S.A.D.A. INC.

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DAIRY FARMERS'

JOURNAL

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NATIONAL DAIRY INDUSTRY UNITED

In Ballarat on February 19, 1991 the representatives of the Australian Dairy Industry agreed on a united approach to a replacement scheme for the Kerin Plan which ends on June 30 1992. Farmers, processors, Australian Dairy Corporation, Dairy Research and Development Corporation, Conference of Australian Milk Authorities and industry administrators met in a think tank situation for 2 days with the goal of a united approach to future national marketing arrangements.

There was unanimous agreement to commitment to the proposed arrangements from everyone present. It was also agreed that the broad representative group reconvene in November 1991 to confirm progress made towards securing the proposed arrangements.

There is, based on the Ballarat Agreement, every reason for the industry to look to the future with optimism and confidence.

WHAT WAS AGREED?

The key points forming the basis for the industry approach to post June 30, 1992 were:

A. MANUFACTURING MILK

- National All Milk Levy with a ceiling of 45 cents per kg butterfat or its equivalent (no 30% of world price as previously legislated).
- Maintain current system of market support payments and levy rate.
- Continue underwriting.
- Remove Comfort Clause.
- Implementation of Section 38 type legislation in all States*.
- Ongoing scheme - no sunset clause.
- Maintain cheese tariff quota.

B. MARKET MILK

Section 38 type legislation in each State to regulate the farmgate price is the best option to pursue*.

This united view supported by the senior representatives of the major processors, the farmer bodies, the Authorities and the industry groups is a major step to assuring the future of the Australian dairy industry.

One interesting question addressed was the justification for having an Australian dairy industry at all. Some very strong reasons emerged:

- Naturally technically efficient.
- Generation of income for Australia.
- EC support needs to vary very little for Australia's competitiveness to soar.
- Expanding Asian markets.
- Significant multiplier effect (see graph p.2).

It was agreed that the Australian dairy industry had to become proactive on the world scene to generate profits, it had to strengthen its value to Australia and in doing these provide natural defence to imports.

Continuous supplies of high

in this issue

- Bursting the Bloat Bubble
- Outlook '91
- Canadian Dairyfarming
- *Our Regular Features*

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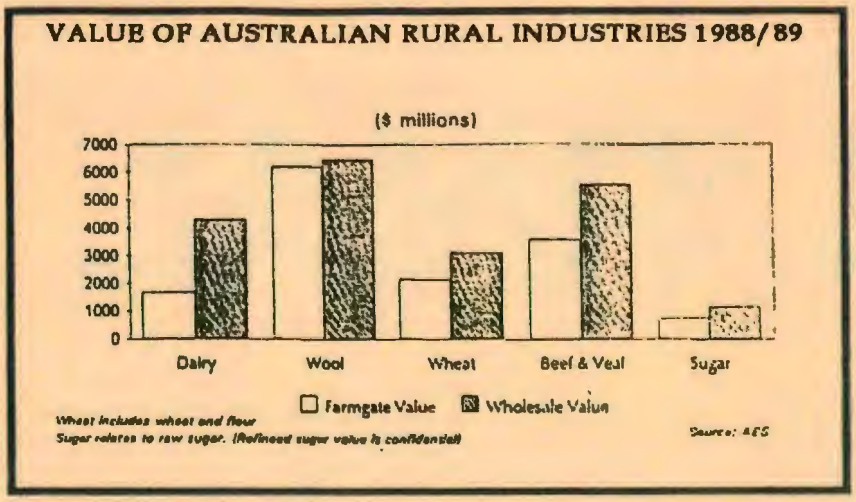


quality product, price competitive goods and maximum efficiency were seen as the key factors in strengthening Australia's position.

With respect to New Zealand the agreement was that Australia should build a co-operative relationship on issues of mutual concern, develop trust and compete in purely commercial bases.

It was agreed that in order to maximize domestic revenue in the context of Closer Economic Relationship with New Zealand the Australian industry must:

- maintain the value of market milk
- maintain the value of short shelf life products, and
- maintain domestic product value through market growth, efficiency inter-industry and pricing levels.

Support for export industry is essential to help stabilize production in the face of international market place vagaries and corruption.

WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN?

The Australian Dairy Industry represented by:

- Australian Dairy Industry Council
- Australian Dairy Farmers Federation
- Australian Dairy Products Federation
- Australian Dairy Corporation
- Dairy Research and Development Corporation
- Confederation of Australian Milk Authorities
- the state dairyfarmer organizations
- and individual processors

have AGREED to be COMMITTED to a SINGLE NATIONAL APPROACH TO POST JUNE 30 1992 IN A conscious effort to ENSURE STABILITY, PROFITABILITY AND OPPORTUNITY for the industry into the next DECADE and BEYOND.

South Australian dairy farmers will have an opportunity to express their support for this national plan over the next few months. I would urge you all to support our state representatives on this issue.

If we can be positive and supportive we will contribute to this sound future. Any other attitude will be counter-productive.

*SECTION 38: WHAT IS IT AND HOW CAN IT HELP?

Section 38 is a portion of legislation in the Victorian Dairy Industry Act which makes it essential for all milk used for processing into market milk to be ACCEPTED by the Victorian Dairy Industry Authority before it is processed. This acceptance does not have to imply physical acceptance and in reality is a notional acceptance. Milk that is ACCEPTED is then LEGALLY priced.

If this was uniformally introduced in all States it would ensure all market milk margins were protected. This is achieved by all milk for market milk being priced by the relevant authority regardless of supply source or sales destination.

The definition of market milk is crucial and it has been agreed in Ballarat that market milk shall be defined as a minimum:

> *"fresh white milk, flavoured milks, skim milk, modified milk, UHT milk, reverse osmosis milk and any form of ultrafiltered milk or long life milk sold for consumption in liquid form".*

Another important consideration is that these various products can be priced differently by category but there must be national uniformity in the basis of pricing.

TERRY INGLIS
Executive Officer

PRESIDENT'S COMMUNIQUE

Without doubt, 1991 will be the busiest year ever experienced by the S.A.D.A. To date issues to be resolved appear to be confronting us at a rate similar to the number of sorties over Baghdad in recent weeks.

I suppose that some of the pressure is self-inflicted; driven by the wisdom and thought of the industry participants who churned out all these goals at the industry Think Tank in November 1989. It was clearly known at that time that the Green paper Review was imminent. Since then, the Minister of Agriculture, Lynn Arnold, has commissioned the second attempt to produce a suitable draft.

To date, there appears to be a clear consensus of opinion by industry representatives but whether this common viewpoint is picked up by the review team remains to be seen. We await the draft Green Paper expectantly.

The degree of urgency for one Authority to administer all market milk arrangements in this state is ever increasing. Not just to ensure a Farm Gate Price for all farmers in S.A. but also to facilitate a compatible mechanism of discipline parallel with other States and capable of preserving our National Industry.

The reality of such preservation hinges on legislation that ensures that the Farm Gate Price for Market Milk is paid for all milk sold as market milk irrespective of the destiny. Known as "Section 38 type Legislation", the purpose is to protect the market milk margins in all states and would cover all products that could potentially erode returns for market milk. As a minimum, the controlled products will include fresh white milk, flavoured milks, skim milk, modified milk, U.H.T. milk, reverse osmosis milk and any form of ultrafiltered milk as long life milk sold for consumption in liquid form. It is critical also to recognise the need for special pricing structures for products such as U.H.T. milk. (See Lead Article)

Marketing arrangements post 1992 are the motivating force behind the critical need for the State wide authority. An Australian Dairy Industry Planning Workshop organised by the A.D.I.C. was held in Ballarat on February 17-19th to plan such arrangements. (See lead article)

Dairyfarmers will be strongly arguing with the Industry Commission that Marketing Arrangements are necessary to enable an Australian dairy industry to survive into the future at production levels remaining at approximately 6,300 million litres per annum. In reality, if there is not any support for export, the size of our industry would be reduced overnight.

The Industry Commission, the Federal and State Governments must recognise the contribution the Dairy Industry makes to the macro economic balance of the Australian economy. Over $750 million per annum in export earnings.

To achieve such recognition, we must be committed to the total plan developed at Ballarat i.e. Discipline Market arrangements and provide a levy on all milk to support the 25% of our product sold on the corrupt export market which then in turn underpins our domestic sales.

Recently at the ABARE Outlook Conference in Canberra, I talked at length with Jo de Jong, Deputy Head, Dairy Division of the European Commission in Brussels. This opportunity for me to learn more about the European Economic Community was invaluable. At the close of my conversation with Jo de Jong I posed this question.

"Given that you believe the world market for Dairy product is growing, how would you manage the Australian industry taking into account the 25% of our national production that we are currently attempting to sell overseas?"

After a degree of thought, his answer was short and crisp. He claims that we are doing the correct thing in supporting and maintaining our export production for he believes Australia is in an excellent position to meet the potential growth in world consumption. He believes the E.E.C. will not be in a position to supply any further markets for the cost of maintaining the E.E.C. production levels is too great. However to predict a time frame for these changes he feels is impossible.

In conclusion, I believe the strategy developed at Ballarat is right on target. To reflect back to the necessity for South Australia to have a State-wide Authority for Market Milk, you can understand the importance of a unified approach by South Australian farmers.

When I attended a meeting of South East Dairyfarmers' Association Central Council on February 27th, the delegates supported a motion to recommend the formal unification of S.A.D.A. and S.E.D.A. on the 26th June 1991.

I am committed to develop the mechanics to facilitate a clear understanding of all the issues involved to be presented to an open meeting of all South East dairy farmers on April 15th. I trust I have S.A.D.A. members full support.

ALLAN MANNING General President

SHAREFARMERS AND SADA

The Central Council of SADA urges all Sharefarmers to ensure they are members of SADA. The range of services offered and the work done for dairy farmers by SADA requires maximum support from the dairy community. Check with the owner to ensure you are a member of SADA. Take up the opportunity to be able to ensure your point of view is heard and appreciated.

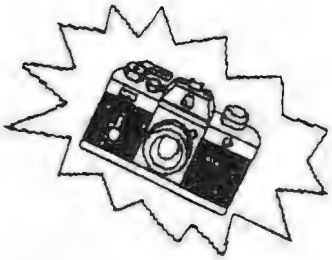
"Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there."

Will Rogers

"Accept the challenges, so that you may feel the exhilaration of victory."

General George S. Patton

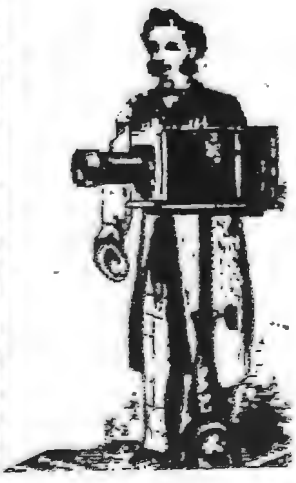
Federation Insurance Region Manager, Graham Bagnell hands SADA Executive Officer, Terry Inglis, a commission cheque.



District Meeting??? I thought it was a tupperware party!! (Lyndon Cleggett, President Milang District - can't hide from our SADA-Cam.)

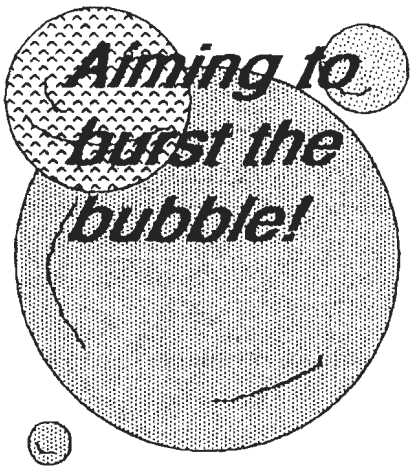
SADA-CAM

Joanne Pfeiffer, Helen Afford, Peter Thorley and Milton Baulderstone spend a moment discussing unity prior to the combined Jervois/River Murray Districts meeting in January.



BLOAT RESEARCH

Every farmer has a story about turning his back for five minutes on cows grazing the clover paddock, then looking around only to find one of the best cows blown up like a balloon, and dead. From bloat.



It is estimated that between 1 and 2 per cent of cows die of bloat each year. This means about 17,000 dairy cows, and at a conservative value of $500 a cow, this represents a loss of more than $8.5m a year.

This is a big problem and one very worthwhile reducing. Controlling bloat would also greatly reduce the stress and worry farmers face, and improve their quality of life.

But there is another important reason for controlling bloat, and that is higher production can be obtained from dairy cows if they have good high legume content pastures to eat.

There are some controls for bloat, but each control method has significant drawbacks. The controls include twice daily drenching or spraying pastures before cattle are put into the paddock.

Another control for bloat is the Monensin anti-bloat capsule, which provides bloat protection for about 100 days. While this is a big advance, the capsule is still only about 80 per cent effective, Farmers need something which is at least 95 per cent effective, and preferably something which is 100 per cent effective in controlling bloat.

To this end, the Dairy Research and Development Corporation is funding research at Ellinbank Dairy Research Institute, which should lead to a more effective anti-bloat capsule.

Bloat is a complex condition, but simply it happens when the rumen produces a persistent foam, which traps the gases produced by the rumen microbes, and prevents the cow from getting rid of the gas in the normal way. Pressure builds up in the rumen to such an extent that it either forces air out of the lungs or blood out of the heart, thus killing the animal.

Rumen microbes produce two main gases, carbon dioxide and methane. For a long time it was considered that the carbon dioxide was the gas most involved in bloat, but the latest research at Ellinbank points to methane being the gas involved in the persistent foams which cause bloat.

Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs researcher Peter Moate, and consultant researcher Dr. Ralph Laby, have devised a system to produce foam from rumen fluid and freeze dried proteins from clovers and grasses. Methane and carbon dioxide are used to produce the foam under controlled conditions. Once the foam is produced, the "strength" and persistence of the foam is measured.

"We need to get foam measurements under controlled conditions so we can understand what happens in the

rumen. We know that it is the proteins in the clovers which make the persistent foams, but we don't know how," Dr. Laby said.

"Also, we are not really sure of the exact way in which the anti-bloat agents work. We know that monensin reduces methane production, and that detergents activate the naturally occurring lipids which restores their anti-foaming ability, but we don't really know why these things control bloat. Again, by knowing more about foam production, we should be able to get better anti-bloat agents," he said.

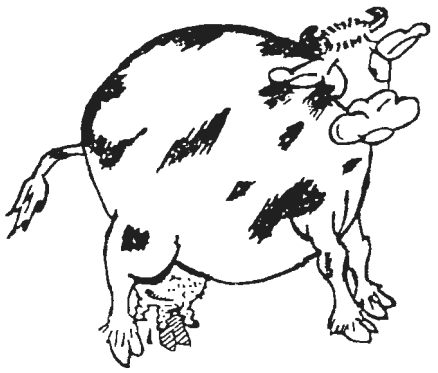
The researchers have found many changes occur in the animal during bloat.

There is more mixing of the fluid and solid materials in the rumen, the foam changes colour from a dark green to a yellow-green ("It looks like light green ice-cream"), and the fat and protein content of the foam is increased. The pH of the rumen falls, and for each plant species, there is a very defined pH at which the persistent foam is produced.

These are just the immediate changes which happen at the onset of bloat.

There is a more complicated set of conditions which lead to the production of persistent foam in the first place, and a number of different ways in which these conditions can combine to cause bloat.

The factors include the genetic make-up of the cows, some cows are more susceptible to bloat than others; the type of plants and their stage of growth and a high leaf to



stem ratio the most likely to cause bloat; and the number and type of microbes in the rumen.

