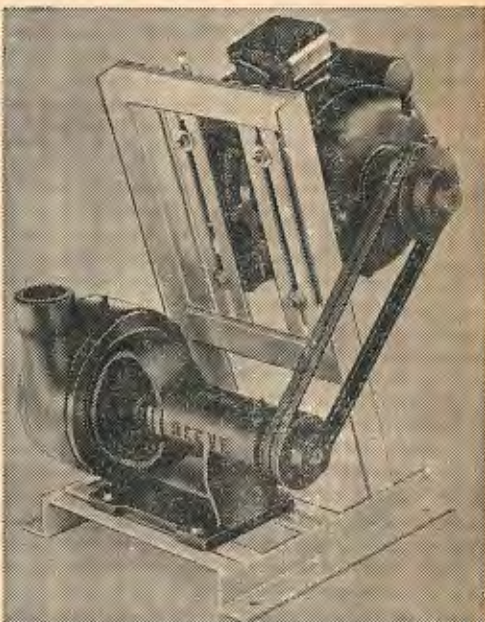
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Thus it can be seen that the state of cell-counts in milk in the Adelaide milk supply region does not match that of a typical dairying area of New Zealand, our main competitor for the growing Asian market.

Under conditions of bulk pick-up from farm tanks, milk can be up to three days old before the cell count is measured, and, for this reason, investigations were carried out to determine the stability of cell count with increasing age of the milk. It was found that, when preservative is added to milk after 48 hours at 5°C, aging up to eight days has little effect on the cell count.

The survey has served two purposes — first, it has permitted the making of comparisons with levels acceptable in other countries, and, second, it has revealed the mastitis problem areas. The aim of future control programs will be to reduce mastitis in those herds.

## IODOPHOR RESIDUES

A belief held by many dairy farmers (and perhaps by dairy factory staff also) concerning standards for milk quality is that the standard is set somewhat above what is readily achievable by the average operator, and then, when, with extra effort and new equipment, requirements are met, the standard is raised another notch, and so the process starts again.

This belief has been at least partly confirmed in the case of antibiotic residues, where the international standards have tended to increase in severity with corresponding developments in the ability to detect even more minute quantities.

There is, however, another aspect in a growing concern about food contaminants, not necessarily held by the majority of the public, but being increasingly engendered by consumer protection organisations, chief among which is the Australian Consumers' Association, which has, on several occasions in the last couple of years, published articles directly critical of milk quality. The latest is contained in the September 1975 issue of "Choice", the A.C.A.'s monthly journal, which appeared just a month after the Metropolitan Milk Board issued the warning on iodine residues which is reprinted below.

The article in "Choice" is tentatively headed "Adulterated Food — Is Milk A Hazard?", and reports the results of tests for iodine in bottles of milk collected "From all over Australia" (except South Australia!).

The iodine content (in microgram (ug) per litre) ranged from a high of 1150 in milk bottled by Dewns Coop. for Maryborough (Qld.) to a low of 100 in Masters' Dairy milk in Dampier (W.A.). Of the total of 27 samples other than the 2 already cited, 4 were in the range 101 to 300 ug, 7 between 301 and 500 ug, 12 (the most) between 501 and 700 ug and 4 from 701 to 900 ug.

The article refers to the need for some iodine in the human diet, and the World Health Organization's recommendation for a daily intake of 200 ug for an adult, based on 3 ug per kilogram of body weight, going on then to warn of the apparent dangers of an excess of iodine, and concluding with the statement that, "if iodine 'sanitizers' are to be continued as cleaning agents in the dairy industry, A.C.A. urges that the States and Territories **introduce and enforce legislation to limit the iodine content of milk to something like 100 micrograms per litre,**" and the not entirely logical advice that "... we might all be well advised to substitute something else for some of the milk we are drinking."

It is certain that criticism of this sort, and worse, will continue to be directed at the dairy industry and its products, and whilst there is a grain of truth in any of this criticism, the expenditure of even further efforts to achieve and improve on standards will be needed to prevent even further falls in the declining consumption of milk.

## SANITIZER RESIDUES IN MILK

Chemical sanitizers have been widely used in the dairy industry over many years as a complement to the use of boiling water and detergents, in cleaning and sanitizing milking machines, dairy appliances and utensils.

During the past decade a marked increase has occurred in the use of iodophors as sanitizers and cleaners and their use has been extended to the area of mastitis control in dairy cattle.

A consequence of the widespread and varied use of iodophor sanitizers in the dairy industry has been the detection of iodine residues in some milk supplied for human consumption.

The presence of iodophor residue in milk is a contravention of the Metropolitan Milk Supply Act and in the interests of public health the Board can not permit cleaning and sanitizing methods which will cause milk to be contaminated with sanitizer residues.

Accordingly any dairyman whose milk is found to contain residual iodine resulting from the mis-use of an iodophor sanitizer will have his licence suspended immediately. The licence will remain under suspension

until the Board is satisfied that the cleaning and sanitizing procedures adopted will ensure that the milk will comply with the standards prescribed in regulations made under the Metropolitan Milk Supply Act.

The Board stresses that the daily use of boiling water in association with a suitable dairy detergent is an effective means of keeping milking machines, dairy appliances and utensils clean, thereby obviating bacterial contamination.

### **FIRST RETROSPECTIVE PAYMENT FOR 1974-75 (And The Last Of The Dairy Bounty)**

A step-up of 5.96 cents lb. butterfat (13.14c/kg) in the interim value for cheese for the 1974-75 season will be paid to licensed producers as a retrospective payment at an equalised rate of 3.08 cents lb. b.f. (6.79c/kg) for all production from 1st July, 1974 to 30th June, 1975.

This payment includes a small amount representing the final bounty for the season, which, as the dairy stabilization scheme has now been terminated, will be the last of the bounty payments which were first instituted in July 1942.

### **HOME MADE TAIL TAGS NOT ACCEPTABLE**

Cattle owners should only use tags made by approved manufacturers for the market cattle identification scheme, according to the senior veterinary officer with the Department of Agriculture (Dr. M. A. Reid), who is in charge of the TB and brucellosis eradication programme in South Australia.

Dr. Reid said that since July 1 several types of home-made tags including Dymo and plastic insulation types had been used by some owners, and although the enterprise of these owners could be admired, this practice was unacceptable and prohibited by law, as readability of the number on the tag was the key to the trace back scheme.

For this reason it was necessary to place strict control on the manufacture of tags, and only three manufacturers had been approved to supply tags in South Australia.

Dr. Reid said that initial purchase of tags must be made only on special order forms available from the Department of Agriculture, after which further supplies could be obtained direct from the suppliers.

### **SLAUGHTER CATTLE MUST BE TAGGED ALSO**

All cattle leaving a property, whether going to an abattoirs, saleyard or even another property, must be tail tagged, the only exemptions to this requirement being:

- cattle under the age of six months,
- cattle going to a genuine store sale, or sold privately,
- cattle moved under an instruction from an inspector of stock.

Dr. Reid said that there had been some confusion among owners about tagging, as many cattle sold direct to meat companies had arrived at meat works untagged, which was not only illegal under the Act, but also deprived these owners of the valuable disease monitoring service available to them through the use of tail tags.

The tag, which must be applied before the cattle leave the property, should be placed just above the brush and tightened until firm.

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## LAND VALUES AND SECTION 61

### Possible Relief in Planning and Development Act

To many primary producers, especially in the Adelaide Hills and other regions which are subject to subdivisional pressure, the most objectionable aspect of the land valuing carried out by State and local government, for the purpose of assessing land tax and council rates, is that valuation is based on market values which may not be relative to the worth of the property as an agricultural unit but to its potential for subdivision or some other non-productive use.

Very often the result of the higher charges that accompany increased valuations is a virtual forced sale, where the additional financial burden bites so deeply into what may be, at best, a marginally profitable enterprise as to eliminate its economic viability and leave the owner with no option but to cease production, and yield to the very forces which have been the cause of the revaluation.

In such cases there is the possibility of some relief in Section 61 of the Planning and Development Act. The Section permits a landowner to apply for a proclamation that the land is to be preserved as open space, and not be divided into allotments or used for any purpose not in keeping with its character as open space.

From the time that the proclamation is made, the land in question shall, in respect to land tax, water rates and council rates, be assessed in keeping with its value in regard to the use to which it is put, and to the value it would have if it were subdivided or used for any purpose not in keeping with its character as open space.

If, at any later time, an application is made for the proclamation to be revoked, the owner becomes liable for retrospective taxes and rates (up to a period of 5 years), based on the value at which the land would have been assessed had the proclamation not been made.

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### A BADGE FOR THE ASSOCIATION

A badge, in the form of a lapel button or a tie-bar, bearing the Association's device of the head of a cow in brass, on a green enamelled background, is now available from the office for those members who wish to have one to wear. Stamps to value of 36 cents should be enclosed for packing and postage.

**EXTRACTS FROM CENTRAL COUNCIL MINUTES****Annual General Meeting — 23rd June, 1975**

(continued from previous issue)

**WORKER PARTICIPATION**

Mr. Hurrell said that whilst considering the subject of the compensation provision, the opinion had been expressed at the South Coast District meeting that the Association should give thought to the advisability of pressing for "worker participation" in dairy factories.

It was thought that action of this nature could provide an incentive for the employees which might go a long way towards removing the necessity for dairy farmers to give thought to the sort of action that they should take in the event of a strike, and prevent a widening rift occurring between a dairy factory's workers and its suppliers.

At the present time the dairy factory workers felt insecure, because of the changes taking place in the industry, and it was understandable that they would want to improve their position. A participation scheme might provide a better opportunity to do this than any sort of industrial action, and in view of the Government's interest in this subject, he moved "that the Association investigate ways in which worker participation could be used to increase the dairy factory employees interest in maintaining stability and the possibility of eliminating the need for dairyfarmers to consider action to be taken in the event of an industrial stoppage."

The motion was seconded by Mr. Kuchel.

Mr. McEwin said that, although initially, he did not support the proposal, he now believed that a plan of this nature might offer better job security and conditions which would be to the benefit of the factory employee, and should be regarded as augmenting union action, rather than being counter to it, whilst, at the same time, it could bring advantages to the dairy farmers. Schemes of this nature were being increasingly widely used in other industrialised countries, and there was no reason why the dairy industry should not benefit similarly.

Mr. Len Schubert said that one of the major problems was the seasonal variation in milk supply which, in turn, led to insecurity in employment. It was difficult to see how a worker participation scheme could overcome this problem.


The Secretary said that we should realize that however favorably we might regard the proposal for a worker participation scheme, it would have to be implemented by the dairy Companies, and would, of course, need their approval, but its importance was such that it should be fully debated by the Central Council, and he believed that this would require that it be placed on notice.

Mr. Hurrell and Mr. Kuchel then agreed that the motion concerning worker-participation be placed on the agenda of the next Central Council meeting, and that the dairy Companies be informed of the action that was being taken.