From here, it is not certain what happens.

"Bloat occurs when the animal-plant-microbe interaction leads to the formation of persistent foam at a rate faster than foam breakdown," Peter Moate said.

The problem of bloat is likely to increase as farmers move more towards higher producing cows grazing high legume pastures. (This is the subject of other research funded by the Dairy Research and Development Corporation).

Recent work at Ellinbank has shown that cows eating a high proportion of legumes in their diet produce more milk. Treating these cows against bloat, even in the absence of clinical bloat, will also increase milk production.

"Now that it has been demonstrated that there is a production advantage in controlling bloat, even subclinical bloat, there is a more positive reason for wanting to control the problem. Before the production responses from clover dominant pastures and controlling subclinical bloat were known, bloat control was basically to keep susceptible animals alive. While this is important, controlling bloat to get more production from high legume pastures is an even more compelling reason for researching improved bloat control," said Dr. Laby.

DAIRY RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The Outlook Conference is a forum for the Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics (ABARE) to present statistics and information on most of Australia's primary industries from the previous several years to the leaders of those industries.

Staff of ABARE try to predict various trends for up to the next five years, and delegates to the conference then have the opportunity to debate these matters. I have had the opportunity to attend the 1991 Outlook Conference and following is a summary of figures and perceptions which may be of interest to members.

Farm prices in real terms have generally declined over the past ten years. This trend is likely to continue.

Several unresolved factors will decide the extent of the decline.

1. World recession - the depth and length of the current recession will influence farm commodity returns for several years.

2. International trading patterns - this is very complex and is impossible to predict.

3. Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union - the political and economic reforms occurring in this region have enormous implications on world trade and this is again unpredictable.

4. Gulf War.

There is little that individual farmers can do to reduce the effect of the above, and they will all be affected differently by these external factors.

Under these circumstances the major component of profitability which is under the control of the farmer, will continue to be productivity.

Many dairyfarmers who will prosper during the next decade are those who increase their productivity by adopting improved methods and management. Financial management will be a critical part of this.

Some points from two of the four Dairy Outlook speakers:

1. MURRAY LEMBIT, MANAGER MEAT & DAIRY ECONOMICS SECTION ABARE

Three quarters of Australian milk production is used in the manufacturing of dairy products. One third of this is exported (i.e. A quarter of our milk production is exported).

The European Community accounts for one quarter of world milk production and supplied half of the dairy products for world trade.

Eastern Europe emerged as a significant net exporter of dairy products during 1990.

1989 MILK PRODUCTION (in Kt)
(1Kt = 1 thousand tonnes = 1 million litres)

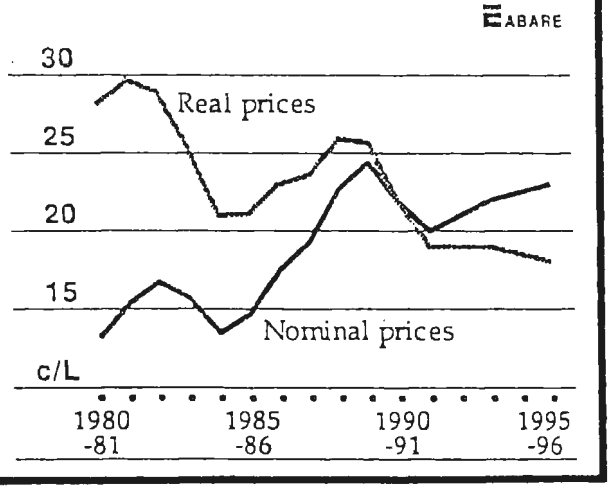
Australia	6,465
New Zealand	7,482
Canada	7,980
USA	65,432
South America	23,505
European Community	108,870
Soviet Union	108,100
Eastern Europe	44,037
China	4,000
India	23,000
Japan	8,000
South Africa	2,495

Middle East countries purchased 12% of Australian butter exports and 24% of cheese exports in 1989-90.

The value of dairy exports in 1990-91 is forecast to fall by 25%. This may be tempered by underwriting.

Underwriting payments are made if world prices fall below a figure equal to 85% of the price that would prevail if the trend in prices over the previous eight years had continued in the current year.

NOMINAL AND REAL MANUFACTURING MILK PRICES



In 1989 around 62% of world butter exports were purchased by the Soviet Union.

2. G.R. DAVEY, NEW SOUTH WALES DAIRY CORPORATION

66% of New South Wales' production is sold as manufacturing milk.

88% of Victorian production is sold as manufacturing milk.

Victoria supplied about 3% of New South Wales' market milk in 1989/90.

The 2-litre plastic bottle is popular with consumers in New South Wales and now accounts for 60% of whole milk sales.

Today New South Wales still operates under the pricing mechanisms but legislation has been amended to allow prices to be set with regard to "market conditions". The only significant market condition to be considered to date is the price of Victorian milk "landed" in Sydney, and this is certain to be the major market condition in the future.

New South Wales vendor numbers have reduced from 2190 to 1760 in 1990 (a 19% drop).

On the production side, the restrictions on farmers changing their supply factory were also reduced. A quota exchange scheme was introduced in July 1990. This will reduce the rigidity of supply and the costs associated with year round production and equitable sourcing.

The industry has also used "notional" supply as a means of reducing transport costs while maintaining the policy of equitable sourcing throughout the State. In 1989-90, 10.69% of market milk was notionally supplied at a saving of $969,000 to farmers.

The New South Wales Dairy Industry Planning Group (DIPG) has proposed the planned deregulation of pricing "Past the farmgate" and removal of zoning of milk distribution in 1992. Essential to the plan is the protection of the farmgate price either through the establishment of a national pricing system and/or through legislation similar to Victoria's Section 38.

It is notable that the significant price reductions in April 1989 did not result in an increase in sales in New South Wales. Pressures on the pricing of UHT milk and cream, currently regulated at the farmgate in New South Wales, caused by large discounts given by Victoria and Tasmania for interstate sales of these products, threaten another segment of the market.

The New South Wales industry sees the need for a stable price for Victorian market milk (not one directly linked to export prices) and would prefer a national approach to establishing a farmgate price.

Any deregulation should be fortified by significantly more aggressive marketing to fully exploit the growth potential of market milks, particularly of modified milks, and to improve returns. The proportion of the price of milk spent on promotion is grossly inadequate compared with that spent by its major competitors, soft drinks and soy beverages.

The market milk industry is inextricably linked to the national marketing arrangements for manufactured dairy products. While Australia is required to operate as a free trading country in international markets, it is only logical to expect a free market domestically. Accordingly, the sensible approach is to ignore the parochialism of State boundaries and develop a national approach to the dairy industry. The real challenge is for a united Australian dairy industry to achieve this before internal or external pressures bring about far-reaching and widespread damage.

ROGER BASHAM
Senior Vice-President

This is the first part of a two-part Outlook Conference report by Roger Basham. In the March/April issue of the Journal Roger will report on the comments by Rick Lacey, General Manager Planning and Information Australian Dairy Corporation and Mr. Johannes de Jong, Deputy Head Dairy Division of the European Commission. Mr. de Jong sets the level of export subsidies for EC dairy products.)

No race can prosper till it learns there is as much dignity in tilling a field as in writing a poem.

Booker T. Washington (1856-1915)

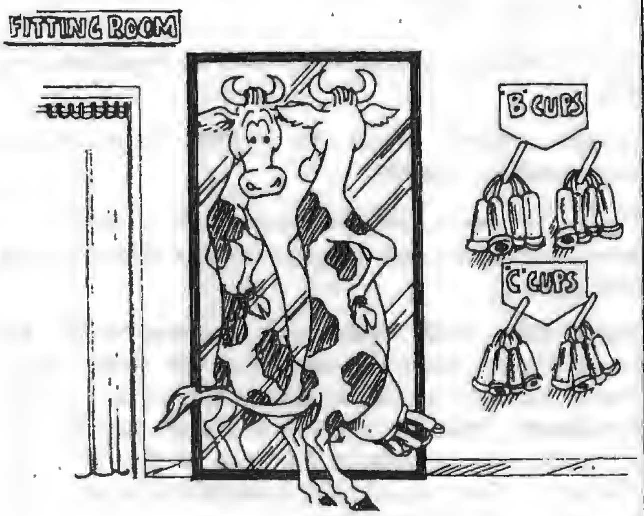
Warm Support for Cold Cows

INGENIOUS dairy farmers in Missouri, USA are putting bras on their cow's udders to beat the freezing weather.

"You've got to try to keep a cold cow comfortable or you're going to lose a lot of milk production," said Barry Stevens, a University of Missouri dairy specialist.

Some Missouri farmers were using bras as udder supports on animals that calved recently and had udders swollen with milk, Mr. Stevens said.

Others were using hair-dryers and towels to keep moisture off the animals as temperatures fell to zero.



(Thanks to Reece Butler, former SA Manager Federation Insurance, for providing this little gem.)

OCCUPATIONAL SUPERANNUATION

As a consequence of a widespread misunderstanding in the rural employer community, it is quite evident many employees are not receiving the benefit of employer sponsored contributions for Occupational Superannuation as dictated by the provisions of both State and Federal Pastoral Industry Awards and The Woolclassers and Shearing Staff Employees Award.

The Pastoral Aw… state that an … receive … employ… an…

… re… ind… scen… reflect… as not … Occupati… payments.

In the rural s… pointed out, non … pliance is more widespre… than the all industries situation with in excess of 40% of employers, effectively, not making contributions on behalf of their employees.

The Occupational Superannuation Scheme endorsed by The South Australian Dairyfarmers' Association is The National Superannuation Plan administered by Federation Life. This plan, as a result of its design, provide… Death and Disability ben… to employees, in ma… in excess of ben… … ma…

… mak… retrospec… ctive date of … ment as appro… or the award under … the employer is making contributions. (Effective dates of commencement are - Federal Pastoral Industry Award - 5th December 1988, state Pastoral Industry Award - 29th May 1989, and The Woolclassers and Shearing Staff Employees Award - 6th February 1989.)

Terry pointed out the current industrial agenda recognises the importance of the Occupational Superannuation component and despite the ongoing manoevering to retai… initiative, in this … een the Con… Australian In… one hand, … the other, … e deve… on the … se in … ntri… ss …

… the … pational … component … egral part of a … ent and incomes … cy designed to extricate the Federal Government from the funding dilemma which the maintainance of the current levels of the old age pension would incur into the 21st century.

Finally, Terry pointed to the retrospective nature of contributions and stressed the need for non complying employers to rectify their illegal status as soon as possible and avoid the further accrual of a lump sum contribution backdated to the introduction of Occupational Superannuation as appropriate to the award to which they respond.

In the November/December issue of the Journal this article appeared. Reference was made to the existence of a 10 hours mandatory minimum period of continuous employment prior to employees becoming eligible for Occupational Superannuation contributions under Pastoral Awards. This requirement was withdrawn in 1989 and no minimum period of employment is currently applicable under both State and Federal Pastoral Awards.

IN LIFE'S GARDEN

Count your garden by the flowers.

Never by the leaves that fall.

Count your days by golden hours.

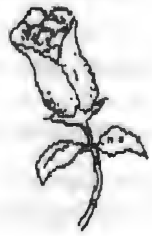
Don't remember clouds at all.

Counts your nights by stars not shadows.

Count your life by smiles not tears.

And with joy
through all your
lifetime.

Count your age
by friends not
years.



NEW STAFF TO HELP MANAGE DAIRY RESEARCH

Two senior research managers, Dr. John Craven and Dr. Joe Sullivan, have been appointed to the Dairy Research and Development Corporation (DRDC) to head up DRDC's management of farm and manufacturing research in the Australian dairy industry.

Before joining DRDC in December 1990, Dr. John Craven was acting Director of the Science Unit at the Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (DARA) in Melbourne. The unit provided support and policy analysis for DARA. Before that, Dr. Craven was Regional Manager for the inner Melbourne region, and prior to that, Director of the Veterinary Research Institute at Attwood.

Dr. Craven is a Veterinary Science graduate from the University of Sydney. He did further studies at the University of Melbourne and his Doctor of Philosophy at Guelph University, Ontario, Canada.

He has extensive research and research management experience, including being a member of the Chicken Meat R & D Council.

Dr. Joe Sullivan was Chief Analyst, Industries with DARA, having joined DARA in 1988 as Principal Analyst, Dairy products. Before that, Dr. Sullivan had almost 14 years with the Commonwealth Department of Primary Industries (and Energy), where his role ranged from director of the Victorian region, industry policy, and supervising the inspection of exported dairy products. He also had extensive involvement in appraising manufacturing research projects applications for a fore-runner of the DRDC, the Dairy Research committee.

Dr. Sullivan studied at the University of Melbourne, and has a degree in Agricultural Science, a PhD and a Master of Business Administration.

The Managing Director of DRDC, Dr. Paul Donnelly, said the appointment of Dr. Craven and Dr. Sullivan brings considerable depth and breadth of research and management expertise to the dairy industry, and this increased input to the management of dairy research will have a major effect on the efficiency and quality of research for the benefit of everyone in the dairy industry.

ESSAY COMPETITION

"DAIRYING TOWARDS 2000 - The Competitive Challenge"

Interested persons are invited to enter the Essay Competition which is being run in conjunction with the Fresh Directions Dairy Convention on the Queensland Gold Coast in July, 1991.

TOPIC **"Dairying Towards 2000 - the Competitive Challenge"**

PRIZES **1st** **Personal Computer and accessories to the value of $2,500**

2nd **$500.00**

3rd **$300.00**

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

* 25 years old or younger as at 1.7.91

* Employed in the dairy industry or actively associated with the dairy industry - ie dairyfarmers, sharefarmers or their family members, vendors, factory employees, etc.

* Government Department and Dairy Authority/Corporation employees are excluded from entry.

* Employees of organisations associated with the running of Fresh Directions 1991 are excluded from entry.

* Judges have the right to exclude entrants. Their decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.

* Essay to be a maximum length of 1500 words, typed and double spaced.

* Essays to be accompanied with advice giving authors date of birth and association with the industry.

CLOSING DATE **30.04.91**

Essays to be forwarded to **Fresh Directions Competitions Co-Ordinator**
P.O. Box 54
KYOGLE 2474

For further information contact Col Griffiths
Fresh Directions Competitions Co-Ordinator
P.O. Box 54
KYOGLE 2474
Phone (066) 321 900 Fax (066) 321 960

Dairy Convention '91 July 9 - July 12, 1991
Conrad International Hotel, Gold Coast. Australia

DAIRY FARM SURVEY 1986-88

A dairy farm survey was conducted during 1986-88, collecting financial and physical data for the years ending 30th June 1986, 87 and 88. The sample used represents a 10% random, cross section of all dairyfarms.

A summary of selected information is presented for each of the major dairying areas in the state. Figures for 1985-86, 1987-88 and the percentage change between the two years are included for selected parameters in each district.

While the results represent a cross section of dairying in SA, their interpretation needs caution especially when comparing them between districts. Districts should not be compared because of seasonal variation, additional farming interests and high land values in some areas.

MID NORTH	1985-86	1987-88	% Change **
Cows milked	50	67	+ 25
Litres milk/cow	3 303	3 804	+ 15
Total dairy income ($)	46 017	65 469	+ 42
Total farm income ($)	72 859	94 897	+ 30
*Total Dairy operating ($)	35 693	45 880	+ 29
+Total farm operating ($)	67 331	74 009	+ 10
Net dairy income ($)	10 324	19 589	+ 90
Net farm income ($)	5 528	20 888	+278

CENTRAL HILLS	1985-86	1987-88	% Change **
Cows milked	70	70	0
Litres milk/cow	3 766	3 998	+ 6
Total dairy income ($)	64 671	70 784	+ 9
Total farm income ($)	87 732	100 107	+ 14
*Total Dairy operating ($)	40 343	45 593	+ 13
+Total farm operating ($)	69 565	97 565	+ 40
Net dairy income ($)	24 328	25 191	+ 4
Net farm income ($)	18 167	2 542	- 86

SOUTHERN HILLS	1985-86	1987-88	% Change **
Cows milked	80	106	+ 25
Litres milk/cow	4 003	3 864	- 3
Total dairy income ($)	78 205	105 966	+ 35
Total farm income ($)	86 408	113 988	+ 32
*Total Dairy operating ($)	40 913	57 515	+ 41
+Total farm operating ($)	75 767	108 434	+ 43
Net dairy income ($)	37 292	48 451	+ 29
Net farm income ($)	10 641	5 554	- 48

MURRAY SWAMPS AND LAKES	1985-86	1987-88	% Change **
Cows milked	98	91	- 7
Litres milk/cow	4 282	4 312	+ 1
Total dairy income ($)	91 314	96 268	+ 5
Total farm income ($)	108 542	110 586	+ 2
*Total Dairy operating ($)	46 767	57 999	+ 24
+Total farm operating($)	91 172	99 059	+ 7
Net dairy income	44 547	38 369	- 14
Net farm income ($)	17 370	11 527	- 33

SOUTH EAST	1985-86	1987-88	% Change **
Cows milk	85	96	+ 13
Litres milk/cow	4 001	3 765	- 6
Total dairy income ($)	66 937	79 782	+ 19
Total farm income ($)	87 109	99 954	+ 15
*Total Dairy operating ($)	43 054	44 194	+ 3
+Total farm operating ($)	75 053	85 638	+ 14
Net dairy income ($)	23 883	35 588	+ 49
Net farm income ($)	12 056	14 316	+ 19

* Total dairy operating includes only feed, herd and shed costs.

\+ Total farm operating includes all other dairy costs including repayments as well as all other farm industry costs.

** % change = % change between year 1985-86 and year 1987-88, will be seasonally dependent.

(ADVERTISEMENT)

PIEDMONTESE WILL EXPAND IN AUSTRALIA

Piedmontese cattle, the Italian breed which has become firmly established in many other countries, are about to become more widely available in Australia.

Adelaide-based genetic importer Studmasters Australia Pty Ltd, Blackwood, has acquired semen and embryos which are now available.

The first example of the breed to arrive in Australia, the bull MP Merlin 9W, is jointly owned by Studmasters and Stampede Stock Farms Ltd, Canada.

Tas McEwin, a director of Studmasters, said there had been tremendous worldwide demand for genetics of the breed as it had become recognized as an ideal terminal sire for dairy females. "They are regarded as the easiest calving of the double muscled breeds and the calves are long and slim at birth, growing into their muscling at about three months of age," he said.

The Piedmontese bull MP Merlin 9W

Despite their dense white coat of hair, Piedmontese cattle have black skin pigmentation, which protects them from cancer and other skin problems.

The breed was formed when Zebu cattle (Bos indicus) migrated west from Pakistan and crossed with the native Auroch species, creating the very individual piedmontese.

Mr. McEwin can be contacted by phoning (08) 370 2726.

TOWARDS AUTOMATED MILKING

Fully automatic milking parlours are coming closer to reality.

Researchers at AFRC Engineering in Bedfordshire in the United Kingdom have developed a second working prototype, which could be on sale within five years.

Robotic milking has been under consideration for some time. However, with animal welfare becoming of greater public concern, the project is set to assume greater prominence. A completely automated system including automatic feed-to-yield feeders will give cows the freedom to be milked in their own time rather than that dictated by the dairyman's schedule.

Researchers say the cow's ability to milk itself as many as five times a day could increase yields by up to 15%. So far, a system to put the teat clusters on the cow has defeated engineers, though plenty of units have automatic cluster removal.

The latest development is a new robotic arm that senses the teat position using light beams. As the teat breaks the horizontal and vertical beams, the pneumatically controlled arm moves the cup over the teat. The teat positions are then stored in the machine's microprocessor memory.

The development of new teat cups to reduce the spread of disease is also being studied. Researchers are developing a cup that will not harm the teat's natural defences.

One of the main causes of disease, particularly mastitis, is air trapped in the milking system. A new claw, sold by Ambic and called the Hydraflow, counters this danger by removing air from the system.

One-way valves in the clusters stop milk flowing from one quarter to another, preventing cross-infection.

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FRESH DIRECTIONS >
JULY 1991

Due to the lack of response to the proposed bus trip to Fresh Directions SADA will now organize flights and accommodation for those intending to go.

We suggest that people wanting to attend, send their registration directly to the Fresh Directions people, advise SADA that you are going and then we can allocate accommodation we have already booked.

SADA can organize flights to suite individual requirements.

Costs:	Accommodation	$35 per couple per night
	Airfare	$445 per person return (maximum discount)
	Conference Registration	$349

Please telephone SADA if you are intending to attend so that we can co-ordinate a South Australian attack on Fresh Directions.

MIGHTY MILKERS

When his neighbour's Friesian bull "accidentally" mated with one of his pedigree Jersey cows, Robin Dean did not know what to expect.

The resulting crossbred heifer calf has encouraged this British Jersey cattle breeder to exploit the hybrid potential by embarking on a trial using Holstein and Friesian bulls on his 100 Channel Island cows.

Mr. Dean, of Keyfold Farm, Broughton, Preston, in Lancashire, northern England, remains loyal to Jerseys, but believes the crossbred cattle could prove to be hard-wearing commercial cows, combining the attributes of milk quality and conformation inherent in the two breeds.

His first black-and-white "Jersian", born in 1979, is now in its tenth lactation, giving up to 7790 litres (1714 gallons) of milk at 4.89% butterfat and 3.72% protein. So Mr. Dean decided, in 1987, to inseminate a random selection of his herd with semen from black-and-white sires. Heifers from the first eight cows, originally intended for sale, were retained in his milking herd to obtain more detailed production figures.

They were remarkably consistent as first calvers, having excellent fats and proteins, says Mr. Dean. The heifers calved for the second time last summer, but he does not consider they should be used for providing herd replacements at this stage.

The crossbred Jersey females are mainly black and are proving to be hardy, with trouble-free, dark-horned hooves. Jersians bred in England some years ago were by Jersey bulls out of black-and-white cows - an experiment based on feeding large amounts of concentrates.

"It never really worked, but out crossing programme is aimed at producing a commercial cow that can produce quality milk," he says.

Mr. Dean hopes his crossbreds will lift yields from the present average of 5000 litres (1100 gallons) from the Jerseys, to 6000 litres (1320 gallons) from the crossbreds, without sacrificing quality.

"Future crossing sires will be high fat, high protein proven Friesians. If we can get animals with good conformation that will wear well, we are prepared to use bulls with minus figures, relying on hybrid vigour to maintain good production," he adds.

REMEMBER WHEN ?

IN 1971

The January-February edition of the Journal had much of its space devoted to

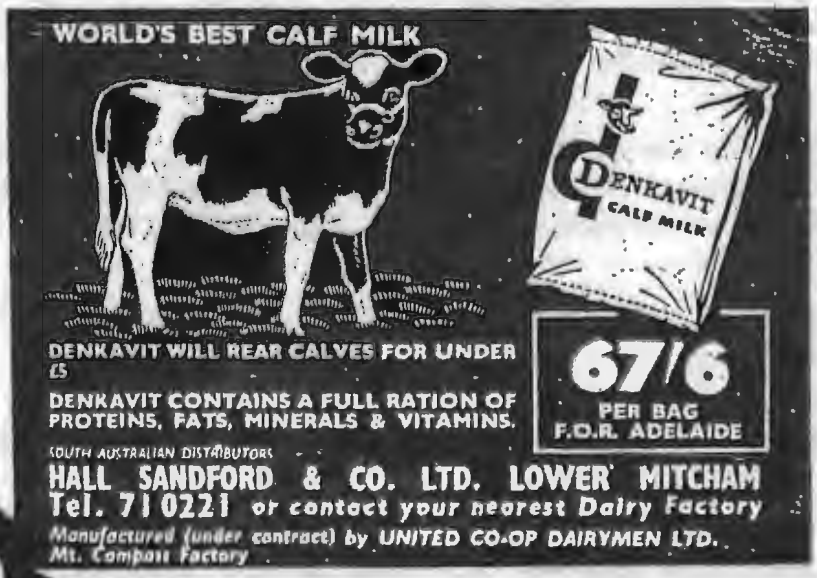
"The ADIC proposal for A Long-Term Plan For The Australian Dairy Industry"

The ADIC has just run a workshop in Ballarat on the same topic - I guess the question is how long is Long-Term?

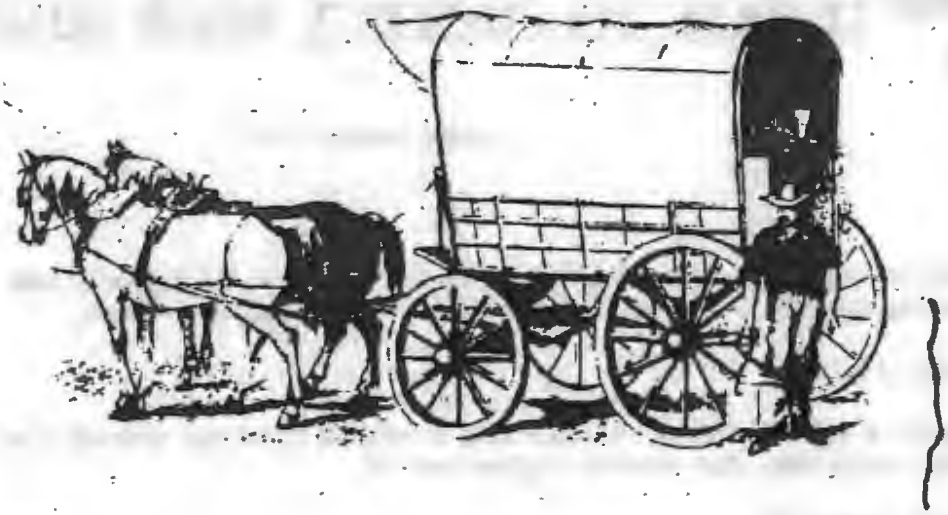
Another interesting topic in the 1971 January-February edition was what would happen if the UK entered the EEC.

We all know what happened. The news in 1991 is that there is a swag of countries lined up to join the EC. In November 1990 the list was Austria, Turkey, Cyprus, Malta, Sweden, Norway and Finland. When Eastern Europe joins in I would predict CAP will still be alive and well while Australian farmers struggle in the face of EC subsidies.

Perhaps Australia should apply for membership and then we could share in the subsidy scheme.



South Australian Dairymen's Journal, January-February 1963



IN 1941

The Minutes of a special SADA convened conference attended by Wholesale Milk Buyers Association and the Co-operative FActories held in the Oriental Hotel on 11 February 1941 recorded -

> "There seems to be only one way of satisfying the milk market and that is by equalisation."

By February 25 Equalization was born and orderly marketing stability and fair prices to all pervaded.

The SADA, Wholesale and Co-op Factories had a group of pretty wise heads who could obviously work efficiently and effectively. I wonder if our industry is any more complex in 1991 than it was in 1941? It must be given the time it takes to review what took 3 weeks to draw up in 1941.

AND IN 1841

It is interesting to note that the South Australian dairy cow population in 1891 was 80,000.

The ADIC Dairy Compendium gives a provisional total for 1990 of 86,000.

The question is whether the South Australian industry can do a Centenary-Test-trick and end up with exactly the same score after a century gap.

Any Crystal ball gazers out there?

IT PAYS TO PROTECT YOUR MILKFAT

(Article number 1 of 2)

Traditional causes of milk spoilage have largely been overcome, but damage to milk fat, lipolysis, has been neglected and is now a major factor limiting the keeping quality of milk.

WHAT IS IT

Lipolysis is the breakdown of fat into simpler compounds called fatty acids which have unpleasant tastes, ranging from slight staleness to gross rancidity.

WHAT CAUSES IT

Lipolysis occurs when milk fat is exposed to the action of a lipase enzyme (fat splitting enzyme) or oxygen. The fat in milk is present as very small globules, each enclosed by a fat globule membrane. These membranes protect the fat from lipase and oxygen, so the basis of prevention is to keep fat globule membranes intact.

THREE TYPES OF LIPOLYSIS

Induced lipolysis occurs when the fat globule membranes are damaged by physical forces. In the dairy the only force likely to cause damage occurs when the milk is aerated and agitated. Frothing of milk at any stage means that lipolysis has been initiated. Warm milk is most susceptible.

Spontaneous lipolysis is not fully understood, but can be considered cow related. It occurs when the fat globule membranes are not fully capable of protecting the fat from lipase. Known causes include inadequate feeding, ill health and late lactation milk.

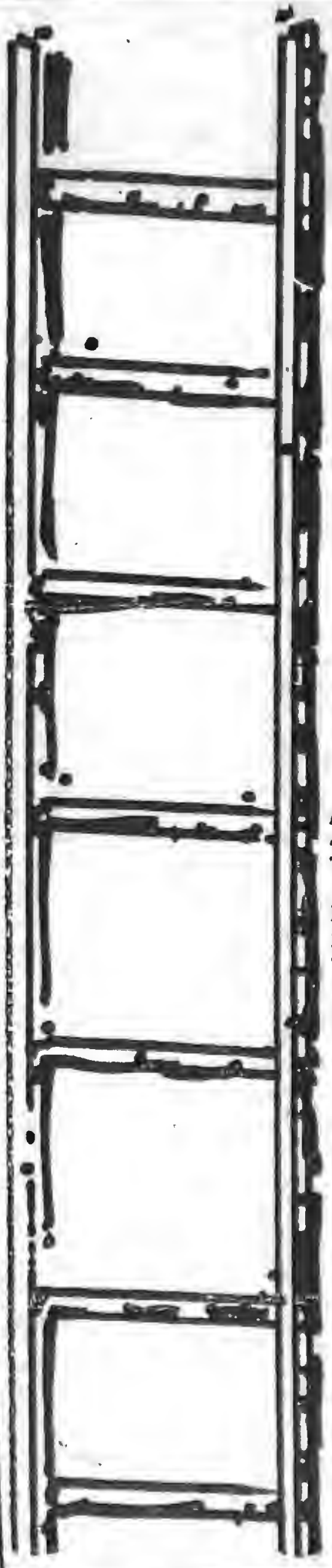
Microbial lipolysis occurs when certain types of bacteria are present in the milk. These produce their own lipases, which are capable of penetrating normal fat globule membranes. Some of these lipases also survive pasteurisation and can continue to cause trouble during storage and distribution of produce. The offending bacteria are capable of growth under refrigeration, so it is extremely important to maintain excellent hygiene in order to keep them out of the milk.

WHAT TO DO

1. Maintain or improve hygiene to keep total plate count test results well below the 50,000 limit.
2. Minimise frothing of milk by reducing air intake during milking and not agitating it too violently in the vat.
3. Dry off cows which are late in lactation and producing very small amounts of milk.