**ANTIBIOTICS**

Mr. Krelschner said that the continued occurrence of cases of antibiotics being detected by the Metropolitan Milk Board where the dairyfarmers involved claimed that they had scrupulously carried out the instructions of the manufacturers of the antibiotic concerning the withholding period had led the Executive Committee to examine whether this problem could be at least partly overcome by permitting those dairyfarmers who so wished to use antibiotics containing blue dye marker.

Although the blue dye marker could not be regarded as a foolproof method of preventing contamination there appeared to be a fair degree of correlation between the rates of release of the dye and of the antibiotic, and in the unusual cases which seemed to cause most of the problems, where, perhaps because the milk flow from the infected quarter was very slight, the antibiotics persisted at detectable levels for many days beyond the manufacturers' recommended withholding period, the continued presence of the marker would act as a guide.



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The use of blue dye marker in antibiotics for udder infusion was, at present, prohibited in South Australia, and although, in some other States, particularly in Victoria, the use of dye marker was compulsory, the Executive Committee believed that the legislation should be changed only to the extent that dye-marked antibiotics could be available to dairyfarmers who wished to use them. The Executive Committee did not think that their use should be compulsory, because there were ways by which the intention of the dye marking could be evaded.

He consequently moved the recommendation made by the Executive Committee, "that the use for udder infusion of antibiotics containing blue dye marker be permitted in South Australia."

The motion was seconded by Mr. Leslie.

Mr. Schubert said that he was opposed to the proposition; experience in other States had shown that dairyfarmers had ways and means of getting around the problems caused by dye-marked antibiotics and he would prefer a practice whereby milk containing antibiotics could be picked up by the companies and used for some purpose where the presence of antibiotics did not matter. In the meantime we should leave things as they are, and allow farmers to use such methods as tail-tagging to provide their own control.

The Secretary stated that he did not believe there was any product for which milk contaminated by antibiotics could be used without creating a health or quality problem, and therefore it was better to adopt a method which helped to prevent contamination, rather than look to some means which would encourage it.

Mr. Hurrell said that the economic position of dairy farmers was tied up with quality, and he was appalled that there should be any thought that milk containing antibiotics should be used, or that there should be any opposition to permitting the use of dye-marked antibiotics,

The motion was then carried.

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### Split clip clamps \_\_\_\_\_ 21

### Joint clamps \_\_\_\_\_ 22



### Sheds

- Hay — gable roof \_\_\_\_\_ 23
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## PRICES & STATISTICS

### ADELAIDE METROPOLITAN MILK SUPPLY AREA

		PRODUCTION (000 litres/000 gallons)					
		For Month		Daily Average		12 Months'	Cumulative
		1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
July	...	<b>19,655</b>	<b>18,707</b>	<b>634.0</b>	<b>603.5</b>	<b>255,126</b>	<b>248,787</b>
		4,323	4,115	139.5	132.8	56,120	54,725
August	...	<b>22,419</b>	<b>21,151</b>	<b>723.2</b>	<b>682.3</b>	<b>254,285</b>	<b>247,519</b>
		4,931	4,653	159.1	150.1	55,935	54,447

		MILK SALES (000 litres/000 gallons)					
		For Month		Daily Average		12 Months'	Cumulative
		1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
July	...	<b>8,180</b>	<b>8,382</b>	<b>263.9</b>	<b>270.4</b>	<b>101,185</b>	<b>99,355</b>
		1,799	1,844	58.0	59.5	22,258	21,855
August	...	<b>8,262</b>	<b>8,116</b>	<b>266.5</b>	<b>261.8</b>	<b>100,867</b>	<b>99,209</b>
		1,817	1,785	58.6	57.59	22,188	21,823

### INTERIM PRICES TO LICENSED SUPPLIERS

(Prices are interim only, and subject to retrospective adjustment.)

		Basic	C.M.B.	Total*	3.5%	4%	4.5%	5%
		(cents per kg/lb butterfat)			(cents per litre/gallon at above test)			
1975								
July	...	<b>130.92</b>	<b>77.02</b>	<b>207.94</b>	<b>74.96</b>	<b>85.67</b>	<b>96.38</b>	<b>107.09</b>
		59.52	35.01	94.53	34.07	38.95	43.81	48.68
August	...	<b>130.92</b>	<b>72.02</b>	<b>202.94</b>	<b>73.16</b>	<b>83.61</b>	<b>94.06</b>	<b>104.51</b>
		59.52	32.74	92.26	33.26	38.01	42.76	47.51

		RATIO (Sales to Production, per cent)				TOTAL PRICE*	
		For Month		12 Months' Cumulative		(Cents kg/lb b.f.)	
		1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
July	...	41.6	44.8	39.7	39.9	<b>180.40</b>	<b>207.94</b>
						82.01	94.53
August	...	36.9	38.4	39.7	40.1	<b>174.93</b>	<b>202.94</b>
						79.52	92.26

(Authorised by Metropolitan Milk Equalisation Committee Limited)

## 40 YEARS OF ASSOCIATION ACTIVITY

Although there is no certainty about the time of the formation of the Metropolitan and Suburban Dairymen's Association (minute books indicate a date some time in 1906) or of the River Murray Dairymen's Association, which existed at about the same period (the records of that Association having been, unfortunately, destroyed during the 1956 floods), and although the grouping of regional dairymen's organisations (including the 2 already mentioned) in the Affiliated Dairymen's Association can be placed no more accurately than "the early 1930's", the date of the establishment of the South Australian Dairymen's Association from these organisations can be placed precisely at 19th July, 1935, when, at a meeting in the Oriental Hotel in Rundle Street (now the headquarters of the Lottery Commission), a meeting of representatives under the chairmanship of the Association's first General President, the late Mr. Herbert Walsh, endorsed the proposal for a new all-embracing body to represent all dairyfarmers directly.

The incentive to form an organisation had come from the conflict then existing over the price being paid for milk by the dairy companies.

## CENTRAL COUNCIL AGENDAS AND MINUTES

### Available to Members, at Cost

Following a request from the Mount Barker District it has been decided to allow members who are not delegates to Central Council to receive all Central Council agendas, agenda notes and minutes. A charge, payable in advance, will be made to cover costs and postage. The charge for the next 12 months will be \$2.

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# THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DAIRYMEN'S . . .

# Journal

The Official Publication of the



Published Bi-monthly

Vol. 15, No. 2

Adelaide, SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER, 19

## PASTORAL (S.A.) AWARD Changes in Pay Rates (Effective 22 September, 1975)

### ADULT RATES

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1. Station hand with less than 12 months experience in the industry .....	98.40
2. Station hand with 12 months experience or more in the industry .....	99.50
3. General station hand* .....	100.60

\* An employee who has had at least 2 years experience in the industry and is capable of performing efficiently, without supervision, any task which might reasonably be required of a station hand on the property where he is employed.

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19.70

### JUVENILE RATES

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	Per Week of 44 Hours (\$)	Per Day (\$)
At 15 years of age .....	44.30	8.90
At 16 years of age .....	49.20	9.90
At 17 years of age .....	54.10	10.80
At 18 years of age .....	64.00	12.80
At 19 years of age .....	73.80	14.80
At 20 years of age .....	88.60	17.70

#### With Keep—

The rates prescribed above less \$21.20 per week.

In this issue—

Changes in Pay Rates  
Prices and Statistics  
More About Iodine in Milk  
Extracts From Central Council Proceedings  
Trial Proves Value of Teat Cup Removers  
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# THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DAIRYMEN'S JOURNAL



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## PRICES & STATISTICS

### ADELAIDE METROPOLITAN MILK SUPPLY AREA

	PRODUCTION (000 litres/000 gallons)					
	For Month		Daily Average		12 Months' Cumulative	
	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
September ... ..	<b>25,298</b>	<b>24,477</b>	<b>843</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>253,653</b>	<b>246,698</b>
	5,565	5,384	185	179	55,797	54,267
October ... ..	<b>28,117</b>	<b>28,034</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>904</b>	<b>252,489</b>	<b>246,615</b>
	6,185	6,167	200	199	55,541	54,249

	MILK SALES (000 litres/000 gallons)					
	For Month		Daily Average		12 Months' Cumulative	
	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
September ... ..	<b>7,987</b>	<b>7,900</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>100,685</b>	<b>99,122</b>
	1,757	1,738	59	59	22,148	21,804
October ... ..	<b>8,168</b>	<b>7,882</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>100,235</b>	<b>98,836</b>
	1,797	1,734	58	56	22,049	21,741

### INTERIM PRICES TO LICENSED SUPPLIERS

(Prices are interim only, and subject to retrospective adjustment.)

1975	Basic C.M.B. Total*			4% 4.5% 5%			
	(cents per kg/lb butterfat)			(cents per litre/gallon at above test)			
September ... ..	<b>124.01</b>	<b>64.94</b>	<b>188.95</b>	<b>68.12</b>	<b>77.85</b>	<b>87.58</b>	<b>97.31</b>
	56.25	29.46	85.71	30.97	35.39	39.81	44.24
October ... ..	<b>124.01</b>	<b>56.79</b>	<b>180.80</b>	<b>64.92</b>	<b>74.19</b>	<b>83.47</b>	<b>92.74</b>
	56.25	25.76	82.01	29.51	33.73	37.95	42.16

	RATIO (Sales to Production, per cent)				TOTAL PRICE*	
	For Month		12 Months' Cumulative		(Cents kg/lb b.f.)	
	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
September ... ..	31.6	32.3	39.7	40.2	<b>169.05</b>	<b>188.95</b>
					76.68	85.71
October ... ..	29.0	28.1	39.7	40.1	<b>168.56</b>	<b>180.80</b>
					76.46	82.01

(Authorised by Metropolitan Milk Equalisation Committee Limited)

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### THE COW CALENDAR

Members who attended the Regional Meetings held to consider the proposal for a cell-count monitoring scheme and who saw the motion pictures of English dairyfarming practice may recall that, in the office of one of the farmers (presumably the most successful one, because his results were used in the detailed case study) there hung a very brightly colored, circular "cow calendar". These "cow calendars", which are made of heavy perspex, are capable of visually demonstrating the whole mating, calving, and veterinary history of the herd.

They are available directly from the Association at a discount below the recommended retail price of \$95.

### MORE ABOUT IODINE IN MILK

In the previous Journal reference was made to analyses carried out by the Australian Consumers' Association into milk samples collected from each State except South Australia, for determinations of iodine content. Because of the exclusion of South Australia (and A.C.A. gave no reason for the omission) it was not possible to compare the performance of dairy farmers (and dairy factories — they also use iodophors!) in this State with that of the industry in other States.