Article 2 will discuss further recommendations to assist in the identification and elimination of sources of lipolysis problems on the farm.

Jim Marshall



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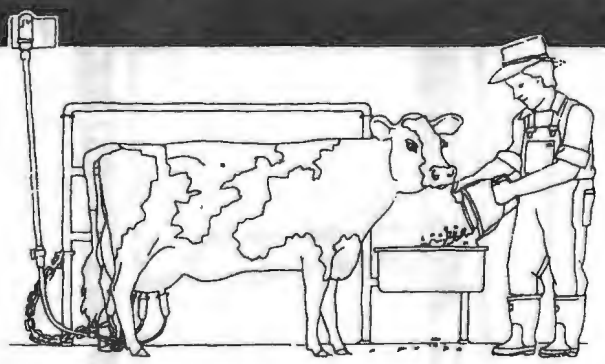
Dairy Farming the Canadian Way

Canadians may be on the other side of the world, but their experience, knowledge and techniques are not that far away from our own.



BEST BETS FOR TOP MCP RETURNS

Feeding and Breeding strategies have been devised to maximize profitability for Ontario milk producers when Multiuple Component Pricing (MCP) is implementted.

When multiple component pricing (MCP) begins in August 1991, Ontario's milk producers will earn the best returns from optimum total yield of both butterfat and protein.

This consensus emerged from the recent Ontario Dairy Producer Organizations' Conference in Toronto. Top experts, along with representatives of producer groups, mapped out feeding and breeding strategies producers can use to maximize profitability under MCP.

The Ontario Milk Marketing Board (OMMB) has decided to implement MCP for several reasons. They include improving fairness among producers, and between producers and processors.

MCP will also increase the industry's ability to influence milk composition through pricing based on all of milk's valuable constituents. Prices will signal producers to alter composition to reflect changing demand for milk and dairy products.

As well, MCP takes the "administrative emphasis" off butterfat. There is no question that Ontario's current high butterfat test is largely a response to the combination of a high butterfat differential, and a quota system that, until the current dairy year, was based on volume.

These two elements were the "administrative" reasons for high butterfat tests. The Board wanted to remove those incentives. It took the first step last August when it issued market sharing quota (MSQ) in kilograms of butterfat. The second step is implementing MCP on August 1, 1991 when the new dairy year begins.

Removing those incentives, however, is far different from saying butterfat is no longer important, or that butterfat tests will or should go down under MCP. Component pricing will reward producers mostly for solids in their milk - butterfat, protein and other solids - in direct proportion to their individual raw milk composition.

Producers need to know the feeding and breeding strategies that will reward them best under the new pricing and quota schemes. As those strategies were developed during the conference, several key points were addressed. They include:

- Butterfat's continuing important role;
- Total component yield versus component percentages;
- A new sire selection index;
- Milk recording's importance;
- No major changes in feeding;
- Protein's role in rations;
- Added fat's role in rations.

Butterfat's Role

A strong misconception about butterfat has arisen. Many producers have come to believe - quite wrongly - that it is no longer important,

and that they should concentrate only on protein production. Yet the Canadian industry produces a surplus of protein at present, 22,000 tonnes of it exported yearly in skim milk powder.

As long as the national supply management plan is balanced on butterfat, Canada has "no" butterfat surplus. Current projections indicate that it is in the dairy industry's best interest to balance on butterfat for some time to come.

It is not expected that butterfat and solids-not-fat (SNF) will be in balance until the latter half of the decade. After that point, the system may be balanced on 'SNF or protein, but butterfat will still be an important component in certain dairy products.

Milk should be produced in the most efficient way possible to satisfy demands for fat and protein, while minimizing surpluses of either one. Simply reducing the raw milk supply's butterfat content would be counterproductive.

Total Component Yield

Producers have long measured production success by the milk yield and butterfat test of a particular cow, or entire herds. They have tended to concentrate on percentages of fat and protein in the milk. Under MCP however, total yield of these components becomes most important. This example, worked out by Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food dairy specialist Jack Rodenburg, illustrates the point.

Cow A produces 25 kg or milk per day at 4.0 per cent fat and 3.6 per cent protein. Her total yield is 1 kg fat and 0.9 kg protein.

Cow B produces 30 kg of milk per day at 3.3 per cent fat and 3.0 per cent protein. Her total yield is 1 kg fat and 0.9 kg protein.

Since their total yields are the same, the gross returns from the two cows is about equal. The challenge for producers is to determine which cow will be more profitable after calculating various input costs.

Producers can expect to hear extension specialists and others talking more about total yield, and less about percentages.

Sire Selection

For now, producers should put almost equal emphasis on fat and protein yield in sire selection. A sire selection production index of zero for milk volume, plus 5 for butterfat and plus 6 for protein was endorsed by conference participants.

Producers should understand that there is a strong genetic correlation between yield of butterfat, protein and milk volume. Although this index assigns a zero value to milk volume, it should still increase, only a bit more slowly, as genetic progress is made towards improved protein and butterfat yield.

In the longer term, as more weighting is put on protein, the protein-butterfat ratio should increase in the cow population. In the short term, this index will re-rank some sires, identifying the bulls most desirable under MCP.

The Genetic Evaluation Board, a national advisory group representing the dairy cattle breeding industry, is developing an "expected lifetime profit index". It would use the new production index, along with appropriate weightings on key conformation traits. It is anticipated this new lifetime profit index will be used to rank bulls for the next round of sire proofs to be released in January 1991.

Milk Recording

Under MCP, milk recording will be more important than ever. Ontario DHI already has been running a pilot project to measure productivity and profitability of individual cows. It could prove a valuable tool when producers make culling decisions.

Cows with high yields of butterfat and protein will be most profitable to the herd, regardless of milk volume or composition.

Balanced Rations

There are no "Magic Bullets" that will increase MCP profitability when it comes to feeding cows. Producers should be wary of any claims to the contrary. No major changes are recommended to currently proven practices. The new pricing system will make the need for feeding balanced rations paramount to achieving optimum component yields. Good feeding management should balance the cow's protein and energy needs.

Producers should also pay attention to forage quality and intake, and the type of protein fed. There is research to suggest that animal-derived protein sources, such a fish and blood meal, have a role to play in high-producing, early lactation cows.

Feeding Extra Protein

Adding extra protein to rations, beyond a cow's nutritional and production requirements, offers no benefits and simply increases feed costs.

When a cow is fed too much protein, she eliminates excess nutrient as waste. Ration balancing should ensure she gets the right amounts of the right kinds of protein that will feed both the cow and her rumen bacteria.

Added Fat

Producers have been using added fat, such as that found in full-fat roasted soybeans, in early lactation for high-producing cows. This practice gives such animals extra energy during this period of high milk production.

Under MCP, added fat's role in early lactation may have to be re-evaluated in economic terms. For reasons that are not completely clear, high-fat diets do not improve protein yield.

Extracted from the Ontario Milk Producer.

Written by Bill Dimmick - Editor of Ontario Milk Producer, Peter Gould - OMMB Economist and Wes Lane - OMMB Director of Planning.

Dairy Farming the Canadian Way

Udder Health

USE MILK QUALITY MONITORS TO YOUR ADVANTAGE

Producers have several ways to keep tabs on somatic cell and plate loop counts to ensure that they ship high quality milk

With milk producers having to become more efficient, and consumers more aware of milk quality, several methods of monitoring somatic cell counts (SCCs) and plate loop counts (PLCs) become more important.

There are six different quality monitors now used on dairy farms.

- Bulk tank SCCs;
- Milk sampling for infection identification;
- Ontario DHI individual SCCs;
- California Mastitis Test (CMT);
- Records-physical changes in milk appearance;
- Bulk tank PLCs

Ontario Milk Marketing Board (OMMB) udder health specialists suggest to producers that you should take note of how to use all these monitors to your advantage.

Bulk Tank SCCs

As SCC of more than 150,000 to 200,000 cells per ml indicates a degree of infection in the herd. Bacteria have invaded udders because of milking machine mechanisms, cow preparation practices or the environmental weaknesses.

All three areas work together to help infection invade the udder and, possibly, the mammary tissue. On most udder health program calls,

Board udder health specialists usually have to customize procedures in all three of these areas to suit the individual operation.

Milk Sampling For Infection Identification

The majority of the sampling done through our program indicates two main groups of infections, contagious and environmental. The main contagious pathogens cultured are staphylococcus aureas and streptococcus agalactiae, while streptococcus non agalactiae and the coliform group are the most commonly found environmental infection bacteria.

Milk sampling will prove useful if you are trying to correct an udder health problem. It should be done with your local veterinary clinic and regional veterinary laboratory.

Ontario DHI Individual SCCs

This is an optional service offered to all Ontario milk producers. Contact you regional supervisor for details. Done on an individual cow basis, this test indicates cows with elevated SCCs, those that should be cultured, and which animals to milk last. The test also helps you make culling decisions.

Individual SCCs should be discussed with your veterinarian and your Board udder health specialist. When we see a specific SCC trend, it can help distinguish whether the problem is an environmental or contagious group infection. This tool will prove helpful to keep your SCC under control.

California Mastitis Test

This is the simple cowside test available on the farm. Used for many years, it determines potential problem quarters. It distinguishes which cows have high SCCs on that particular test, but does not show any trends or specific levels.

Records-Physical Changes in Milk Appearance

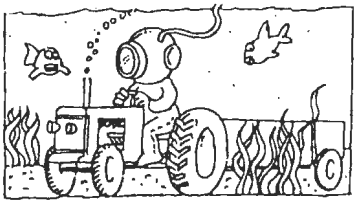
As quality standards become more stringent in the future, you will need additional records on cows giving milk with visual abnormalities, and frequency of these occurrences. Records will also be needed for associated disorders in your herd, such as cows with elevated body temperatures and animals going off feed.

Bulk Tank PLCs

Bacteria counts above 10,000 bacteria per ml usually indicate a problem with milking equipment cleaning, milk cooling or both. If you see elevated PLCs, have your equipment dealer check your bulk tank cooling capacity and the "cleanability" of the milking system. Such items as solution turbulence, chemical use, and water temperature, hardness and volume will be checked.

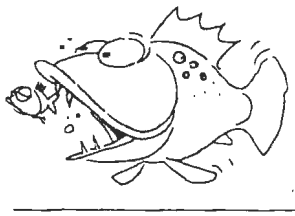
Extracted from Ontario Milk Producer

Written by Paul Prokop, OMMB Udder Health Specialist.



THE FUNNY FARM

A FISH CALLED PIRANHA



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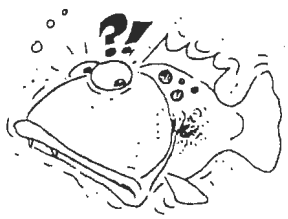

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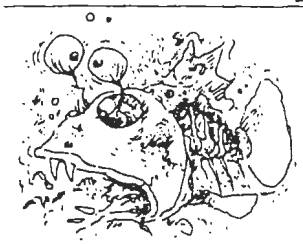

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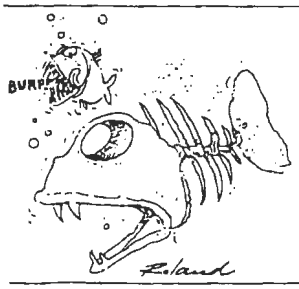

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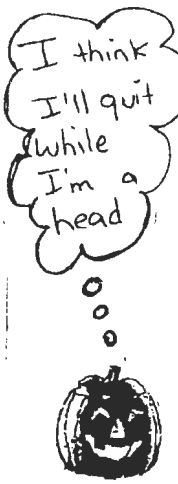
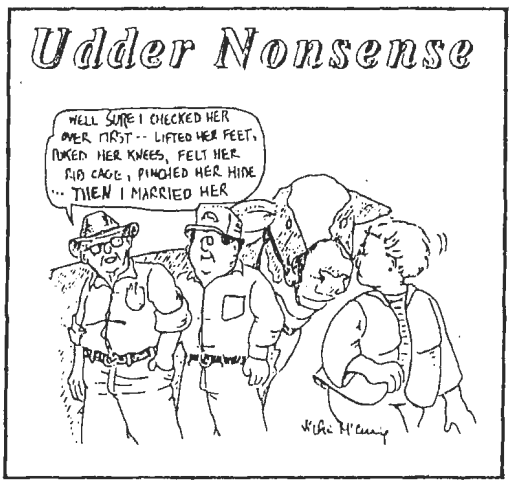


A dairyfarmer went into a pub in southern Queensland and was amazed to see a poker game in progress with a dog as one of the players. As he stood there dumbfounded the dog drew two cards and took the pot with a full house.

"This is unbelievable", cried the dairyfarmer. "I'll bet there's nothing like him anywhere in the world."

"Oh he's not that good," said one of the other players. "Every time he gets a half decent hand he starts wagging his tail."



Subtle

Axel: "I think my wife is trying to tell me something."
Alex: "Why, What's she doing?"
Axel: "She always wraps my lunch in a road map."

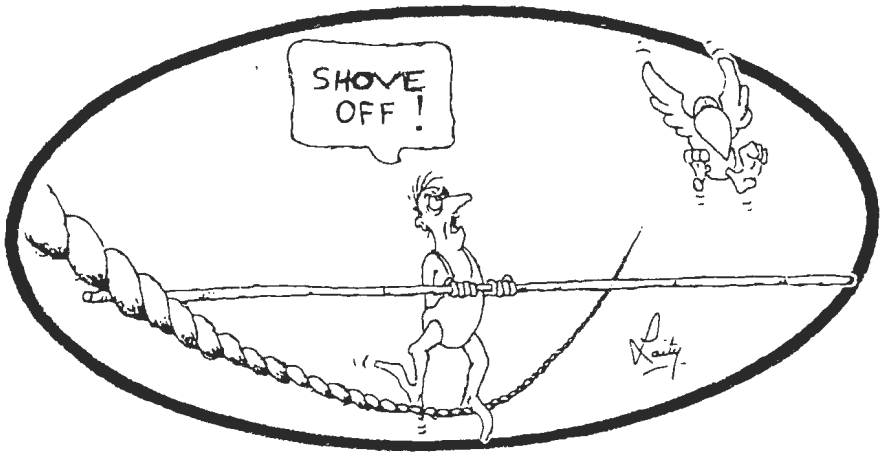
If you think grey hair is bad .... Ask a bald man!

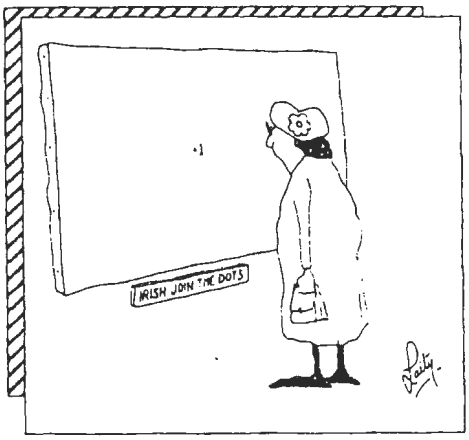
Career

Fred: "That kid of yours will make a great politician."

Ned: "Why do you say that?"

Fred: "Because he can say more things that sound good and don't mean anything than anybody I ever knew."





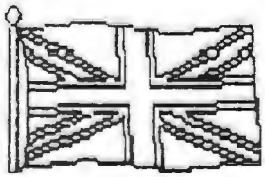
FROM USA

ALFALFA MAY NOT BE THE IDEAL FEED WE ONCE THOUGHT

Research carried out at the USDA Dairy Forage Research Centre, Madison, Wisconsin, suggests that alfalfa may not be as good a protein source for high-producing dairy cows as was once thought. The protein in alfalfa is easily degraded in the rumen, and any which is not absorbed by bacteria is converted to ammonia and eventually eliminated as urea in the urine. High producing cows also need more protein than rumen bacteria can produce, and appear to need bypass protein, which gets out of the rumen intact and is digested and absorbed in the intestine. Possible ways of improving the bypass quality of alfalfa and the use of roasted soybeans as a bypass protein source are being looked into.

MORE HOT WATER AT LESS COST

A pilot study is being run in Vermont, USA, to try to reduce the costs of heating water in dairy sheds by using heat reclaimers. These use the heat produced by the bulk tank compressor to heat cold water before it enters the electric hot water heater. The reclaimer manages to heat water to 120-130 F, leaving only another 10 or 20 F rise to be achieved by the electric hot water heater. A farm where the system is in use shows such benefits as faster milk cooling due to the lowered temperature of the freon in the compressor, shorter compressor running times and reduced electricity bills.



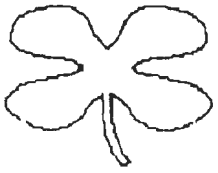
FROM BRITAIN

COMPUTER MEASURING AND CALCULATING PERFORMANCE OF COWS

A computerised data recording system for use in an experimental dairy parlour has been developed and tested. This allows automatic evaluation of yield, flow rate, milking time and activation of cluster removal for either the whole udder or for each quarter individually.

BLACK BOX DETECTION

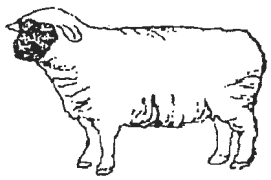
A British firm, Action Plan Ltd, has designed a device to detect subclinical mastitis before a clinical infection sets in. The Black Box is placed in the milkline between cluster and jar, and monitors the electrical conductivity of milk as it leaves the cow. An abnormal rise in conductivity will trigger a light and buzzer to attract the farmer's attention. The device retails at 99 pounds UK per milking point, and installation should require only 2-3 hours per milking parlour.



FROM IRELAND

USE DRY PERIODS TO REDUCE SCCs

Reductions in somatic cells levels in milk can take a long period of time to achieve. It requires attention to milking equipment, identification of high cell count carriers and chronic carriers, and the treatment of clinical and subclinical offenders with selected antibiotics. Research has indicated that antibiotic treatment in the dry period provides the most effective method of curing subclinical mastitis and that dry cow therapy is most advantageous although it has its limits.



FROM N EW ZEALAND

MILK FAT DEPRESSION: ROLE OF PARTICLE SIZE OF ALFALFA HAY

Research with alfalfa silage suggests that reduced particle size could induce low milk fat syndromes in dairy cows. A study in this examined the effect of particle size of hay on chewing activity; rumen, blood and adipose metabolites; and milk fat secretion. It was found that cows consuming finely ground alfalfa hay as the sole forage in the ration had similar elevated ruminal propionate, plasma glucose, and serum insulin levels. These results support the glucogenic theory for explaining milk fat depression in dairy cows consuming equal and adequate levels of forage fibre reduced in particle size.

MILK FAT DEPRESSION: ROLE OF SILAGE PARTICLE SIZE

The effect of particle size of alfalfa silage on lactating cow metabolism was investigated with reference to milk fat depression. Eighteen cows in a crossover trial were fed rations in which alfalfa silage was ground to either 2.0, 2.6 or 3.1 mm and given as 55% of dietary DM. Ruminal pH and acetate: propionate ratios decreased with decreasing particle size, while plasma glucose and serum insulin increased as particle size decreased. Results indicated that reduced size of silage particles altered chewing behaviour, ruminal fermentation, glucose metabolism, and decreased milk fat secretion.

SIMPLE HAND SYSTEM MONITORS REPRODUCTIVE PERFORMANCE

Essential information needed to produce reproductive performance measures for dairy cows are calving dates, breeding dates, pregnancy exam results, diagnosis and treatment of reproductive problems and information about reasons for culling. The process can be simplified by using a simple wheel device known as a gestation and interval calculator. Using this and a cow record chart, it is possible to calculate readily the calving to first service interval, calving to pregnancy interval, interbreeding interval, and pregnancy rate. The wheel can also be used to keep a running record of conception rate in the herd.

WATCH THOSE MAGNESIUM LEVELS

Low magnesium levels in dairy cows can cause staggers and can also alter the availability of calcium in the cow's body resulting in milk fever. Correct dosage rates are therefore important, the minimum recommended rate being 10 gms per cow per day. It is important to check dosage and the amount of magnesium the animal is getting per drench.

Minimum Farm Dairy Requirements Set for Producing Milk in New Zealand

Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF)

The dairy industry and MAF have agreed on the draft code of practice for farm dairies, and farmers should soon receive copies of the new code of minimum requirements for quality milk production.

The code includes dairy shed hygiene, farm dairy construction and maintenance, milking plant, stock health, poisons, cleaning, milk contamination and milk disposal information. It concludes a monthly checklist for dairy farmers to record the regular steps they take to maintain milk quality.

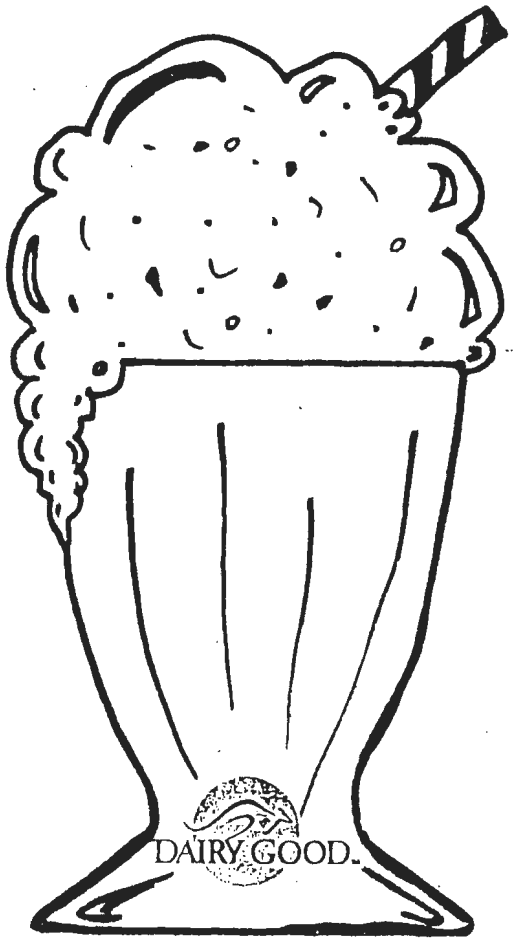
It is noted that some dairy companies may decide to impose extra or higher standards on their suppliers, as in the case of hyper-immune and organic milk, but the code gives minimum standards on which all dairy companies will be assessed.

DOCK AS FACTOR AGAINST BLOATING RESEARCHED

DSIR researchers Garry Waghorn and Bill Jones suggest that dock may have a beneficial role in dairy pastures. The plants are a source of condensed tannins (CT), which protect proteins from rumen breakdown and allow more protein to reach the small intestine. Results from a recent feeding trial conclude that dock will be accepted by cattle at levels of 10% in pasture. The lower digestibility of the plant may be offset by the bloat protection conferred, and the protection of plant proteins from ruminal degradation.

COSTLY MILKING MISTAKES

Milking machine servicemen have found that about 80% of milking machines have one or more faults, mostly caused by lack of maintenance or incorrect use of liners and rubberware. Pulsation rates over 75/min tend to increase mastitis, while those below 40/min cause cow discomfort. Many machine faults can lead to teat damage, and losses in production, so it is important that regular checks should be done and the correct type of teatcup liner should be used.



HOW TO MAKE A MILK SHAKE

Well.... quantities of flavouring, ice cream and so forth can be critical to the production of a good drink.

A milk shake should consist of -

* Flavouring - 55 ml
* Milk - 300 ml
* Ice Cream - 1 No. 24 scoop (spring scoop) or
* Ice Cream - No. 16 (roll scoop)

A malted milk drink is the same as the above with the addition of a tablespoon of malted milk powder.

The secret of a good milk drink is to make sure the ingredients are of good quality and are not skimped.

First put the flavouring in the container then add the milk then the ice cream. Never add the flavouring to the milk, always the milk to the flavouring. Remember too that syrups, rather than cordials, make the best flavouring.

Most people like a fluffy milk shake so use cold (very cold) milk and a fast mixer - or - if using a shaker make sure you give it a real good shake.

In years gone by a slight variation was sometimes made to a milk shake or a malted milk by the addition of soda water. A small amount tends to take away the heavy cloying texture which is sometimes encountered.

We wonder whether you have a favourite milk shake recipe that you would like to share. If so, send it in to us and we will print it so that everybody can enjoy it.

FROM THE DAIRY.....TO THE TABLE

HOT SPINACH CHEESECAKE

Cheesecake is best made on day of serving. It can be eaten warm or at room temperature. This recipe is not suitable to freeze or microwave.

Base: 60g butter, melted 1 cup finely crushed cheese biscuit crumbs 1/4 cup grated parmesan cheese

Spinach Filling: 2 bunches spinach 3 bacon rashers, chopped 1 medium onion, chopped 250g packet cream cheese 125g feta cheese 300g carton sour cream 4 eggs, lightly beaten

Method: Combine butter and biscuits in small bowl, press evenly over base of greased 20cm springform tin, refrigerate 30 minutes.

Pour filling over base, stand on oven tray, bake in moderately slow oven for about 11/4 hours or until golden brown and set. Sprinkle with parmesan cheese, stand 10 minutes before cutting.

Spinach Filling: Boil steam or microwave spinach until just tender, drain. Press excess liquid from spinach, chop spinach roughly. Cook bacon and onion in small frying pan, stir over medium heat until onion is soft. Beat cheeses in small bowl with elctric mixer until smooth. Add sour cream and eggs, beat until combined. Transfer to large bowl, stir in spinach and bacon mixture.

CREAMY PASTA WITH SPINACH AND BACON

We used fresh green and white tagliatelle in this recipe; prepare recipe just before serving. Recipe not suitable to freeze or microwave.

200g fresh white pasta 200g fresh green pasta 4 bacon rashers, chopped 2 cloves garlic, crushed 6 large spinach (silverbeet) leaves, chopped 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg 1/2 cup cream 1/4 cup grated fresh parmesan cheese

Add pasta gradually to large saucepan of boiling water, boil, uncovered, until just tender; drain. Add bacon and garlic to large saucepan, cook over high heat until bacon is crisp. Stir in spinach, cook, covered, over high heat for about 2 minutes or until spinach is just wilted. Reduce heat, stir in nutmeg and cream, then pasta. Serve sprinkled with cheese. Serves 6.

CRUSTY BAKED SMOKED SALMON PUFF

Serve puff as soon as it is cooked; it will deflate on standing. Recipe not suitable to freeze or microwave.

INGREDIENTS: *1 loaf unsliced white bread 60g butter, melted 3/4 cup milk 30g butter, extra 125g smoked salmon, chopped 3 green shallots, chopped 1 tablespoon drained capers 1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley 11/2 cups (180g) grated tasty cheese 4 eggs*

METHOD: *Lightly grease base of deep 22cm flan tin. Remove crusts from bread, cut bread into 3 X 11/2 cm slices. Trim bread to fit around side of tin. Brush both sides of bread with melted butter; line tin with bread. Place tin on oven tray. Blend or process remaining bread until finely crumbed.*

Bring milk to boil in large saucepan, remove from heat, stir in extra butter, salmon, shallots, capers, parsley, cheese and 1/1/2 cups of the breadcrumbs; transfer to large bowl.

Beat eggs in small bowl with electric mixer for about 10 minutes or until eggs are thick and creamy. Gently fold into salmon mixture, pour into prepared tin. Bake in moderate oven for about 1 hour or until puffed and golden brown.

Handy hint ☞

To prevent ants getting into food cupboards, sprinkle talc powder on shelves and in the corners.

ASSOCIATION GOODS

°M5 Non-Chlorinated Alkaline Cleaner
°D588 Formulated Acidic Cleaner
°Iodine Cleaner/Sanitiser
°Non-Iodine Heavy Duty Sanitiser
°Sulphamic Acid
°Glycerine
°Stock-On-Road signs

ASSOCIATION SERVICES

°Legal Service
°Industrial Matters - Wages, Work Conditions
Sharefarming Agreements
°Lobbying
°Representation On Concerns
°Information
°Watchdog Role
°Sounding Board
°Friendly Stop In The Big City
(with conveniences!!)

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WIN FOR THE DAIRY INDUSTRY!

John Kerin said in December last year that the Industry Commission Report on the Dairy Industry Inquiry could be written even before the Inquiry began.

I believe Mr. Kerin may be proved wrong - because of the efforts of your representative bodies.

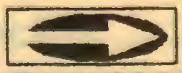
In particular I must mention the ADFF, ADIC and ADC. Their submissions are excellent and more particularly their united efforts in public are creating a very clear, very strong argument that the IC cannot ignore.

At a recent IC workshop in Canberra, the combined efforts of your representatives, as mentioned above, and other State dairy farmer organizations such as NSWDFA and the UDV, extracted admissions of errors from the IC representatives.

Most important at the Workshop was the argument about the level of assistance the dairy industry receives. You may be aware that politicians, public servants, the media and others have seized upon the IC contention that the dairy industry is a HIGH level assistance recipient. The figure quoted is between 50% and 90%. This use of a figure is dangerous unless the basis of formulation is clearly explained and understood. The IC Workshop was aimed at clarifying the methodology and reasoning behind the measurement of assistance.

What in fact was apparent, was that the education process was rather reversed at the Workshop. The IC has assumed through all of its measuring that all assistance is delivered to the farmgate price. They (IC) have also developed a benchmark price that is totally unrelated to what happens in the market place. The argument put by the dairy industry at the Workshop was that in analysing the dairy industry the IC must have regard to the whole industry.

The IC invited an impartial observer, Professor John Freebairn, Professor of Economics at Monash University, to sum up the debate at the Workshop. Professer Freebairn argued that the IC methodology was "... a little absurd." He supported the dairy industry view that the nature of milk and its production process means that it must be viewed as a TOTAL industry. The significance of this is that IF Professor Freebairn and the dairy industry representatives have their view accepted by the IC the level of assistance measureable falls to about 11%. This means that the dairy industry becomes a LOW level assis-



In this issue

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tance recipient.

I believe this is a significant development in the political and economic debate about your industry.

Just as a final note, and by way of clarifying what "assistance" means, you must understand that assistance does not mean Government hand outs via grants or aid. It refers to the use of resources such as land, labour and capital through economic means that are influenced by structures put in place by governments such as statutory marketing arrangements or legislative support (e.g. an all milk levy).

Calf Run

There is a lot of debate over the calf runs at present. I would like to offer the following, as your servant and as a person concerned about your welfare. I ask members to consider:

- ❑ Why was the SADA/Vic-Stock calf run established?
- ❑ Is it possible to average returns to ensure future options?
- ❑ Is the market place free and fair, or free and fickle?
- ❑ Can you add value, quickly, to your calves?
- ❑ What will happen to calf prices without competition?