This information has, subsequently, been provided by the answer to a question asked by the leader of the Opposition (Dr. Tonkin) in the House of Assembly, just after the previous Journal was published. The question and the answer were as follows:—

#### IODINE IN MILK

Dr. TONKIN (on notice):

1. What studies have been done on the level of iodine in South Australian milk, and what have been the results of such investigations?
2. Is there any evidence from these studies to suggest that any adverse effect on health has resulted due to the level of iodine?
3. If investigations have not been conducted, is it intended they will be and, if so, when?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: The replies are as follows:

1. The Metropolitan Milk Board has studied iodine levels in South Australian milk. Between January, 1974, and May, 1975, 63 samples of pasteurised milk from the metropolitan milk treatment plants were analysed for iodine. The average level was 340 micrograms/litre. Twenty-two samples of pasteurised milk from country treatment plants were also analysed giving an average result of 410 micrograms/litre. There is a normal background level of iodine in milk due to the presence of iodine in soil, water, fertiliser and animal foodstuffs. Iodine can also be added to milk by the use of iodophors as sanitising agents in dairy industry complexes. In an attempt to quantify results samples were also taken to establish these background levels. In the period September, 1972, to December, 1973, 10 metropolitan milk producers who claimed to be non-users of iodophor sanitisers were sampled. The average iodine content for this group was 130 micrograms/litre with a range of 30 to 440 micrograms/litre. Four hand-milked samples were also included; these were non-users of iodophor sanitisers. The average was 130 micrograms/litre with a range of 10 to 440 micrograms/litre.

2. There is presently no evidence to suggest that any adverse effect on health has resulted due to the level of iodine in milk. The World Health Organisation recommends that a daily intake of iodine is about 200 micrograms for an adult, based on 3 micrograms a kilogram of body weight.

3. The Metropolitan Milk Board is continuing to monitor Adelaide's milk supply. It has issued instructions to milk producers and milk treatment plants concerning the use of iodophors.

(Hansard, 16 September, 1975, p. 750)

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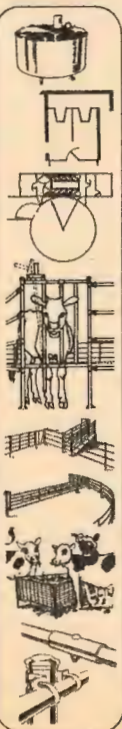
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## Split oil clamps

- \_\_\_\_\_ 21

## Joint clamps



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## EXTRACTS FROM CENTRAL COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

### Meeting Held on 30th October, 1975

#### ATTENDANCE

**Chairman:** Mr. N. M. Green\* (General President). **Delegates:** BAROSSA: W. B. Kerr,\* M. J. Klemm; CLARENDON/KANGARILLA: R. A. Harper, H. J. Jacobs; ECHUNGA/MACCLESFIELD: D. A. D'Angelo; GAWLER: —; JERVOIS: A. G. Kretschmer,\* R. J. Ielasi; LAKES: L. L. Schubert; MEADOWS: P. Kuchel, R. Ramsdale; MID-NORTH: C. G. Eime (proxy); MILANG: A. Parker, K. J. Turvey\* (Vice-President); MT. BARKER: Mrs. G. A. Pope; MYPONGA: H. M. Perry, A. R. Philp, K. B. Whitford; NORTHERN: —; ONKAPARINGA: M. G. Green, R. G. Leslie, S. G. Schoell; RIVER MURRAY: M. J. Diener,\* A. A. Kenny\* (Vice-President), I. M. Winter; SOUTH COAST: D. R. Hurrell, R. W. Reid;\* SPRING VALLEY: R. L. Fiebigler, W. A. Seeliger; TOOPERANG: W. Eardley; TORRENS VALLEY: L. Pitman, E. G. Stewart (proxy); UPPER RIVER: —; WILLUNGA: K. R. Watkins.

\* denotes member of Executive Committee.

#### APOLOGIES

C. Blacker, M. Bruzzalotto, J. Cock, A. McEwin, A. Manning, G. Merry, P. Silver, D. Zweck.

#### STATUTORY DAIRY AUTHORITY

The Secretary tabled, and read portion of, the Report, Summary and Recommendation for a Statutory Milk Authority for South Australia, submitted to the Minister of Agriculture by Mr. B. D. Hannaford, Chairman of a series of meetings between South Australia's dairyfarmer organisations.

The recommendations proposed the setting-up of a State Dairy Authority for South Australia, having the following powers:—

- The licensing of all producing, treating, storing and selling units in the South Australian Dairy Industry;
- Setting of quality standards;
- Supervision of dairy farms, dairy factories and milk vendors;
- Fixing of prices and margins;
- Zoning of wholesale and retail selling of milk;
- Administering price equalisation schemes, either directly or through appointed agents, and fixing quotas, where necessary;
- Power to purchase, transport, treat, promote and distribute milk and milk products;
- Allotting and transferring entitlements in connection with any Commonwealth-wide multi-price quota scheme;
- Authority to delegate any of the foregoing powers;
- The membership of the proposed Authority to be not sectionally representative.

The Secretary stated that the Inquiry had been held as the result of requests from the South Eastern Dairymen's Association and the United Farmers & Graziers Association to the then Minister of Agriculture for an inquiry into the desirability of a Statutory Dairy Authority in South Australia, in conjunction with proposals relating to the changes in milk marketing in South Australia, either through a State-wide equalisation scheme, or through replacing the present Metropolitan milk equalisation scheme with a milk contract scheme.

The Inquiry had been held early in 1975, and the Association had been present by invitation, and had put forward its views in favor of a policy of Regional Equalisation, which would safeguard the interests of the present suppliers in the Adelaide metropolitan producing district, the Golden North area, and the small groups of dairyfarmers supplying Port Lincoln Dairies, and G. W. Falland, with the suggestion that Regional Equalisation could be applied to the South East. (The portion of the submission made by the Association on this subject was reprinted in the July/August issue of this Journal).

The Secretary said that it should be noted that the recommendations were for the proposed Statutory Authority to have control of all farm production and the processing of milk and perishable milk products. The Report recommended that the overseeing of the manufacture of dairy products such as butter and cheese, and farm extension and research should continue to be carried out by the Dairy Branch of the Department of Agriculture.

Consideration of the Report by the Central Council was deferred.

### **MASTITIS CONTROL PROGRAM**

Mr. John Feagan, Acting Chief Dairy Officer, then attended the meeting by invitation.

The Secretary stated that five Regional Meetings had been convened by the Executive Committee, to allow dairyfarmers to give consideration to the proposal for the introduction of a compulsory cell-count monitoring scheme as part of an integrated Mastitis Control Program. These meetings had been attended by a total of approximately 350 persons, and, in each case, the persons present had supported a resolution in favor of the introduction of the cell-count monitoring scheme, with the added proviso, again in each case, that it be for an initial period of 3 years. There had been no dissentient votes cast against the proposal at any of the meetings.

Mr. Feagan then addressed the Central Council, setting out the proposals of the Department for a Mastitis Control Program, and answering questions from the delegates.

During the discussion following Mr. Feagan's address, Mr. Parker stated that his contact with dairyfarmers had indicated that the general opinion differed considerably from the claimed "overwhelming" support for the scheme, the main objections being its compulsory nature, the fact that it would provide no help to a farmer who already had a satisfactory cell-count, the belief that it was designed merely to keep Departmental staff in jobs, that the proposal for a limited life would be disregarded at the end of 3 years, the attitude of Departmental officers at the meetings, and the unavailability of cell-count records during the now almost completed trial period.

The Chairman stated that he believed these complaints were specious and did not, in any way, reflect the opinion of dairyfarmers generally, as the opinions expressed at the meetings were not of that nature, although they had probed deeply into the operation of the proposed scheme. The meetings had been very widely publicized, and it had been clearly stated that the results of the meetings would not bind the Association, but would simply be a guide to the Central Council delegates.

In answer to a question from Mr. Kerr as to whether the scheme could be financed by a form of levy, Mr. Feagan said that that was not a matter within the province of the Department. It was the Department's intention to provide, first, the cell-count survey and, second, the back-up service for mastitis control, for dairyfarmers throughout the State, and, if uniformity were to be achieved, it would be necessary to pass supporting legislation. It was intended, at present, that this legislation should also provide for a fee to be charged to dairyfarmers, to cover the cost of the cell-count; a decision had not yet been made concerning charges for the back-up service. There would, however, be an exemption clause provided in the legislation, to cover those cases in which a section of the industry was able to make arrangements for the fee to be paid on behalf of a number of producers, such as a dairy factory making a payment on behalf of all its suppliers. The Department would certainly not like to see any decision made that would result in an initial period of less than three years, because of the high capital investment in equipment and buildings, and because any period shorter than this would be virtually valueless to individual farmers, and to the industry, in respect of any form of Mastitis Control. Furthermore, the additional capital, and the necessity to train staff that would be required to provide the back-up service which the Association had said it wanted, would, again, require a period of at least 3 years, both to become established and to assess its value.

Mr. Kretschmer then moved that the Central Council support the principle of a cell-count monitoring scheme, subject to a financial arrangement being devised which is acceptable by the Central Council.

Mr. Diener seconded the motion, and said that, although, at the Regional Meetings, there appeared to be almost unanimous support for the proposal, and no strong objection to the suggested annual fee, the first question that the Central Council had to answer was whether it did, in fact, on behalf of the members of the Association, support the continuation of the cell-count monitoring scheme beyond the present research project. If the Council decided in favor of continuation, it must then work out the most satisfactory method of funding the scheme. Although reference had been made to an undercurrent of opposition, there were many factors in the dairy industry which had, at the time, been opposed, to a greater or lesser degree, and which now, with the advantage of hindsight, were accepted as indispensable parts of the industry. The cell-count monitoring scheme had the advantage that it was a personal thing, and dairy-farmers would receive a monthly reminder of their participation, as well as a valuable guide to the efficiency of their herd management.

The Secretary said that the most important aspect of financing the scheme was to obtain a method that was equitable in the eyes of dairyfarmers. It should be realized that the dairyfarmers' contribution to the cost of the scheme would be quite substantial, when compared with, for example, the bull licence, which, although it was only \$4 per bull per year, gave rise to considerable opposition, not so much because of the amount of the charge, but because of its inequitable nature, in that it differentiated between farmers who kept bulls and farmers who did not, when the use to which the revenue from the bull licences was put bore no relation to the number of bulls, but went to defray the cost of herd testing, which, again, was regarded as being inequitable. In the case of the cell-count monitoring scheme, we would be able to ensure that the charges levied were reasonable, if the scheme was funded through industry channels, whereas a flat licence fee would possibly not be negotiable, and we might be forced to express our opposition through Parliament. He realised that a cell-count monitoring scheme required only one test to be carried out per month, on bulk milk, regardless of the size of the herd, but, nevertheless, a sliding scale based on production had much in its favor, as the greater the production, the more the producer had to gain through the existence of the Scheme.

Mr. Kenny said that he supported the motion. He believed that the Central Council should endorse the proposal for a cell-count monitoring scheme, and make sure that the Association participated in the administration of the scheme and its financing, as the alternative, if we did not support the scheme, could well turn out to be a situation where standards were imposed which we would not be able to meet without the assistance of a cell-count monitoring scheme.