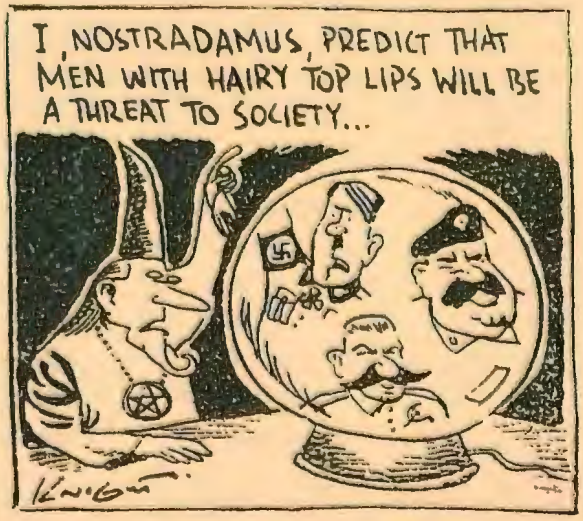
TERRY INGLIS
Executive Officer

I ENVY NO MAN THAT KNOWS MORE THAN MYSELF, BUT PITY THEM THAT KNOW LESS.

THOMAS BROWNE

"God must love the common man, he made so many of them."

Abraham Lincoln



PRESIDENT'S COMMUNIQUE

Dairy farming revolves around forward planning in most aspects of farm management. Pasture establishment and hay crops are successful only when proper seed bed preparation has been carried out. However the other important factor is - "Will it rain?", "When?", "How much will we get?"

At the time of writing this communique we are all waiting anxiously for an adequate opening rain. Conversely it is fair to say that in the 'field' of dairy agri-politics we seem to be in the middle of a downpour.

Wednesday 24 April *Dairy Industry Review Paper (Green Paper) was released.*

Friday 26 April *SADA submission to the Industry Commission Inquiry into the Australian Dairy Industry was completed (77 pages including appendices)*

ALSO - Dr. Barbara Wilson (Director of Animal Industry within Dept. of Agriculture) issued a challenge to the SA production sector to prioritise its needs for services in the immediate and long term future in order to assist in the discussions about the restructuring of the Dept. of Agriculture.

Mon 29 April *At a Special Central Council meeting held at the Flaxley Research Centre a new Constitution to facilitate unity with SEDA and to bring the structure of SADA into line with changing trends. Consequently an Ordinary meeting was convened and the SEDA representatives were included as South East Branch delegates. Unity has been achieved.*

Hopefully our forward planning and preparation has been adequate to ensure the establishment of a new, fresh-faced, strong and viable dairy industry for South Australia that will thrive in the environment of change.

UNITY

I wish to use this opportunity to express my genuine appreciation of the effort made by the members of SADA and SEDA and our Executive Officers Terry Inglis and Hank Bruins.

Unity did not happen by chance but is a result of frank and honest negotiation. Special thanks are due to RAY HEINRICH and his colleagues in the South East.

It is my belief that these changes will facilitate a strong cohesive force that will drive the policies of South Australian dairy farmers to a strong position throughout the current negotiations and pave the way for a more productive and higher profile industry in the future.

GREEN PAPER

The purpose of the Green Paper was to review the operation of the current legislation, the Metropolitan Milk Supply Act 1946 and the Dairy Industry Act 1928, and the current regulations under these Acts.

The review process began in late 1989 but the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Lynn Arnold, rejected the initial Green Paper on the grounds it did not go far enough. (It only considered regulations). More change was required, especially with the Acts, to incorporate more of the recommendations of the SADA Think Tank.

In his recent press release about the public discussion of the now available, second Green Paper, Mr. Arnold said the paper was drafted in close consultation with industry but in reality it was disappointing to find that some of the common viewpoints of industry were not picked up by the Review Team.

DISTRICT AGMs FOR 1991

Barossa	Thursday 9 May
Northern Hills	Monday 13 May
~~Onkaparinga~~	~~Thursday 16 May~~
South East	Thursday 23 May
~~Southern Hills~~ ONKAPARINGA	Tuesday 28 May
Milang	Thursday 30 May
Lakes	Monday 3 June
Myponga	~~Thursday 6~~ MONDAY 10 June
South Coast	Friday 7 June
Murray Bridge	Wednesday 12 June
Jervois	Friday 14 June
Northern	Monday 17 June
Central Hills	Thursday 20 June

WOULD ALL SECRETARIES ADVISE THE OFFICE OF THE VENUE AND TIME OF COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING ALONG WITH ITEMS REQUIRED ON THE AGENDA SO MEMBERS CAN BE NOTIFIED IN PLENTY OF TIME.

PHONE (08) 231 3752

Thank you.

MASTITIS CONTROL

PREVENT NEW INFECTIONS

Machine Milking

- Have machines serviced annually or immediately if teat condition deteriorates.
- Seek assistance if teat cups slip more than 5 times per 100 cows per milking.
- Ensure effective pulsation by choosing long teatcup liners and maintain full squeeze phase for at least 15% of the pulsation cycle.

Milking Management

- Keep udders clean; attend to lanes and gateways, clip tails and udders.
- Put cups on visibly clean dry teats. Do not use common cloths between cows.
- Turn the vacuum off before removing the cups gently.

Post Milking Hygiene

- Use freshly prepared teat disinfectant at recommended strength all year round.
- Use only glycerine as a terat skin softener but not above 10%.
- Be sure to get complete coverage of teats.

THE MAIZE TEAM

In an innovative new program funded by the Dairy Research and Development Corporation (DRDC), farmers in northern Victoria will have an opportunity to play a big role in a major research project into the role of maize silage in irrigated dairy farming systems.

The project is based around forming "maize teams" centred on four dairy farms already using maize silage, and a multi-disciplinary research and extension team based at the Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (DARA) Kyabram Research Institute (KRI). The four farms will be closely monitored to find out just how maize silage is used and what are the on-farm economics of it.

The project will be closely linked to a large, three year DRDC funded scientific study at KRI on maize silage production and how maize silage can be profitably incorporated into the irrigated pasture/ legume pasture dairying of northern Victoria and southern New South Wales. The results will be relevant to the rest of the Australian dairy industry.

The project was initiated by the DRDC to "fast track" the transfer of technology developed by researchers to the farmer.

While more needs to be learnt to fine tune the growing of maize in Australian environments there is already considerable knowledge about growing maize and producing maize silage. Maize silage, in conjunction with high quality pasture, has the potential to increase the productivity and profitability of irrigated dairy farms, but the technology has not been widely adopted on Australian dairy farms.

The project has a number of significant features. This is the first time the dairy research arm of the industry has had a direct charter to apply research findings, in other words, take the research through the development phase of research and development. A scientist will be employed for three years to co-ordinate the monitoring of the four participating farms and extending the information. And the Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs has drawn together a team with expertise in cow nutrition, pasture production, economics, extension and farm management, to ensure a fully balanced and integrated approach to the research and extension of maize silage technology to dairy farmers.

Farmers in Northern Victoria will have an opportunity to join a Maize Feeding Discussion Group, which will meet every couple of months, and a newsletter will be distributed to anyone interested in feeding maize silage.

DAIRY RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

PART TWO OF A REPORT BY ROGER BASHAM, SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT, SADA

The international dairy produce market is very complex. It is affected by many variable factors and is not easily understood.

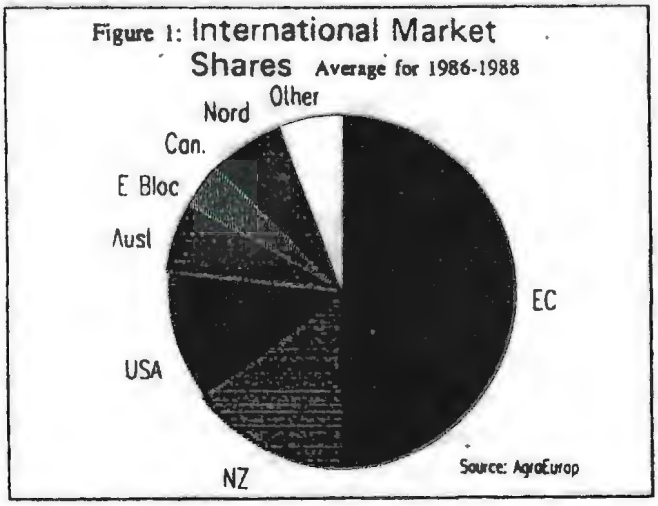
Following are some comments made by Mr. Rick Lacey, General Manager, Planning and Information, Australian Dairy Corporation, on "Prospects for the Australian Dairy Export Industry".

PROSPECTS FOR THE AUSTRALIAN DAIRY EXPORT INDUSTRY

INTERNATIONAL MARKET STRUCTURE

While many countries have protectionist dairy policies, only a few are substantial exporters. Figure 1 illustrates the exporter market share of the international market. As can be seen, the EC is the dominant supplier to the international market. During the 1980s it has supplied around half of all dairy product entering international trade. Of the major supplying countries listed in Figure 1, only Australia and New Zealand have dairy policies whereby farm gate returns are linked to the international market.

Figure 1: International Market Shares Average for 1986-1988

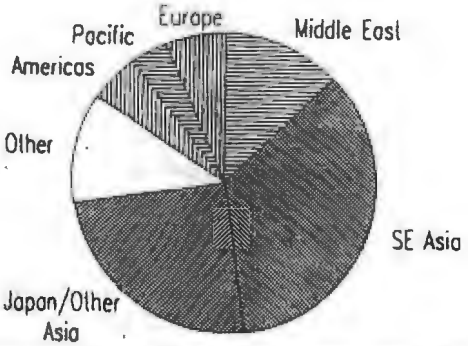


As noted above, domestic dairy policies have substantially impacted international trade flows. Not only are potential trade flows affected but remaining trade is also subject to considerable government control and other non-market forces. For example well over half of the international cheese market is subject to quota controls and/or punitive tariffs/levies while in the butter market the USSR has in recent years accounted for 50 to 60 per cent of all imports.

Thus while Australia, with an international market share of six per cent, may be characterised as a price taker, that price is not so much determined by market based supply and demand responses as by policy structure and management in key producing and consuming countries.

In this environment it is important to appreciate that the Australian export sector has a very low level of access to markets under bilateral arrangements. Unlike New Zealand and others, it does not have a significant part of its exports "underwritten" by quota access into protected and high priced markets.

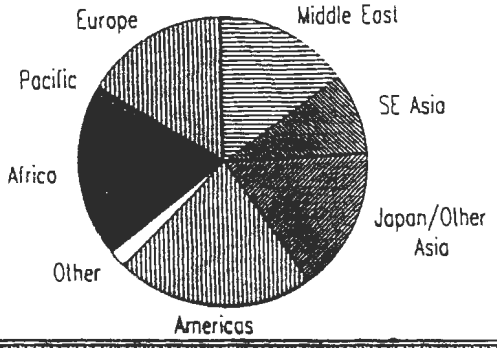
Figure 2: Value Of Australian Dairy Exports By Region 1989/90



This is important in understanding the prospects for the Australian export sector. For while it has been successful in developing a strong market presence in its immediate region, SE and North Asia (Figure 2), this region is not large in terms of the total international market (Figure 3) and its trade is conducted on a global (as distinct from bilateral) basis. Price prospects for the Australian export sector will be largely determined by the export surplus and

import demand from a relatively few major players in the international market, players with which Australia has relatively little direct involvement.

Figure 3: Value Of International Dairy Trade By Region
Value Imports 1988



INTERNATIONAL POLICY MANAGEMENT

That the domestic dairy policies of major producing and consuming countries have a major impact on the long run level of prices on the international market is clear. While the structure of these policies is generally fairly static, and hence may be argued not to be a cause of short term market fluctuations, the management of these policies is a major initiator of market shifts.

EC

The EC is of central importance in this regard. While many other countries maintain equally or more distortive domestic policies, the combination of the level of support to its dairy sector and its now dominant share of the international market, place the EC in a uniquely important position.

Milk production in the EC continues to exceed commercial sales by around 20 million tonnes (or 20 billion litres) a year. In comparison, the international dairy market is typically about 26 - 27 million tonnes on a milk equivalent basis. The size of the EC surplus relative to the international market means that it must dispose of some of its surplus on its domestic market. The decision of the EC as to the level of internal and external disposals of surplus production is critical to short and medium term pricing on the international market.

The EC's dairy program is not currently in balance. Intervention purchasing of butter and SMP returned in force in 1990, with nearly 250,000 tonnes of butter and over 300,000 tonnes of SMP purchased for intervention.

Overall as a result of larger intervention purchases and higher rates of subsidy and subsidised disposals the Commission's spending on its dairy program has accelerated and will continue at higher than planned levels until the level of surplus production is reduced. Coming at a time when other of its rural programs are in a similar situation, this places considerable pressure on the Commission to reduce quotas. This option has been widely, if informally, canvassed in the EC.

For a substantial turn around in EC and international pricing it is felt that a cut in production of at least 6 per cent is required (this could reduce butter production by around 250,000 tonnes). It appears unlikely that the EC would implement such a cut in the coming year. There is some prospect however of a smaller cut as part of a phased reduction in production of this magnitude.

USA

After nearly three years of chronic surplus in its butter market, but a balance for other products, the USA market appears to be moving to a phase of general surplus. With milk production expanding and commercial disappearance likely to stagnate in 1991, the surplus is likely to expand. In this regard the new Farm Bill is not helpful, prohibiting further falls in the minimum milk price, phasing in an assessment program which will encourage higher production in the coming year and placing on notice an intention to make great use of the international market as a means of surplus disposal.

Higher milk production is likely to see continuing intervention purchasing of butter. With 1990 closing intervention stocks of 160,000 tonnes, the USA will be under considerable pressure to increase sales on the international market.

It is also of considerable importance to the international market that intervention purchasing of SMP is now occurring at a substantial rate. From nil levels in September, intervention stocks rose to over 40,000 tonnes by the end of 1990 and weekly purchases have reached over 40,000 tonnes. The USA has used the export sector as the major outlet for its surplus SMP and the growing surplus is not good news for this sector of the industry.

USSR

A recent and major development in the international butter market was the large purchase by the USSR of EC and New Zealand butter. As has been noted elsewhere, the USSR is by far the largest market for internationally traded butter and until these sales it was not clear that it

would continue purchasing at the level of recent years. This purchase has proceeded, however, only after the provision of new lines of credit to the USSR by a number of nations (most notably the EC countries) and at a price below the current GATT IDA minimum.

While the immediate impact of this sale has certainly been beneficial for the international butter market (and from that the whole milk powder market) the market will come under test again late in 1991 unless the situation in the USSR has improved. Indeed, with the USA holding 160,000 tonnes of intervention butter and new season purchasing likely to begin in the near future, the market may well be tested before that time.

EASTERN EUROPE

Political changes in this region had a major impact on the international market in 1990. While export surplusses are likely to continue there are signs that the situation is stabilising and export competition normalising.

The most obvious change has been the unification of Germany. East Germany was a major dairy producer, its incorporation with into the EC will see its production decline and marketing become part of the EC trade. The incorporation is likely to decrease supply pressure on the CAP dairy program but it is arguable that incorporation in the EC will result in less dislocation for the international market than was the case for much of 1990.

In Poland, milk deliveries are reported to be well down, with returns to milk production not keeping pace with input costs or alternative livestock products. In addition, Poland has instituted systems to bring greater discipline within its dairy export sector. Together, these changes have seen export pricing increase significantly from the excessively discounted levels of late 1989 and first half of 1990.

The other major dairy producer and exporter in Eastern Europe is Czechoslovakia. Likely pricing and volumes in that country are not clear, in part because if has stated an intention to initiate come form of export subsidy. While these proposals have been declared, it is not clear that they have been implemented yet or at what level they are intended to operate.

JAPAN

In 1990 demand for drinking milk was higher than expected and production of milk lower than planned (both factors are attributed to hot weather in the summer and autumn). As a result milk available for manufacturing has been significantly below planned levels, generating additional import demand for butter and SMP via the LIPC this year and the likelihood of higher cheese imports in 1991/92 (as a consequence of the lower than expected make in 1990/91).

While the shortfall in manufacturing milk in the current year may generate some pressure for increased production quotas overall the market is not expected to exhibit substantial change in the coming year.

PRICE PROSPECTS

Price prospects in the near term are somewhat better than a few months ago. The weakness in the US$ against the ECU has raised dollar quotations for product out of the EC. To the end of December, Australian export pricing had not followed this increase in EC border price, with local manufacturers choosing to maximise sales because of the uncertainties in the market and the possibility of the EC increasing its refunds in response to the dollar's decline.

With the large scale of butter to the USSR and continuing buying activity in the SMP market, prices can be expected to firm in the next few months from the levels prevailing in late 1990. Further out, the situation remains clouded.

Mr. Jo de Jong, Deputy Head, Dairy Division of the European Commission in Brussels presented a written paper on "Recent and Possible Future Changes in Dairy Policies in the Community and Elsewhere and the Effect of these Changes on the International Dairy Market", but his spoken address was concerned mainly with quotas in the EEC.

Firstly some points from his written paper....

RECENT CHANGES

During the last year many important changes, some even truly historic, have taken place in the world. Changes of a general political nature as seen in the developments in Eastern Europe, the USSR, the Gulf crisis and the reunification of Germany, have all had consequences for the international dairy market.

The main changes however, affecting the international trade in dairy products, were the sharp drop in demand, notably after September 1989, leading to a drastic fall in prices, the reduction of the value of the US dollar and the reappearance of stocks of butter and SMP.

Dairy policies in most countries remained unchanged mainly because most governments were waiting for the outcome of the Uruguay Round. However, there were developments in Sweden and Eastern Europe.

In Sweden the first step towards a more market oriented policy without quota or price supports was introduced. To date milk production there has increased as a consequence but the changes have had no major effect on the world market.

In the Eastern European countries internal subsidies on most foodstuffs (including dairy products) have been reduced or abolished. This has resulted in a large drop in domestic consumption of dairy products in Poland, Hungary, East Germany and Czechoslovakia and this, combined with the East's need for "hard" cash, contributed to uncontrolled exports of products at prices even below the minimum price level fixed in the framework of the International Dairy Arrangement, resulting in a further drop in world market prices.

In the European Community the quota system will continue until 31 March 1992. A report on the situation and new proposals on what should happen after that date will have to be submitted by the Commission to the Council of Ministers before the end of March 1991.

At present I find it hard to see that it will be possible to fine a viable alternative to a quota system after 1992. Certainly producers, despite their initial dislike of quota, now recognise that they have provided an effective means of reconciling the need to provide market balance with the maintenance of an acceptable price level.

If a quota system continues, questions are bound to arise on the possibility of providing additional flexibilities within the system. There are arguments for allowing greater freedom in the sale or leasing of quotas but I suspect that whatever moves are made in this direction will not involve breaking the link between quota and land which is one of the essential features of our current system.

There have already been changes in the total quantity of the Community milk quota due to a decision of the European Court of Justice whereby farmers who were paid to stop milking during a certain period should be able to obtain quota. The Commission gave them 60 per cent of the quantity initially not produced corresponding to an increase of 0.5 per cent of the total EC quota. However, a new Court ruling has rejected this limitation of 60 per cent. It is not known yet what consequences this ruling will have.

Under strong pressure from the interested producer organisations a further 1 per cent was added by the Council of Ministers for the campaign 1989/90 giving a total increase in quota of 1.5 per cent for that year.

However, this increase has been more than offset by reductions in milk production. In 1988/89 production was 1.8 per cent over quota but in 1989/90 this was down to 0.2 per cent. So, instead of an increase in milk deliveries to dairies because of an increase in quota, deliveries actually decreased by 0.1 per cent! During the running campaign deliveries from April to September 1990 were even 2 per cent below quota.

The high penalty of 115 per cent of the target price for milk (on average about 120 per cent of the real price paid for milk) applied to milk deliveries above quota can be attributed to this development.

The introduction of the quota system in the Community in 1984 has turned the heretofore increase in EC-milk production into a reduction. Therefore it is very disappointing that, especially in the present circumstances, the milk production in a number of exporting countries is increasing.

According to the latest figures the production in New Zealand during the months June to September 1990 increased by 8.4 per cent and in the USA the expected increase for the calendar year 1990 is estimated to be above 2 per cent.

COMMUNITY PROSPECTS FOR 1991-1992 MILK YEAR

With the entering into the second phase of the accession of Portugal and because of the reunification of Germany about 8 million tonnes of milk are to be added to the global quota bringing the new total for the next milk year (1991/1992) up to 106 million tonnes. However, because the new quota for Germany takes account of a reduction of the production of milk in the former East Germany by 20 per cent, the EC is contributing again to a global reduction of the world milk output.

New price proposals have not yet been submitted by the Commission for the dairy campaign 1991/1992 but in EC dairy circles forecasts of what these proposals might contain, are already circulating.

Expected are a possible reduction of the milk

quota by 3 to 5 per cent and/or an eventual reduction of the intervention price level, notably for butter.

These expectations are based on the present situation which is influenced by the combined effects of several factors:

- there has been a drop in milkfat consumption in the EC. This is chiefly due to a sharp fall in butter consumption because of the high level of consumer prices in 1988 and 1989 and the fact that retail prices have not completely followed the reduction of the ex-factory prices.

- the appearance on the market of fat mixtures, reduced fat butters and imitation cheeses, as well as drinking milk and yoghurts with a lower fat content has contributed to a further reduction of milkfat consumption.

- Exports, in milk equivalent, have declined. There has been a large reduction in export possibilities, notably for butter, butteroil, whole milk powder and condensed milk. In milk equivalent exports have declined from about 16.5 million tonnes in 1988 (with an average 4.73 per cent milkfat) to 13.2 million tonnes in 1990 (with 3.22 per cent milkfat). This equates to a reduction in exports over these two years of 356kt of milkfat and 2.96 million tonnes of skim milk.

As a consequence the EC-intervention agencies have accumulated stocks of about 520kt of butter and 345kt of SMP by December 1990.

Farmers' organisations and the dairy industry have put forward reasons why the quota should not be reduced and why farmers' income should not be lowered further after the substantial drop in income in 1990.

In his address Mr. de Jong said that the EC was considering the reduction of dairy quotas for individual dairy farmers. It had been proposed that this reduction would not be spread equally among all dairy farmers, but would be aimed at the 15% of larger producers who produce 50% of Europe's dairy products.

In fact, 200,000 litres a year would not be subject to quotas.

A price reduction for milk of 10% was also suggested, balanced by a reduction in cereal prices.

To compensate smaller producers further, they would be given a special allowance of $80 per cow for the first 15 cows on each farm.

Those countries with larger herds, e.g. the UK, the Netherlands and Denmark, were not as enthusiastic in supporting these proposals.

It is interesting to know that many of the EC policies have aims other than promoting an efficient industry.

Average herd size in France is 21, in Germany 17 and in Italy 10. In these countries these small herds are encouraged to keep the grass off the ski slopes during the summer because tourism is worth much more than the subsidies.

Social purposes are other reasons given to justify support for these very small farms.

The high cost of this support is increasingly being seen as too much of a burden on EC consumers, and this may cause a reduction of support which in turn may lead to some decrease in production.

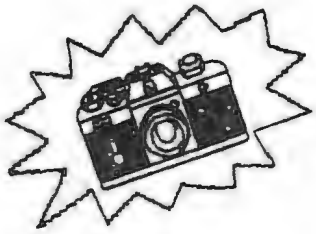
It is unlikely however that these changes will cause any marked improvements in world prices over what has been seen in recent years.

Any possible benefits could well be negated by increased production in other countries.

ROGER BASHAM

CHAMPION'S CREED.....

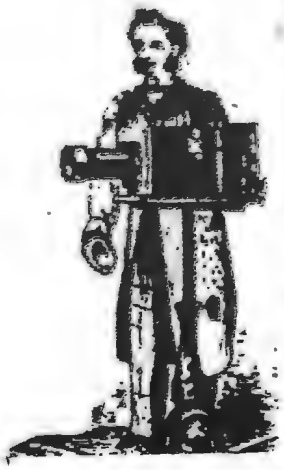
I am not judged by the number of times I fail, BUT by the number of times I succeed - and the number of times I succeed, is in direct proportion to the number of times I can fail and keep on trying.



So that's how Presidents communicate!

Australian Dairy Farmers' Federation Executive Director John McQueen before he leaves for work. Happy chap isn't he?

Max Green (Onkaparinga District) and Derris Koch (Gawler District) helping to educate General President Allan Manning.



THE WISE OLD OWL

Once upon a time there was a centipede who suffered dreadful arthritis in all his legs. Some days the pain was so bad that he could barely hobble. One such day he dragged himself painfully to the middle of the forest to consult the Wise Old Owl who lived there. He put his problem to the owl and waited humbly for the reply.

The owl pondered for a while before answering.

"My advice to you", the owl began, "is to become a stork. That way you'd cut your pain by 98% immediately, and could maximize your gains by flying elsewhere to keep the weight off your remaining two legs. When you landed you could balance on one leg to minimize the discomfort".

The centipede was overwhelmed and delighted with the elegant simplicity of the solution. "Oh wise and noble owl," he babbled in gratitude, "rightly you are named the foremost adviser in the forest. I accept your advice without reservation, and will implement it in its entirety. Tell me, how do I go about becoming a stork?"

Wise Old Owl glared at him. "Well, really," the owl huffed, looking disdainfully down his beak, "an adviser of my calibre is not concerned with the trivia of implementation. My role is to provide general policy!"

+ — A MATHEMATICAL MARVEL × ÷

Here is a simple way to determine which day of the week a date from the past fell on, or, indeed, which day of the week a date in the future will fall on.

Add together the year (e.g. 82), one quarter of that number rounded to nearest whole number (e.g. 20), the actual date (e.g. 16) and the month number from the following table:

In a leap year (Jan 1	May 2	Sep 6
Subtract 1 (Feb 4	Jun 5	Oct 1
Mar 4	Jul 0	Nov 4
Apr 0	Aug 3	Dec 6

(e.g. Aug = 3)

The total of the above example is 82 + 20 + 16 + 3 = 121.

Divide this number by 7 = 17 + 2 remainder.

Disregard the whole number (i.e. 17) and use the remainder (i.e. 2) to read the day from the following table:

Sat 0	Mon 2	Wed 4	Fri 6
Sun 1	Tues 3	Thur 5	

Using the example provided of 16 August 1982 we would expect the day to be a Monday. Check your calendars and see if it is right.

(If any members have interesting conundrums or gems like the above useful tool please send them in for publication.)

FOR LEASE OR AGISTMENT

86 Acres of prime grazing land near Nairne.

All paddocks excellent fencing (electrified) and water troughs. Constantly flowing creek. Excellent cattle yards. Stabling, shelter & large gums. On-site hay shed.

Telephone: John Hogarth 362 1002 Office Hours
379 2001 After Hours
or Robbie Coates 388 7277

"The Cedars" Heysen Road, Hahndorf, 5245

WORK WANTED

YOUTH aged 19 with 2 years of experience seeks work. Honest & reliable. Phone 289 1727.

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CERTIFICATE IN FARM PRACTICE

DAIRYING

Some of the subject areas covered

•FARM MACHINERY MAINTENANCE
•ANIMAL NUTRITION •FOOD BUDGETING
•PASTURE & IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT
•FERTILIZER •WEED CONTROL
•CHEMICAL HANDLING & SAFETY

Starting date of next course

THURSDAY, MAY 30

INDUCTION DAY WILL BE HELD AT
STRATHALBYN FOOTBALL CLUBROOMS
STARTING TIME 10 A.M.
FINISHING TIME 2.30 P.M.

All students to be interviewed prior to induction
Two year course
30 days off farm per year
Cost $180
Government subsidy of $2,000 over two years

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ADVERTISEMENT

PIEDMONTESE ARE POPULAR IN EUROPEAN DAIRY HERDS

Tas McEwin of Studmasters Australia believes that Piedmontese will play a big role in future dairy crossbreeding as the Piedmontese have proved a valuable asset in many European dairy herds, being used extensively over lesser producing cows to produce robust and quick-growing calves that fetch much higher market prices than straight dairy strains.

The Dutch in particular have made strong use of Piedmontese genetics, as decades of breeding for dairyness had left the cattle with less meat. To make better use of the bottom one-third of their herds, farmers began crossing them to beef bulls for veal and baby beef calves.

The use of some beef breed bulls resulted in calving problems, but Piedmontese bulls proved instantly popular because of their finely shaped calves.

Born small and without difficulty they developed their double muscling after birth as they rapidly grew.

Results from testing The Netherlands show that, for females fattened as veal calves, the Piedmontese crossbreds improved the daily live weight gain, feed conversion, carcass weight, killing out percentage and fleshiness when compared to both straight male and female Friesians calves.

Male calves, fattened out to between 350 and 400 days as beef bulls, achieved a higher final weight with a heavier cutting carcass and less fat wastage.

1 DAY OLD PIEDMONTESE x FRIESIAN

Such is the popularity of the Italian breed that Piedmontese now accounts for 75 per cent of all beef breed inseminations on Dutch dairy farms. This compares with 54 per cent in 1981 and only 5 per cent in 1975.

In 1987, 154,000 of the 210,000 beef breed inseminations made in The Netherlands were Piedmontese, and 130,000 of those were from just two bulls standing at the Hollendoorn AI Centre.

Tests by Dutch livestock researchers have shown that crossing Piedmontese bulls over dairy Holstein cows resulted in long, slim calves that had no difficulties at birth, grew into increased muscle and meat on lean carcasses.

Producers have been able to increase their returns by up to $200 each on steers by using Piedmontese sires.

Due to consumer demand specifically for the low cholesterol meat, European processors were offering $1/kg more than for other beef/dairy cross calves.

For more information, contact:

Studmasters Australia Pty. Ltd.
P.O. Box 140
Blackwood SA 5051
Ph. (08) 370 2726

MASTITIS DIAGNOSIS:

NEW TRICKS FOR OLD TROUBLES

By John Lynch, DVM

If you have a specific, accurate diagnosis of the mastitis causes on your dairy farm, you can make more effective, and profitable, management decisions.

Identifying the specific cause of mastitis helps determine whether the infection is likely to spread from one cow to another, and where the infection originates. It also tells you what drugs are likely to be most active against the agent involved, whether treatment is best given during lactation or when drying off, and whether a cow is likely to clear the infection or would best be culled.

Laboratory culture of milk samples generally identifies the causative micro-organism. However, the lab can't always identify the bug from a single sample.

There are many reasons. Examples include:

Residual antibiotics may inhibit the organism's growth.

* The organism may be largely taken inside cells and killed, or rendered unable to multiply by the time the sample is taken.
* The organism may be present at too low a concentration to be detected by standard procedures.
* The organism may be overgrown by contaminants.
* The organism may be walled off in fibrous tissue and shed intermittently.
* The organism may be slow growing.
* The organism may need special growth media or atmospheric conditions to multiply.