Mr. Parker said he did not believe that, if we did not support a scheme, we would have one forced upon us, because we would surely not be prepared to give up without a fight in the face of compulsion. He did not believe that the proposal had the support of the majority of dairyfarmers, and Mr. Feagan himself had pointed out that a similar scheme in New York State, at a cost of \$15m, had failed because it did not have dairyfarmer support. It was possible that, if a cell-count scheme was necessary to meet a quality standard, opinions might change, but as it was now, there appeared, to the efficient dairyfarmer, to be no real gain for the relatively high cost that would be charged. The delegates should realise that their responsibility lay with the dairyfarmers they represented, and not with the Government or the Department.

Mr. Turvey said that he had acted as Chairman at two of the Regional Meetings, and he doubted whether dairyfarmers' support for the proposal was as solid as the absence of arguments or votes against appeared to indicate. He wondered whether, to the average, fairly efficient dairyfarmer, there were the advantages to be gained that were claimed for the scheme, and we should make sure, at the end of the initial 3 year period, that the results had been worthwhile, if the scheme was to continue beyond that date. Already, from his own

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experience, he had begun to doubt the relationship that was claimed between a mastitis-free herd and a low cell-count; there was a strong indication that a low average cell-count could exist even in the presence of a number of individual cows with a known very high incidence of mastitis. He wondered, too, whether the Advisory Committee for the Improvement of Dairying was the right body to oversee the scheme; the real purpose of ACID was very different from this, and he believed that the Association should ensure that its representatives had the opportunity, every three or four months, to confer with Mr. Feagan and his colleagues, and review the progress of the scheme.

Mr. Winter said that we should not overlook the fact the Association, about 2 years ago, had asked the Department to initiate research into the early diagnosis of mastitis, and the proposal for a cell-count monitoring scheme could be regarded as a direct outcome of this request.

Mr. Reid said that there was no doubt that the Association had asked for work to be done on mastitis diagnosis, and it appeared that the cell-count monitoring scheme was the most effective yet devised, but we should not overlook the fact that the dairy farmers were luke-warm, and we should watch the progress and effectiveness of the scheme very closely over the next 3 years so that, at the end of that period, we could base our decision as to its continuance on experience, and not just theory as at present.

Mr. Harper said that he was surprised that Mr. Feagan had not referred to the financial advantage that could come from the cell-count monitoring scheme and the full Mastitis Control Program, as it was becoming obvious that countries such as Japan, which imported our dairy produce, were becoming increasingly selective on the basis of quality, and we might well find these markets closed to us if we did not take corrective action. He believed that aspects such as these were needed to sell the scheme to the dairyfarmer, but he believed that this could be done once the scheme was underway.

Mr. Schubert said that, although there were financial advantages to be gained from a reduction in the incidence of mastitis, the claimed saving could be obtained only from a 100% clean-up and most dairyfarmers would not get 100%, so that their gain would be proportionately lower, whilst the producer with a very low cell-count would get no gain at all for his investment.

Mr. Whitford then referred to the possibility of a cow maintaining milk yield even when mastitis had completely destroyed the milk producing properties of one quarter, and gave an example from his own herd.

The motion was carried.

## FINANCING OF CELL-COUNT SCHEME

Mr. Schubert said that it had already been pointed out that the cell-count monitoring scheme would consist of testing one bulk sample from each herd, monthly, and that the amount of work involved was exactly the same, regardless of the size of the herd, or the amount of milk produced. A single fee was, therefore, quite appropriate, whereas a "levy" such as had been proposed earlier would impose higher charges on the larger herds without any correspondingly greater service. He believed that this was a matter that should be decided by the members, and he accordingly moved that the question of the method of financing to be used for the cell count monitoring scheme be taken back to the Districts, without further discussion at this meeting.

The meeting was seconded by Mr. Parker.

Mr. Diener said that he believed that the Central Council should explore the alternatives. If we agreed to a single fee, set by legislation, we would deprive ourselves of the direct ability to influence the amount of the charge. Although it was true to say that the service provided by the cell-count monitoring scheme was exactly the same, regardless of herd size, the action that would be taken as the result of the cell-count monitoring scheme would bring correspondingly greater benefits to the owners of larger herds. But perhaps the greatest advantage of financing the scheme by a levy would be that it would not be necessary

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to have any legislation at all at this stage; he believed that we should see whether the scheme was a "goer" before we agreed to be tied up with legislation that may, subsequently, be expanded to cover other matters with which we were not in so much agreement.

Mr. Schoell said that, although the question of the method of payment had not been discussed in depth at the Regional Meetings, the purpose of the meetings had been to gauge the feeling of dairyfarmers, and he believed that there had been a general indication, at the meetings, of support for financing through a levy. Since the Regional Meetings, the Onkaparinga District had held a meeting, and had endorsed the view that finance should be by a levy.

The Secretary said that it was possible that the two alternatives, either a single fee of approximately \$20 or an equivalent levy, might be equally unpalatable to the members, but it should be realized that the charge for a cell-count monitoring scheme could, eventually, be part of a single fee, perhaps much larger, for dairy cattle improvement generally, including herd testing. The original proposal had been to do away with bull licensing, which nowadays had nothing to do with bulls, anyway, but was merely a method of raising revenue for dairy cattle improvement, and replacing it with a State-wide dairy farm licence, which would be obligatory on all dairymen, with those in the metropolitan supply area being required to take out a Milk Producers Licence in addition. The Metropolitan Milk Board had opposed this concept, but the question of what was to replace the present bull licence, which was a most unpopular charge, had still to be answered, and the charge for the cell-count monitoring scheme might well be the first step in this direction.

To agree to the cell-count monitoring scheme now, and to undertake to finance the scheme by a suitable alternative arrangement, would enable us to give adequate consideration to the replacement of bull licensing, without being rushed into some alternative which we might later regret.

Mr. Harper said that the decision should be made in the clear knowledge that the proposed fee of \$20 applied to all milk-producing dairyfarmers throughout the State. There was no ability for an individual farmer to opt out of the scheme, and so avoid paying the \$20, yet, on the other hand, there was the problem of ensuring that all the fees were collected. Certainly Mr. Feagan had made it plain that, if portion only of the dairyfarmers in the State were brought into the cell-count monitoring scheme, the cost per farmer would increase considerably.

Mr. Turvey said that, despite what had been said about the general acceptance of a levy at the Regional Meetings, he did not think the subject had been considered in depth beyond the general idea that the charge would be approximately \$20 per head per year. The means by which an alternative to the single charge would be collected, and the effect such alternative would have as between large producers and small producers, had not been explained. For this reason he wondered whether we were doing the right thing in coming to a decision at this meeting. Nevertheless, he, personally, favored a levy system, as this would provide us with considerable influence when it came to negotiating the amount of the charge in later years, as, in the present economic climate, the fee that had been nominated would not remain at that level for very long.

Mr. Schubert's motion was not carried.

Mr. Kretschmer said that he did not think that we could avoid being tied down by legislation, whatever scheme of financing we chose. We could, on the one hand, agree to a single charge, and let the Department collect it as best it could, which would, undoubtedly, require legislation. The alternative, a deduction from the Basic Price, would be collected by the industry, but other aspects of the cell-count monitoring scheme, and the Mastitis Control Program generally, would probably require legislation anyway. Perhaps, rather than appearing to be responsible for a scheme which would impose substantially higher charges on larger producers, whilst still not absolving them from legislative control, we should merely agree to the scheme, and leave the Department with the responsibility of setting and collecting the charge.

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Mr. Harper said that he did not believe there were any barriers to our collecting the group fee through a deduction from the Basic Price, particularly as we had had the tacit endorsement of the dairy companies. This would give us considerable influence in subsequent negotiations, and he consequently moved that the Central Council support the introduction of a cell-count monitoring scheme for an initial period of three years, and undertake to collect voluntarily the total fee in respect of all suppliers licensed by the Metropolitan Milk Board, on the understanding that there be no legal obligation during the period of 3 years or subsequently.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Pitman.

Mr. Schubert said that if the charge were to be kept down to the promised \$20, it was necessary for the scheme to cover the whole of the State, and we were not able to finance the total scheme on behalf of suppliers outside the Metropolitan producing area. This meant that legislation to collect the charge was unavoidable.

Mr. Whitford said that the use of a levy to collect the same total charge as would result from a \$20 fee would mean that those producers whose output was less than average for the area would pay less than \$20 each, and, as these were in the majority, it would mean that a much smaller number of producers, whose output was above average, would pay more than the single fee, perhaps many times more. He believed that, although the argument about the benefit being proportional to the charge had been put forward, where a large herd was involved the total that would be paid if a levy were used would be excessively high.

Mr. Kerr said that if we were able to arrange to collect the fee in the form of a levy, and could persuade the rest of the dairyfarmers in the State to do likewise, the need for legislation would be avoided, and the fact that we had taken the initiative in this matter might improve our relations with the other dairyfarmer organisations in the State.

Mr. Harper said that the Central Council had already accepted the principle of the cell-count scheme, and if we speculated on every possible eventuality we would never finalise the subject. It could be possible, if we wanted to streamline the operation, to have each factory pay a total sum equal to \$20 for each of its producers, but this appeared to be the same as a levy per kilogramme butter-fat. An equally simple way would be to deduct \$20 from each supplier's account sales, but this would probably require some form of authorization to be given to the factory by the supplier, which would involve as much trouble as collecting the fee by legislative means.

The motion was carried.

## MILK PRICES —PRODUCERS' SHARE

Mr. Turvey formally moved the motion submitted from the Milang District:— that we express our disappointment at the relatively small amount the milk price increase received by the producers, and believe that the producers should receive at least a proportionate share of any further increases.

He said that this motion dated from the milk price increase in September 1974, when, out of a 16c rise in the retail price, the producer only received 6c, representing 37.5% of the retail increase, in contrast to the 51.4% which was the producers' share of the retail price at the time, whilst the vendors also received 6c increase, also 37.5% of the increase, compared with their share of 26% of the retail price before that time.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Parker.

Mr. Diener said that, although he agreed with the principle of the motion, he wondered what action we could take to ensure that it would happen.

Mr. Harper said that, according to the Board's Production Cost Survey, our costs had increased something like 25% during the past 12 months, and we should be assured of a very substantial increase in the next price revision. Nevertheless, we had to accept the fact that the Board was required to examine the costs of the three sectors, and it would be inconsistent for us to demand that the Board investigate cost increases, and then to criticize the Board if, presumably as a result of looking at costs, the Board did not allocate subsequent price increases in strict relation to the share at the time. Really, what we should be doing was to seek a price increase which reflected the increase in costs, and not to demand a proportionate share of some figure which might give us rather less than what was justified.

The Secretary stated that the increase in production cost had already been used as the basis of an application for a 16c rise in the price to the producer, but it should be realized that, finally, the retail price of milk was a government decision, and he doubted whether we had any chance of a price increase which would not only return the claimed amount to the producer, but also satisfy the processors and the vendors, who, no doubt, had submitted claims which they regarded as being equally valid.

The Secretary then tabled a Report showing the relativity of milk margins.

Date of Increase	Retail Price		Producer		Processor		Vendor	
	Pint	Gallon	Cents	%	Cents	%	Cents	%
* 16/11/75	17.05	136.4	66.60	48.83	32.50	23.83	37.28	27.33
1/6/75	16.1	128.8	62.78	48.7	30.87	24.0	34.87	27.1
6/4/75	16	128	62.5	48.8	30.5	23.8	35.0	27.3
1/2/75	16	128	59.5	46.5	35.5	27.7	33.0	25.8
8/9/74	15	120	59.5	49.5	27.5	22.9	33.0	27.5
28/4/74	13	104	53.5	51.4	23.5	22.6	27.0	26.0
12/8/73	12	96	49.5	51.6	22.0	22.9	24.5	25.5
12/9/71	11	88	46.5	52.8	20.0	22.7	21.5	24.4
13/4/69	10	80	44.0	55.0	17.5	21.9	18.5	23.1
10/12/67	9.5	76	43.0	56.5	16.5	21.7	16.5	21.7
14/2/66	9	72	39.0	54.2	16.5	22.9	16.5	22.9

\* Price increase declared after the date of Central Council meeting.

The mover and the seconder then agreed that the motion be reworded: that the opinion expressed in the motion from Milang District be noted, and that, in future, the Association endeavour to obtain for the producer a proportionate share of any further milk price increases.

The motion was carried.

## AUTOMATIC TEAT CUP REMOVERS

### Trial Proves Value of This Development

One of the options available to dairy farmers in today's times of high cost labour is the elimination of some manpower by installation of devices known as automatic teat cup removers. These devices provoke many reactions from dairymen, research workers and supervisory officers. One opinion is that if, everything else being equal, the installation of automatic teat cup removers will save a second labour unit they are worthwhile. Some months ago, a team, led by David Freckelton, then working at the Dairy Research Centre, Richmond, trialled a brand of teat cup removers. The results of the trial have now been published in the "Australian Journal of Dairy Technology" to which acknowledgement is made for the following adaption of the original article "The Effect of Automatic Teat Cup Removal on Milk Production and Mastitis," by Freckelton, Hoare and Braat.

Freckelton and his co-workers found no difference in milk production or composition and found cell counts were significantly lower when automatic removal of teat cups was used. They avoided second letdowns by effective pre-milking stimulation.

The trend towards larger dairy herds, the shortage of labour and shorter working hours emphasize the need for mechanizing the milking operation and increasing the dairyman's productivity. It has been previously calculated that about 20 per cent of the routine work time is spent in machine stripping and removing teat cups in Australian dairies. Automation of this procedure would allow either a 20 per cent increase in cow throughput or a 20 per cent decrease in the labour force required to milk the cows.

Several devices which automatically remove the teat cups at the end of milking are available. It was stated that milk production was higher for cows milked with automatic cup removal in a three month trial while another researcher found the use of these devices resulted in a significant four per cent reduction in milk production during a similar period.

In 1972 a trial using a device which removed teat cups individually when a quarter was finished milking showed that cows milked in this manner had fewer quarters with mastitis pathogens and lower California Mastitis Test (CMT) scores. However, in the same year another trial reported no difference in CMT scores between cows where manual removal was employed and those where automatic devices were used.

In the Dairy Research Centre trial an evaluation was made of the effect of the Micro Automatic Teat Cup Remover on milk production and mastitis incidence.

Twelve cows from the Hawkesbury Agricultural College herd were paired according to age and milk production. All cows were in the first to third month of lactation and ranged in age from two to 18 years. Individuals from each pair were randomly assigned to one of two groups. At first the cows in one group were milked with automatic cup removal and the cows in the other group were machine stripped after milking and the cups were hand removed. The groups were switched at the end of four weeks and switched back again after a further four weeks.

In addition to the 12 weeks of the trial, a four week pre-trial period was used to accustom the cows to the new milking machine and the operators who were to milk them for the period of the trial. Before the trial cows were machine stripped regularly and thus the trial was a test not only of automatic cup removal but also non-stripping.

Cows were milked in a two unit direct-to-can machine operating at 50 kPa fitted with electromagnetic pulsators with a pulsation rate of 54 per minute and ratio of 65 per cent using Alfa-Laval cut-off claws, shells and narrow bore liners. The machine was fitted with two Tru-Test milk meters to allow milk yields to be recorded for each cow and proportionate samples collected.

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The udders were washed and stimulated with running water from a hose for at least 20 seconds and wiped dry with paper towelling. Clusters were applied immediately after drying. All teats were dipped in 5000 ppm iodophor teat dip after milking.

One Micro automatic teat cup remover was fitted to each unit. The device consists of a milk flow rate sensing unit fitted with two operating switches, a solenoid valve on the vacuum line and a 4.1 cm OD plastic cylinder containing a plunger. The plunger is attached by a nylon cord to a vacuum cut-off adjacent to the claw. With the unit set for automatic milking and when milk flow rate falls to 0.15 kg per minute, a red light shows on the sensing unit. The solenoid valve is then actuated, evacuating the plastic cylinder, causing the plunger to rise and remove the cups from the cow. When the unit is set for manual milking, the red light shows but the cups remain on the cow after milk flow falls to 0.15 kg per minute.

Milk production was recorded at each milking including the pre-trial period. Samples for butterfat and S.N.F. analyses were collected. A foremilk somatic cell count for each cow was calculated and similarly a bulk milk somatic cell count was done.

During the course of the trial two cows were withdrawn from it.

At the start of the trial the average days since calving were 59 for the first group and 51 for the second group. The mean daily production dropped consistently throughout the trial period but showed no detectable differences between the groups. Whenever the groups were switched from manual removal of cups to automatic there was a noticeable fall in production of both groups.

The cell counts of cows having the cups automatically removed were lower than those where they were manually removed. No cases of clinical mastitis occurred during the trial.

This trial showed that cows can be milked using automatic teat cup removers without any loss in milk production or milk constituents. In 1972 a similar trial using a different experimental design of cup remover showed a significant four per cent decrease in milk production with associated loss in protein yield and S.N.F. percentage and yield. It is believed this lower production was due to cups being removed from cows before a second letdown occurred.

In the Richmond trial no cows had second letdowns, probably due to effective pre-milking stimulation.


Automatic cup removal eliminates machine stripping from the routine of milking cows and prevents overmilking. Although only two units were in operation, on occasions overmilking did occur on cows where the cups were manually removed. Previous work illustrated an association between overmilking and high CMT scores. Thus the higher somatic cell counts in cows with teat cups manually removed could be due to a degree of overmilking.

The results of the Richmond trial agreed with experiments in 1967 and 1970 in finding that the elimination of machine stripping had no effect on milk or fat yield or milk composition.

In conclusion it can be said that automatic teat cup removal can be utilized successfully in dairies with no loss of production and with a potential saving in labour.  
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### ARE FLIES A PROBLEM DURING MILKING?

For the past 10 years, ceiling fans have been used in a number of dairies in the Newcastle and Hunter Valley districts for the purpose of reducing the fly hazard and keeping cows cool in the milking bays. Ceiling fans generate high air movement in the order of 11,500 cu. ft. per minute, at extremely low noise levels, and are an acceptable method of fly control.

The practice is growing in New South Wales and, although no scientific evidence is available, dairymen feel that the use of fans tends to give an increased yield. Cows are quieter in their bails and it has been reported by one dairyman that cows actually jostle each other to get into the bails in hot weather.

The total installed costs of ceiling fans are in the order of \$65—\$75 per fan, and a good quality fan should have an estimated life of at least 8 to 10 years. The operational costs of a 56" diameter ceiling fan with a power consumption of 75 watts is less than 0.5 cents per hour.

Dairy farmers and co-operatives can obtain an illustrated brochure with full technical information from the nearest Crompton Parkinson (Australia) Pty. Limited sales office, and purchase can be arranged through the Association.

### LAND TAX — A GUIDE TO LEGISLATION

A booklet explaining the provisions of the revised Land Tax Act has been published for the guidance of tax payers, particularly those for whom there are some complexities. Copies are available from the State Administration Centre (Victoria Square), or this office.

## INSTANT MASTITIS DETECTION Electronic Device Developed

Members who attended any of the series of Regional meetings in connexion with the proposed cell-count monitoring scheme will recall that one of the effects of sub-clinical mastitis is a change in milk composition, with the lactose content declining and the chloride and serum protein contents increasing in relation to the severity of the case, as measured by the number of cells.

This increase in chloride content, and the consequent change in the electrical conductivity of the milk, has now been utilized by a Scottish inventor, Mr. Don Fraser, to provide an instantaneous indication of the presence of sub-clinical mastitis.

The device consists essentially of the electronic control unit which is linked to each set of teat-cups by means of electrodes which monitor the electrical conductivity of the milk as it flows through the individual milk lines from each quarter of the cow's udder.

The presence of sub-clinical mastitis, as indicated by a rise in the chloride content and hence in the conductivity, is demonstrated by a lighted signal in the master control unit.

The device, which was brought to its present stage of development at the Institute of Animal Physiology, at Babraham near Cambridge, England, is now undergoing evaluation trials at research institutes and commercial dairy farms in the United Kingdom.

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The R.M.T. apparatus and reagent were originally marketed by I.C.I., but that company has now decided to cease handling this product.

The Association has been able to obtain all the stocks which I.C.I. held, and is offering them to members at the disposal price of \$2.50 each (including 1 pint of reagent) or \$3.75 posted.

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THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN

DAIRYMEN'S . . .

*Journal**The Official Publication of the**Published Bi-monthly*

Vol. 15, No. 3

Adelaide, NOVEMBER/DECEMBER, 1975

**THE AUSTRALIAN DAIRY CORPORATION'S  
PLANS**

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN DAIRY INDUSTRY  
WILL BE PRESENTED BY MR. A. A. S. WEBSTER,  
CHAIRMAN OF THE A.D.C., AT

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## PLANS AND PROPOSALS

Never before has the Australian dairy industry been the recipient — or the victim — of as many plans and proposals for its reorganisation as during 1975.

The "Norton Plan" ( a modification of Commonwealth equalisation) which was in force at the beginning of the year, and the "O'Brien Plan" which replaced it in July were intended to be of short duration, to operate only until a more acceptable (but not necessarily **better**) scheme had been devised to carry the industry into a, hopefully, more prosperous and stable future, but, once again, differences of interest between the sectors of the industry continue to hamper attempts to devise a single, simple, workable method of administering an exceedingly complex industry.

### THINK-TANK STUDY

The first of these attempts, the "Think Tank" study, which, ambitiously, set out to replace (or at least reform) the Commonwealth equalisation scheme, to improve the industry's "image" in the eyes of the Australian public, and finally to restructure the method of marketing dairy produce, received a severe set-back when its first proposal, concerning dairy produce equalisation, was rejected by the Commonwealth Dairy Produce Equalisation Committee, virtually without consideration. The "Think Tank" with fewer members and for less enthusiasm has, since, limped on towards more modest goals, but its final report has yet to be publicized, and can be hardly more than of historic value.

### INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION'S REPORT

But soon after the launching of the "Think-Tank" the industry turned its thoughts towards the Industries' Assistance Commission's inquiry into the Australian Dairy Industry. Perhaps the industry attached too much hope to the possible results of this inquiry. Too few realized how limited were the Commission's terms of reference — "**what assistance should be provided to the dairy industry by the Australian Government after 30 June, 1976 and for what period of time should any recommended assistance be provided,**" and there should have been little surprise at the modest recommendations which the I.A.C. eventually proposed.

The recommendations, using the terminology of the Commission's Report, were

● **ADJUSTMENT**

—that after 30 June, 1976 there be no separate reconstruction scheme for the dairy industry.

The Commission drew attention to recommendations to be contained in its later report on Rural Reconstruction, which would be sufficiently flexible to deal with the specific adjustment problems of the dairy industry — these are to be regarded as an important part of the Commission's recommended assistance for the dairy industry.

● **MARKETING OF MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS**

—that Australian Government legislative support in the form of a levy and refund scheme (i.e. similar to the legislation passed in 1970, following the referendum of all dairyfarmers, but not yet proclaimed), to operate initially for a period of 5 years, be given to promote stable marketing arrangements for the manufacturing sector of the dairy industry.

The Commission commented that, in the current circumstances, it preferred a modified equalisation scheme with the following features:—

—flexibility;

—separate pools for each dairy product included;

—administration by the Australian Dairy Corporation (replacing the present administration by the Commonwealth Dairy Produce Equalisation Committee) and

—that limited Australian Government assistance be given to underwrite an export stabilization scheme.

● **PROTECTION**

—that tariffs on dairy products be not varied at this time — however, if there is any substantial increase in imports of dairy products not liable to anti-dumping action the matter of tariffs for dairy products should be referred to the Commission for inquiry and report and

—that because circumstances may occur in which timely anti-dumping action may be appropriate, the Department of Police and Customs keep the situation under review and

—that, if possible, the Australian Government initiate discussions under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade relating to the dumping of dairy products in world markets.

● **MARGARINE**

—that quotas on the production of table margarine be not retained after 30 June, 1976 and

—that margarine be subjected to the same labelling requirements as other foodstuffs.

● **CODE OF PRACTICE (Standards for Dairy Factories)**

—that the Australian Code of Practice for Dairy Factories be examined by an independent authority.

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## ● HERD IMPROVEMENT

The Commission commends the concept of the proposed National Dairy Herd Improvement Scheme, and recommends

- that, subject to the favorable outcome of a detailed benefit-cost study, some Australian Government financial assistance in the form of loan finance (to be used for capital purposes) be provided for the Scheme.**

## ● FLUID MILK

The Commission made no specific recommendation but drew attention to its comments on extension of access by farmers to the fluid milk market, which were

"In 1973-74, 26 per cent of Australian milk production was sold on the fluid milk market. In all States, except South Australia, farmers produce fluid milk under quota or contract systems. The price at the farm gate for fluid milk was about two and one-half times the price for manufactured milk.

Not all farmers share in the fluid milk market. Some who do share in this market receive only a small proportion of their returns from fluid milk. Even in South Australia where a different type of fluid milk system operates, some 20 per cent of farmers produce milk solely for manufacturing purposes. In recent years an increasing proportion of farmers have been sharing in the fluid milk market. As a general principle, in the Commission's view, the fluid milk market should be open to any farmer who can supply milk of specified quality and at the periods required. The Commission acknowledges that there may be a need for special supply arrangements on a regional basis for fluid milk, but in the interest of equity believes that the State milk authorities should consider steadily extending further the access by farmers to fluid milk supply."

Of these recommendations only the proposal for legislative support for equalisation measured up to the present needs of the Australian dairy industry. The rest were either of slight worth, having regard to the problems which the industry is facing, or were no longer relevant. Nevertheless, as stated above, the Commission was severely restricted by its terms of reference, and probably felt disinclined to propose more sweeping changes which would, whatever their nature, bring immediate opposition from one section of the industry or another.

## VICTORIAN BOARD OF INQUIRY

No such inhibitions influenced the Board of Inquiry into the Dairy Industry in Victoria, which, although brought into being on the same day (8 April, 1974) as that on which the terms of reference of the national inquiry were given to the I.A.C., began its hearings immediately, in contrast to the 6 months interval before the first hearing by the I.A.C., and promises to continue (with two Reports already published, and hints of another yet to come) well after the I.A.C.'s task has been completed.

Although required only to "inquire into, report upon, and make recommendations concerning the Dairy Industry in Victoria," the Board of Inquiry has seen fit to scrutinize the whole process of dairy administration in Australia (rightly regarding the industry in Victoria as part of the national industry), much more closely than the I.A.C. has done, and equally to be far more critical of what it has found, as well as being more radical in its recommendations.

These recommendations are far more detailed and wider ranging than those of the I.A.C., but may, for this purpose, be summarized as proposing:

- **the discontinuance of the present market milk contract scheme, and the reorganisation of marketing of wholemilk in a way which gives each dairyfarmer an equitable share in the proceeds;**
- **the setting-up of one State marketing authority for all milk and dairy products, with power to control the utilization of milk, to set farm gate prices for all milk and to regulate the sale of dairy produce.**

The full recommendations of the Victorian Board occupy many pages, but the summary will suffice for the present, because, since these recommendations were first published, the industry has received yet another proposal, this time from the newly formed (in July, 1975) Australian Dairy Corporation.

### AUSTRALIAN DAIRY CORPORATION'S PLAN

The A.D.C.'s plan contains much of the recommendations of both the I.A.C. and the Victorian Board of Inquiry, with the major emphasis being on the stabilization of dairy farmers' returns.

This is to be achieved through an equalisation scheme similar to that now in existence, administered by the A.D.C. (as recommended by the I.A.C.), with legislative support (as recommended by the I.A.C.) and with a "pooling" of returns between products (contrasting with the I.A.C.'s rejection of "pooling").

The purpose of the "pooling" is "to allow the payment to farmers of more comparable prices for manufacturing milk." Although the A.D.C. will not set the "farm gate" price, it will calculate, from its market assessments and a continuous monitoring of manufacturing costs, and publish a hypothetical value for milk, of which farmers would be aware, and which they "should, in general, receive."

This hypothetical value will, however, be "stabilized", by being permitted to vary not more than 15 per cent upwards or 10 per cent downwards from the values established for the last preceding season, the stabilization mechanism being a fund financed by a levy of 0.3c per litre (1.36c gal., equivalent to 7.3c kg fat or 3.3c lb fat at 4 per cent nominal test) on **all milk produced** (including market milk), the fund being used, as needed, to raise, to the hypothetical farm gate "value", the prices paid to suppliers by factories producing whatever dairy products are, at the time, bringing depressed prices.

The hypothetical farm gate "value" will be fixed for the whole of the year, unlike the present practice, where a conservative opening price is increased by "step-ups" throughout the year and further augmented, during the next 2 years or so, by retrospective payments.

The A.D.C.'s Plan also provides for as yet unquantified "product incentive" and "product diversion" allowances to induce factories to make the "right" products (or deter them from making the "wrong" products) at any time, so that the differential returns which are disguised by the "pooling" do not become permanent.

As well, the Plan proposes revolutionary changes in product acquisition and disposal, details of which are, at present, more appropriately considered by the processing and marketing sectors.

The opportunity for dairyfarmers to study the A.D.C.'s Plan in greater detail, and to debate its principles, and possible modifications will be provided by 3 Regional Meetings, as announced on the front cover.

## COMMONWEALTH EQUALISATION COMMITTEE'S PROPOSAL

Meanwhile there is yet another Plan being devised, details of which will be available at the time when the Regional Meetings are held. This plan will be the results of many months intensive deliberation by the Commonwealth Dairy Produce Equalisation Committee Limited, which believes that its members have the knowledge of the industry needed to produce a workable, acceptable plan, and knows that it has been the object of massive criticism.


## HANNAFORD REPORT

But all the foregoing plans (including that of the Victorian Board of Inquiry, the recommendations of which are, of necessity, not confined to the industry in that State) apply to the whole Australian dairy industry, and, although the voice of the South Australian Dairymen's Association will be heard, and heeded, at the national level, the direction that the industry will take will depend upon the opinions of many organisations and the pressures from many vested interests.

So we must not overlook yet another proposal, more limited than the many national plans, which could have at least as great an effect on the Association's members as any of the wider ranging schemes, and in the acceptance or modification of which the Association is able to exert far greater influence than in the national dairy forum.

This proposal is the "Report, Summary and Recommendation for a Statutory Milk Authority for South Australia," compiled by the Chairman of the Metropolitan Milk Board (Mr. B. D. Hannaford) from an inquiry instituted by the then Minister of Agriculture, Mr. T. M. Casey.

Because of the importance to the members of the Association, and its possible impact on the dairy industry in this State, the Report has been reproduced in full.



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## STATUTORY MILK AUTHORITY FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA

### INTRODUCTION

Towards the middle of 1974 separate requests were received by the Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. T. M. Casey, M.L.C., from the United Farmers and Graziers Association Inc. and the South East Dairymen's Association Inc. for a single statutory authority for the milk industry of this State.

The request from the U. F. & G. was for a Board of Inquiry to be set up to investigate milk marketing and for the establishment of a Statutory Authority to follow this inquiry.

The request from the S.E.D.A. was for the setting up of a Single Statutory Authority and the equalising of market milk returns and manufacturing milk returns among all the dairy farmers in the State.

The tenor of these requests reflected the respective long standing policies of these two organisations. The resurgence of interest may be further traced to the initiation at this time of inquiries into the dairy industry at Federal level (by the Industries Assistance Commission) and at State level (by the then newly created Victorian Board of Inquiry).

On the 17th October, 1974 the Minister asked if I would act as Chairman of a Conference to enquire into these requests at which the three milk producer organisations which operate in the State would be represented.

Mr. Casey said, in part, "I shall be grateful if you would act as Chairman of this Conference with a view to steering the parties towards a common plan for a State Authority. If it appears that agreement can be reached I would expect them to prepare a revised submission in due course for my consideration."

Several meetings between the parties were held and at the meeting on the 25th March, 1975 it was resolved "That the Chairman submit a report to the Minister of Agriculture indicating areas of agreement and disagreement between the organisations who were represented."

I herewith present my report.

### BACKGROUND

The Dairy Industry in South Australia is relatively small and represents approximately 6.5% of Australia's milk production. It is divided territorially as a result of geographical factors and the division tends to be reflected in the three producer organisations.

In fact, the State can be subdivided into six distinct areas of liquid milk supply and distribution. These are:—

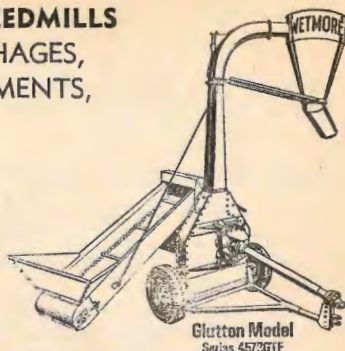
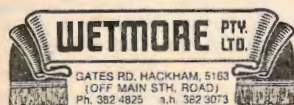
1. The Metropolitan Milk Board Producing District extending roughly 100 kilometres east and south of Adelaide.
2. The Golden North area centred about Clare.
3. The Riverland area centred on the treatment plant of G. W. Falland at Renmark.
4. The small supply area centred on Port Lincoln.
5. The South East which can be further subdivided into the Upper South East area centred on Bordertown and
6. The Lower South East area centred on Mount Gambier.

Of these regions four are predominantly dependant on single processing plants; the other two regions, the Metropolitan Producing District and the Lower South East, each support a number of competing milk processing and dairy produce manufacturing plants.

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The marketing arrangements differ, with the single companies operating price pooling systems of various types and degrees of sophistication. The companies in the Lower South East, engaged mainly in the manufacture of cheese, set the prices to be paid to their suppliers by a combination of reference to the interim values for cheese as determined by the Commonwealth Equalisation Committee and the competition offered by neighbouring factories. The companies in the Metropolitan Producing District participate in the Metropolitan Milk Prices Equalisation Scheme which has legislative support from the Metropolitan Milk Supply Act.

With the exception of the Port Lincoln and Upper South East districts I have taken the opportunity to visit all other areas in recent weeks to gain first hand knowledge.

### THE PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS

The three producer organisations which attended the conference and made submissions were:—

1. The South Australian Dairymen's Association which draws the majority of its members from those milk producers who are licensed by the Metropolitan Milk Board and those who supply Golden North and G. W. Falland.
2. The South East Dairymen's Association which draws its membership from the milk producers in the South East portion of the State.
3. The United Farmers and Graziers of S.A. Inc. which is a multicommodity organisation with an autonomous Dairy Section and which draws its membership State wide.

There is cross membership between the U. F. & G. and the two specialist organisations the S.A.D.A. and the S.E.D.A.

Thus in the centre and north of the State dairy farmers may belong to the S.A.D.A. and to the U. F. & G. While in the Upper and Lower South East dairy farmers may belong to the S.E.D.A. and to the U. F. & G.

The activities and policies of the organisations are influenced by both geographic and economic factors. It is therefore not surprising that the three producer organisations could not come to a consensus of opinion in which each organisation agreed with all of the opinions put forward by its fellow organisations.

As resolved by the organisations participating in the Conference, the areas of agreement and disagreement are set out following the next section.

## DAIRY ADMINISTRATION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The administration of the dairying industry in this State, where the production and processing of milk and the manufacture of dairy produce is concerned, is shared between the Metropolitan Milk Board and the Dairy Branch of the Department of Agriculture.

Within the Metropolitan Producing District the Board is responsible for the supervision of all milk production on the farms licensed by the Board. Approximately 40% is sold as market milk in the Metropolitan Area and the balance is used for the manufacture of dairy products including perishable milk products such as yoghurt.

The Board is also responsible for the supervision of milk receipt depots within the Metropolitan Producing District and milk treatment plants, distribution depots and milk vendors within the Metropolitan Area.

Additionally, within the Metropolitan Producing District there are a small number of farms not licensed by the Board which come under the supervision of the Dairy Branch of the Department of Agriculture.

The Dairy Branch of the Department of Agriculture is responsible for supervision of milk production throughout the rest of the State (regardless of whether such milk is destined for the manufacture of dairy produce or for market milk for sale outside the Metropolitan Area) and for the supervision of all dairy produce manufacture throughout the whole of the State.

In the related fields of pricing, distribution and sale of dairy produce, control is exercised by a specific body only in the case of market milk and table cream, and then only in the Metropolitan Area, where the Metropolitan Milk Board is charged with the responsibility of fixing prices and margins at all levels and supervising retail distribution by zoning.

Throughout the remainder of the State the only statutory price setting function is that carried out by the Commissioner of Prices and Consumer Affairs in respect to market milk sold outside the Metropolitan Area (the prices determined by the Commissioner tending to follow the determinations of the Metropolitan Milk Board for the Metropolitan Area).

The supervision of the distribution and quality of market milk outside the Metropolitan Area is a function of Local Boards of Health and it is likely that perishable milk products would strictly also fall within their ambit.

No supervision of the pricing, distribution or sale of other dairy produce is carried out by any authority, except for the sampling of butter and cheese by the Dairy Branch of the Department of Agriculture for conformity with grade labelling and for the investigation of complaints concerning quality of dairy produce by the Department of Public Health.

In these respects South Australia tends to follow the example of other States except for New South Wales and Western Australia, where recently, Statutory Dairy Authorities with wide ranging powers have been set up.

The legislation establishing the Authorities in N.S.W. and W.A. gives them virtually complete control over all products of dairy origin. At present these two Authorities have confined their activities to market milk, flavoured milk, modified milks and table cream. It was in view of the existence of these two Authorities and the tone of the requests made to him that the Minister called for a conference of the producer bodies in South Australia.

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### AREAS OF AGREEMENT

The three organisations agreed that there should be as great a degree of uniformity as possible in those areas of statutory control directly affecting quality, distribution and pricing, and that, for reasons of economy, efficiency and consistency of policies, these controls should be exercised by a single authority, which could, additionally, carry out other allied activities consistent with this principle.

In particular the three organisations agreed, such an Authority should exercise the following functions:—

1. **Pricing:** The new Authority should be given the power to regulate the prices of market milk, flavoured milk, modified milks, table creams and perishable milk products throughout the State, including the setting of prices and margins for producers, treatment plants, vendors and shops. In this connection it should be noted that the Metropolitan Milk Board is required, under its Act, to pay regard to the economics of all sectors of the industry, whilst the Commissioner of Prices and Consumer Affairs is concerned chiefly with the interests of consumers and does not, in respect of dairy products, go beyond fixing retail, wholesale and semi-wholesale prices.
2. **Zoning of Milk Distribution (Wholesale and Retail):** The new Authority should licence and zone all milk vendors in the State. Whilst the Milk Board at present zones vendors for retail delivery only, it is considered necessary for retail delivery only, it is considered necessary that power should be given to the new Authority to zone wholesale deliveries if and when considered necessary, as well as the zoning of retail delivery, which is now confined to the Metropolitan Area only.
3. **Control of Raw Milk Vending:** This is an area which has political, social and economic overtones, but nevertheless requires clarification. The market milk trade outside the Metropolitan Area is characterised by raw milk vendors, who sell varying proportions of their sales volume as loose or, occasionally, packaged (in which case it is generally classed as "certified milk" under the Food and Drugs Act) unpasteurised milk, produced either on their own farms, or purchased from other local dairy farms. Because disease can be readily transmitted by unpasteurised milk (the fact that milk is almost the perfect food for humans makes it, similarly, the almost perfect nutrient for bacterio) and since the chain of operations from

milking to retail sale provides many opportunities for contamination of human and animal origin, the vending of raw milk must always be regarded as a potential source of such diseases as brucellosis and salmonellosis. As a consequence it was agreed that, under a new Authority, all market milk should, as a principle, be pasteurised. Provision should be made for the sale of raw milk where it is considered by the Authority to be impracticable to supply pasteurised milk.

4. **Supervision of Vendors and Shops:** In addition to zoning and licensing of retail vendors it was agreed that the supervision of vendors and shops should be undertaken by the Authority.
5. **Products other than Market Milk:** It was agreed that the powers exercised by the new Authority should extend to cover, in addition to market milk, modified milks, flavoured milk, table cream of all designations and other perishable milk products such as yoghurt.
6. **Treatment Plant etc. Supervision:** It was agreed that, as product quality was dependent on the condition of premises and techniques, the licensing and supervision of treatment plants, depots, and dairy produce stores should be rationalised, with the proposed Authority exercising predominant licensing powers in all of these areas.
7. **Extension and Research:** It was agreed that these functions should continue to be carried out by the Department of Agriculture.

#### AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT

The three organisations eventually reached very close agreement in respect of the control of processing, distribution and pricing of market milk and allied milk products. It was, however, found impossible to reach the same degree of agreement concerning farm supervision and the method of payment to producers.

1. **Dairy Farm Supervision:** As stated earlier, the supervision of dairy farms is divided between the Metropolitan Milk Board, which is responsible for the supervision of producers licensed by the Board in the Metropolitan Producing District and the Dairy Branch of the Department of Agriculture, which is responsible for the supervision of producers throughout the rest of the State, and of those producers within the Metropolitan Producing District who are not licensed by the Board. In addition the Dairy Branch assumes notional supervision of producers licensed by the Board in the event of the licences being temporarily suspended as the result of a breakdown of quality standards.

Two of the producer organisations favoured the proposed Authority being responsible for farm supervision throughout the State, whilst the other organisation believed that the present dual control should be retained.

It should be noted that the cost of the supervision carried out by the Metropolitan Milk Board is met by a charge made on the industry. It is presumed that the proposed Authority would be financed in a similar manner, and it is a matter of policy to determine whether the cost of farm supervision should be a charge on the industry or on the State, as is the case with the Department of Agriculture.

2. **Payment to Producers:** Although the requests from the organisations to the Minister each refer to the setting up of a dairy Authority, the references may, in each case, be regarded as supplementary to the predominantly economic basis of the requests, namely for changes in the method of payment to producers. Consequently the key question that was addressed to the three organisations (the S.A.D.A. had not submitted a request to the Minister, but was represented at the conference by invitation) was "would your organisation support a State Dairy Authority if the principle of payment to producers finally adopted was contrary to your Association's view?"

### "FARMING FORUM"

is a periodical review published by the Economics Section of the Department of Agriculture, South Australia, which is available, free of charge, on application to the Department.

"Forum" comes out each quarter, and contains articles covering a wide range of primary production. For example the contents of the September 1975 issue include a forecast of a coming dairyfarming labor crisis, the pitfalls of estate planning, all-risk crop insurance and a farm business check list.

The S.A.D.A. and the U. F. & G. were emphatic that there would be strong opposition from each of their Associations if the method of payment to producers adopted at the time of the setting up of an Authority did not meet their requirements.

The S.A.D.A. most strongly advocated what it referred to as "regional equalisation" whereby the returns from market milk and from manufacturing milk were equalised to the producers within any area supplying a milk market. Consequently it favoured the continuation of the present Milk Prices Equalisation Scheme in the Metropolitan Producing District and the existing single-company schemes, with a recommendation that an equalisation scheme could be introduced in the Lower South East where at present, the suppliers of only one out of several dairy companies operating within the region receive the benefit of market milk returns. The S.A.D.A. believed that there were no economic grounds to support the extension of any milk equalisation scheme beyond the geographical limits of the areas supplying market milk.

The U. F. & G. proposed a "closed shop" quota system for market milk, with milk quotas being allotted to producers by the proposed Authority and being freely negotiable by sale between producers. The U. F. & G. foresaw such quotas as being allotted to present Milk Board producers to supply Adelaide's market milk needs, but would not approve of quotas to supply Adelaide being available to all producers in the State.

The S.E.D.A. said that, although their request to the Minister for an Authority was in conjunction with a proposal for the participation of all farmers in the equalisation of market milk returns, their support for an Authority was not conditional upon this.

No agreement could therefore be reached on this important factor, and it was apparent that any change in the method of payment which would have the effect of injuring the equity of producers in any particular region would be unacceptable at this stage.

### FUTURE TRENDS IN THE DAIRY INDUSTRY

The dairy industry in Australia has, during the past five years, undergone and is still undergoing considerable change.

On the Federal level the so-called "O'Brien Scheme" has replaced the previous dairy produce equalisation scheme for butter at least during the current financial year, with a possibility that it may extend beyond that period. The Industries Assistance Commission's Inquiry into the industry, and the just completed restructuring of the Australian Dairy Produce Board into the Australian Dairy Corporation have been factors which have led dairy farmer organisations in this State to consider the desirability of setting up a Dairy Industry Authority or a Statutory Milk Authority.

Added emphasis is also given to the question with the possibility that the Industries Assistance Committee may recommend the introduction of a multi-price quota scheme to replace dairy produce equalisation. A multi-price quota

scheme would require the forming in each State of a body to arrange the allotment and transfer of quotas, and possibly to exert a far greater degree of control on production, manufacture and distribution of all manufactured dairy produce than has hitherto been carried out in any State.

Such a body would not, however, need to be a branch of the Australian Dairy Corporation (which does not, at present anyway, possess the legislative powers which would enable it to perform these functions) as proposed by the Department of Agriculture in its recent supplementary submission to the I.A.C., but could be incorporated in a single Statutory Authority of the type agreed to by the producer organisations.

On the other hand there is every possibility, in view of the narrowness of the reference given to the I.A.C., in connection with its inquiry into the dairy industry, that the I.A.C.'s report may propose no direct Federal intervention into the industry.

### RECOMMENDATION

Although having failed to agree upon "a common plan for a State Authority," the producer organisations did not regard the position thus arrived at as warranting the preparation of a revised submission for the consideration of the Minister. I therefore have taken the course of offering the following recommendations derived from the views expressed by the three organisations (and other reviews of the industry as published in the media) and from experience of dairy administration in this and other States which I regard as being consistent with the tenor of majority opinion as expressed during the Conference:—

THAT the State Government set up a State Dairy Authority for South Australia, having the following powers—

1. The licensing of all dairy farms, milk treatment plants, milk depots, dairy produce factories, dairy produce stores and retail and wholesale milk vendors throughout South Australia.
2. The setting of standards for the quality of milk and milk products, the premises and equipment used in the handling and processing of milk and milk products and for other matter incidental thereto.
3. The supervision of all dairy farms, milk treatment plants, milk depots and retail and wholesale milk vendors. (Shops are already supervised by the Metropolitan County Board in the Metropolitan Area and by Municipal Authorities in the rest of the State. A "Perishable Food Licence" is currently being considered for shops and I do not recommend that the proposed Authority enter this area.)
4. The fixing of retail prices to consumers and the setting of prices to be paid to producers and of margins for the processing, distribution and sale, of all market milk, table creams, modified milks, flavoured milks and other milk products if and when necessary.
5. The zoning of the wholesale and retail selling of milk where it is considered necessary by the Authority.
6. The administering of milk prices equalisation schemes either directly or through appointed agents and the fixing of quotes for market milk sales, if and when necessary.
7. The power to purchase, transport, treat, promote and distribute milk and milk products if and when necessary.
8. The allotting and transferring of entitlements in connection with any Commonwealth-wide multi-price quota scheme if and when necessary.
9. Authority to delegate any of the above powers.
10. It is my opinion that the proposed Authority should not have sectional industry representation and the principle of independent members as applied to the constitution of the Metropolitan Milk Board has worked well for 28 years.

B. D. HANNAFORD,  
Chairman.

## EXTRACTS FROM CENTRAL COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

### Meeting Held on 4th December, 1975

#### PRESENT

The General President (Mr. N. M. Green) in the Chair, Vice Presidents Messrs. A. A. Kenny and K. J. Turvey, Messrs. A. G. Kretschmer (Jervois), R. Leslie (Onkaparinga), R. W. Reid and R. Hurrell (South Coast), P. Cellier and G. T. Oliver (Lakes), C. R. Blacker and K. R. Watkins (Willunga), P. Kuchel (Meadows), C. Eime (Mid North), M. J. Diener and I. M. Winter (River Murray), A. Parker (Milang) and the General Secretary (Mr. D. J. Higbed).

#### APOLOGIES

M. Green, W. Seeliger, D. D'Angelo, M. Brazzalotto, B. Whitford, H. Perry, H. Philp, W. Kerr, M. Klemm, R. Ielasi, A. McEwin, R. Ramsdale, D. Zweck, S. Schoell, D. Freebairn.

#### FLAVORED MILK PRICING

The Secretary reported that the Executive Committee, when considering the matter of the pricing of low-fat milk, had also reviewed the situation regarding the pricing of flavored milk, and had decided to take no action, at this time, to seek the pricing of flavored milk by regulation, as it believed that the conditions which led to its previous decision to defer a request for the pricing of flavored milk by regulation still prevailed.

However, in its first examination of the pricing of low-fat milk, the Executive Committee had decided to recommend to the Metropolitan Milk Board the setting of a producer's price which would not penalise the dairyfarmer if sales of low-fat milk were made at the expense of standard milk. In its latest determination, which became effective on 16.11.75, the Metropolitan Milk Board had declared a single price of 14.65c per litre to be paid to the producer for all milk used for human consumption, whether as standard milk or low-fat milk. This meant that the problem which the Executive Committee had believed would exist in the pricing of flavored milk had been virtually eliminated, as it would be necessary only to follow the precedent which the Board had now set, and which would greatly simplify the operation of milk price equalisation.

One of the factors which had influenced the Executive Committee in not taking further action on the price of flavored milk was the absence of statistics concerning sales. It had been reported that the previous growth in the sales of flavored milk had been replaced by a quite serious decline. There had also been changes in the other conditions which had been put forward by the Merchants as reasons why we should not proceed with pricing by regulation at this time, including the possibly more profitable use of milk for cheese manufacture, if the raw material price for flavored milk was set too high, whereas it now appeared that Australia could be facing a cheese disposal problem later in the current year.

Mr. Kenny said that his observation led him to believe that the reported downturn in flavored milk sales had now ceased, and he believed that a reprieve of 1 year was sufficient time, and that we should, as soon as possible after the year had expired, once again move for the pricing of flavored milk by regulation.

Mr. Turvey said that we should not lose sight of the fact that the decline in sales might be due to overpricing by shops, as the retail price was not fixed, and shops could add whatever margin they wished. Although we would probably be seeking a regulated price for the producer only, a complete schedule of prices and margins might well result in a higher return to the producer and a cheaper product for the consumer.

Mr. Diener said that it should be realized that, if this were to be achieved, the margins fixed would have to be at least as attractive to the shopkeeper as margins on soft drinks, which might present some difficulty.

Mr. Kretschmer said that he doubted whether the question of relative margins was of importance; he believed that shopkeepers did not push flavored milk, but stocked it purely as a convenience line, and would continue to do so even if the margin were reduced. Nevertheless this was a matter for consideration by the Board, if prices were fixed by regulation, and he therefore moved "that the Executive Committee be instructed to re-examine the question of the pricing, by regulation, of flavored milk, and to take whatever action is decided upon."

## PRICES & STATISTICS

### ADELAIDE METROPOLITAN MILK SUPPLY AREA

	PRODUCTION (000 litres/000 gallons)					
	For Month		Daily Average		12 Months'	Cumulative
	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
November ... ..	<b>27 308</b>	<b>27 506</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>917</b>	<b>252 799</b>	<b>246 986</b>
	6 007	6 050	200	202	55 608	54 329
December ... ..	<b>24 207</b>	<b>23 962</b>	<b>781</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>252 994</b>	<b>246 741</b>
	5 325	5 271	172	170	55 651	54 275

	MILK SALES (000 litres/000 gallons)					
	For Month		Daily Average		12 Months'	Cumulative
	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
November ... ..	<b>7 993</b>	<b>7 971</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>99 739</b>	<b>98 814</b>
	1 758	1 753	59	59	21 940	21 736
December ... ..	<b>8 145</b>	<b>8 411</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>99 430</b>	<b>99 167</b>
	1 792	1 850	58	60	21 872	21 814

#### INTERIM PRICES TO LICENSED SUPPLIERS

(Prices are interim only, and subject to retrospective adjustment.)

1975	Basic	C.M.B.	Total*	3.5%	4%	4.5%	5%
	(cents per kg/lb butterfat)						
November ...	<b>124.01</b>	<b>61.94</b>	<b>185.95</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>9.6</b>
	56.25	28.10	84.35	30.5	34.8	39.2	43.5
December ...	<b>124.01</b>	<b>77.97</b>	<b>201.98</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>10.4</b>
	56.25	35.37	91.62	33.1	37.8	42.5	47.3

	RATIO (Sales to Production, per cent)				TOTAL PRICE*	
	For Month		12 Months' Cumulative		(Cents kg/lb b.f.)	
	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
November ... ..	29.3	29.0	39.5	40.0	<b>172.40</b>	<b>185.95</b>
					78.20	84.35
December ... ..	33.6	35.1	39.3	40.2	<b>180.55</b>	<b>201.98</b>
					81.90	91.62

(Authorised by Metropolitan Milk Equalisation Committee Limited)

#### SPECIAL NOTE ON BUTTERFAT TEST

The average butterfat of all milk received from licensed producers has, during recent months, tended to decline when compared with the same period in the previous year, as shown below (%);

	J	F	M	A	M	J	Year
1974 ... ..	4.36	4.27	4.19	4.19	4.14	4.13	4.24
	J	A	S	O	N	D	
	4.18	4.22	4.26	4.42	4.39	4.33	
	J	F	M	A	M	J	Year
1975 ... ..	4.16	4.16	4.30	4.39	4.38	4.35	4.19
	J	A	S	O	N	D	
	4.30	4.20	4.11	4.12	4.04	4.06	

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