What can the dairy producer, veterinarian, udder health specialist and lab worker - do to get better results without greatly increasing lab test expenses? We can take better quality samples to the lab, and use information provided with samples to decide selectively which ones require more than the usual range of tests.

If we just submit more samples and do more tests on every case, we probably will make a few more diagnoses. Yet the lab has limited resources, and even at subsidized costs, the producer has limited funds to spend on testing.

So much for the excuses. What are some simple, practical ways to improve the diagnosis of the specific causes of mastitis, without increasing the lab service costs?

Trick Number 1

As soon as you, the producer, recognize that your cow has mastitis, take a good clean sample and refrigerate it before you do anything else. You don't necessarily have to send it to the lab right away. The sterile vials are available free of charge from the lab, so keep some on hand.

Your cow might be better in 24 hours with or without treatment. If she is, don't send the sample in, but don't throw it away either. Freeze it. If she isn't better after 24 to 72 house, take another sample and send it in together with the earlier one.

If the samples are refrigerated immediately, there is little effect on the viability of the common mastitis pathogens. The lab charge is $10 for the first five samples, so it costs no more to send in two samples than one.

If the drug you gave to try to treat the mastitis inhibits the organisms growth, but doesn't cure the cow, then the lab still has that initial

pre-treatment sample to test.

Once or twice a year, when you have collected five frozen samples, send them together to the lab to get a profile of the recent acute mastitis causes in your herd. You will also find out what drugs are best to consider for initial therapy when new cases occur.

The organism involved can vary, depending on many factors. Don't forget, if you send in five together, they qualify as one consignment, rather than submitting them individually and paying for five consignments.

Trick Number 2

If you have a cow with continuing mastitis, the lab doesn't identify a cause, and the best choice of therapy by you and your veterinarian fails, don't simply send another sample to the lab. Send four in sequence instead.

The Veterinary Laboratory Services Branch labs have recently designed a new Chronic Mastitis Workup for the purpose of addressing such cases. We need four samples collected from the most severely affected quarter at two-day intervals. the cow should be off all antibiotics before the first sample is collected and during collection. The samples should be refrigerated immediately after the collection, and until the last sample is taken.

The history sheet should be completed in full, quoting the initial lab case number for reference. Take the cooled samples to the lab as quickly as possible. Under Tests Requested, list Chronic Mastitis Workup. The laboratory will do a broader range of procedures on these samples, provided they are submitted properly.

In one recent attempt at this type of submission, samples from a cow had been cultured twice previously with no significant growth. New samples were then tested using the serial culture approach. On two days Nocardia was isolated, but not on the other days. This type of intermittent shedding is common with several organisms associated with chronic mastitis.

The charge for this service will fall into the same fee scheme, despite the additional work being done. It is best to use the single cow sampling kits with four vials, and the general white laboratory submission form. It has more room for history than the green mastitis form.

While these tricks will not solve all diagnostic problems in all cases, I think they will greatly reduce them.

Dr. John Lynch is a Veterinary Microbiologist with the Veterinary Services Branch, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, in Guelph.

PREVENTING FATTY LIVERS IN DAIRY COWS

The livers of dairy cows should contain very little fat. However, fatty livers frequently occur shortly after calving. The rapid accumulation of fat at this time reduces the ability of the liver to perform its many tasks. As a result, cows with very fatty livers have higher rates of milk fever, uterine infection, mastitis and displaced abomasum, than herd mates with low to moderate fat accumulation. As well, reproductive performance is often impaired.

There are two major causes of fatty liver. The first condition usually associated with fatty livers is obesity. Cows with body condition scores above 4 have large tissue stores of fat. When appetite wanes or feed intake is reduced in late gestation, fat is mobilized and transported to the liver.

The second cause of fatty liver can occur in cows that are not excessively fat. When feed intake is restricted or weight loss is rapid, fat is rapidly mobilized to supply energy. These cows appear heal-

thy but can fall victim to the disease complexes normally associated with fat cows at freshening.

The following control measures can be taken to reduce the severity of fat accumulation.

1. Prevent cows from becoming excessively fat by monitoring change in body condition scores, If cows are gaining excess condition, energy should be restricted during late lactation and possibly during the early dry period.
2. Assure that cows receive adequate nutrients in the latter part of the dry period. Weight should be increasing due to the growth of the fetus.
3. Supply nutrients that prevent fat accumulation (niacin) and assist in fat mobilization (choline).

By Dr. Essi H. Evans - Ruminant Research Scientist, Canada.

Genetics

BREEDING ADVANCES EARN DAIRY INDUSTRY TOP MARKS AROUND WORLD

Dairy cattle breeding has advanced greatly during the past quarter century. Sound breeding decisions and new techniques have yielded tremendous genetic advances.

The dairy industry has recognized tremendous advances of science in nutrition, breeding and physiology during the past 25 years.

These advances, in turn, have brought international recognition for the Canadian dairy industry, says Ted Burnside, Director of the Centre for Genetic Improvement of Livestock (CGIL) at the University of Guelph. Improved nutrition and genetics for example, have led to a 50 per cent increase in milk yield since 1965.

"There has been at least a one per cent change per year associated with genetic improvement.... and a one per cent per year improvement in nutrition", he says. "associated with these facts is the learning we have gained from good progeny testing."

The CGIL, affiliated with the university's Department of Animal and Poultry Science, was created in 1984. Its mandate is to address animal breeding research through collaborative efforts with faculty in the department as well as within other university departments.

The research and development program has extensive interaction with industrial p[ersonnel from the artificial insemination, embryo transfer and livestock breeding associations in Canada, and with provincial and federal government scientists.

Economic gains have been made through scientific improvements to the dairy industry. Genetics and progeny testing have raised the calibre of Canadian dairy cattle, which are in demand around the world. This has enabled many farmers to profit from the sale of embryos, Burnside says.

"We have seen the livestock industry in Canada grow. There has been tremendous recognition for dairy cattle," he says.

Semen export sales will top $110 million this year for Semex Canada. Profits from these sales help under-write the average cost of artificial insemination by 50 per cent and support new technology development, Burnside notes.

Twenty-five years ago, breeding decisions were based on current grand champions. The assumption was that these show-ring animals transmitted genes for champion-quality dairy cattle.

Today, objectivity and accuracy are used to predict good sire qualities through such factors as milk recording, conformation evaluations

and temperament. The show ring, now regarded as "a farmer's holiday" is no longer central to genetic progress, Burnside says.

For breeding purposes, emphasis is now put on a cow's genetic index. In the mid-1960s contemporary comparisons were used for animal evaluations. In 1990, sophisticated computer models solve up to one million equations for cow genetic potential, he says.

Progeny testing has been expanded and is started at an earlier age today, compared to 25 years ago. Testing now starts at 12 months and is completed at five years, followed by five years of semen life. However, because a top bull can produce 150,000 progeny in a year, it is crucial that inbreeding be kept under control, he adds.

Of all the scientific discoveries, the practices of artificial insemination and embryo transers have had the most impact on the dairy industry in the past quarter century. Both were discovered during the 1950s and early 1960s in England, but took 10 to 15 years to become economically viable.

Such high-tech procedures as multiple ovulation embryo transfers and sibling selection were never heard of in the mid-1960s. Today, they are the focus of much research.

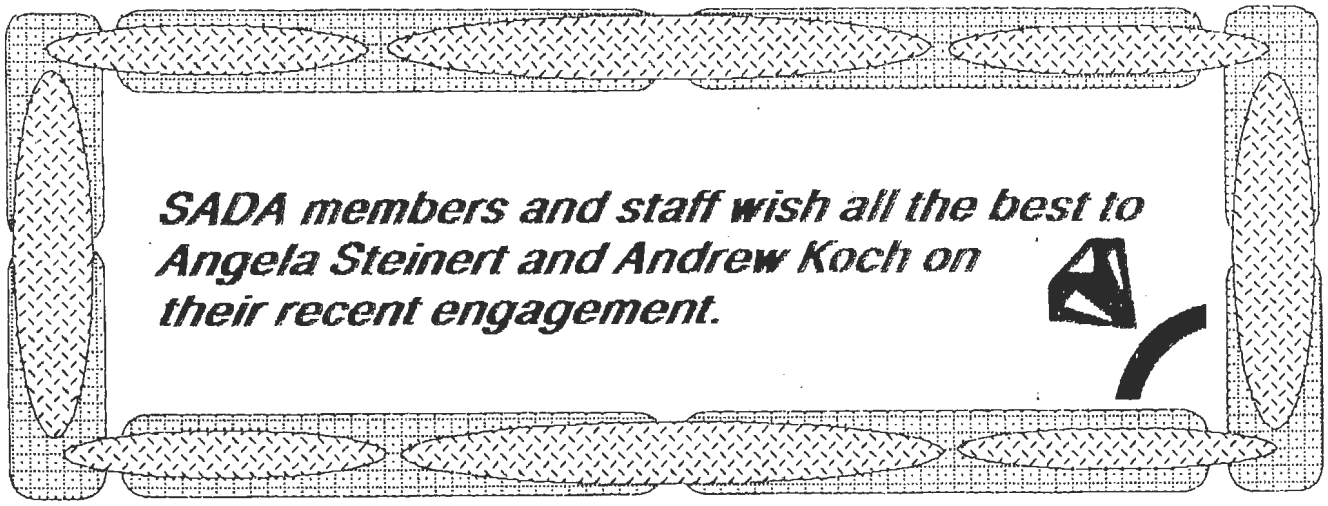
In the early 1970s, beef breeds were the focus of embryo transfers, but in the middle of the decade, attention was turned to the dairy cow. Today, dairy cattle embryo flushing, freezing and exportation is a million-dollar business and will become a multi-million-dollar business in future, Burnside predicts.

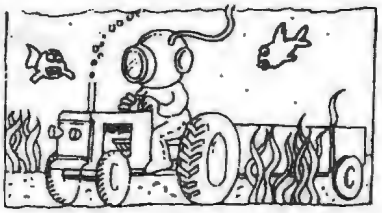
As the "cow has turned into the sow reproductively", the genetic selection process has emphasized full-sister performance rather than progeny test, Burnside says. This cuts the generational interval considerably, but "the jury is out on its importance." Too few embryo transfers have been done to make it predictable; the number of embryos obtained at any one time varies from zero to 20.

However, the importance of sibling selection in the dairy cow will "take 10 - 15 years to unravel and another 25 years to unravel the pay-offs for biology and molecular biology," Burnside says. As well as providing genetic improvements, this research should benefit veterinary medicine, in terms of better standardization and lower drug costs.

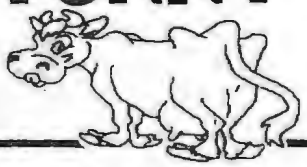
Dairy cattle continue to be at the forefront of agricultural research. In 1989, 23 of 57 research reports from the CGIL concerned dairy cattle improvement. In the next five years, the use of DNA fingerprinting and other molecular and reproductive technologies for more rapid genetic improvement of livestock.

Margaret Boyd (Guelph Ont.)





THE FUNNY FARM



DEFINITION:
A budget is an orderly system of living beyond your means.

■ Even if a farmer intends to loaf, he gets up in time to get an early start.
–E.W. Howe (1853-1937)

AN OLD STUDENT shown a list of current examination questions by his old economics professor, exclaimed; "Why, those are the same questions you asked when I was in school!"

"Yes" said the professor, "We ask the same questions every year."

"But don't you know that students hand the questions along from one year to the next?"

"Sure", said the Professor. "But in economics we change the answers."

A MINISTER, who always reads his sermons, placed his text on the pulpit about half an hour before the service. One young member of his congregation surreptitiously removed the last page of the manuscript on Sunday. Preaching vigorously, the Minister came to the words, "so Adam said to Eve...." Turning the page, he was horrified to discover the final page was missing. As he rifled through the other pages, he gained a little time by repeating "So Adam said to Eve...." Then in a low voice but one which the amplifying system carried to every part of the church, he added, "....there seems to be a leaf missing."

"My boy, there are two things that are vitally necessary if you are to succeed in business – honesty and sagacity."
"What is honesty?"
"Always keeping your promises."
"What is Sagacity?"
"Never Making Promises"

"CAN'T WE HAVE MILK WITHOUT CALVES?"

Industry Commission Assistant Director, Assistance Evaluation Branch, Ms. Diane Whiteford, as she led the discussion on how the IC measures assistance to the dairy industry.
It is hard to have faith in their ability isn't it?

Udder Nonsense

■ When you are in trouble, people who call to sympathise are really looking for the particulars.
–Edgar Watson Howe (1857-1937)

Then there was the dumb-blonde person who thought Rudi Valli was a nudist colony...

*** If you've got some rippers (especially about farmers), why not send them in?**

REMEMBER WHEN ?

IN MARCH/APRIL 1971

In the Journal Messrs. Craven, Phillips and Wilson wrote in the lead article with respect to efficiency:

The criteria of "efficiency" include the following

- **Production per cow** - which is bound up with inherent ability, breeding and proper feeding.
- **Production per acre** - which is dependent on the type of soil, climate, types of grasses or clovers used, the fertilizing programme and farm management factors.
- **Production per unit of labour.**
- **Production per unit of capital employed.**

The ultimate "efficiency" is really the ability of the dairy farmer to astutely combine all these factors so that the greatest income can be earned for the least cost or labour input in a given set of circumstances.

A great goal for SADA - to help its members reach peak efficiency.

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DAIRYMEN'S JOURNAL March/April, 1977

IN MARCH 1941

The Minutes of a Central Council meeting held on 21 April 1941 record a number of interesting resolutions.

For instance it was resolved that to recover the City Milk Bonus under the new marketing plan dairymen had to be members of SADA. A vote of appreciation for the work of the Executive in developing the new marketing plan was passed. And finally a vote seeking to debar River Murray farmers from sharing the City Milk Bonus because they were receiving a larger bonus for milk being used in condensed milk was won on the casting vote of the then President.

The time of mateship expressed in the first two resolutions is apparently lost in the third. But the marketing plan (Equalization) is again under the microscope and again your Executive is working hard to get you the best deal possible.

War does complicate matters doesn't it?

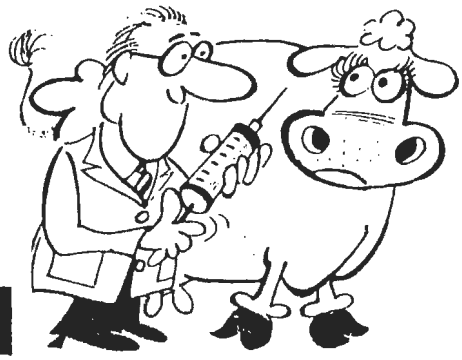
AND IN 1891

There were butter factories located at Gumeracha, Mount Barker, Kondaparinga, Onkaparinga, Woodside, Balhannah, Bald Hills, Aldinga, Yankalilla, Port Elliot, Blakiston and Strathalbyn, and there were creameries at Bull's Creek, Finnis, Currency Creek, Hartley, Echunga, Langhorne Creek, Kangarilla and Cuddlee Creek.

In 1991 South Australia has 14 manufacturing factories and 5 market milk factories - the industry really must consider rationalization one day -perhaps next year.

BOVINE EPHEMERAL FEVER

IMPROVED VACCINE POSSIBLE



An improved vaccine for Bovine Ephemeral Fever is being developed, and this should save the dairy industry, particularly the northern dairy industry, millions of dollars.

A study of the viruses which caused Bovine Ephemeral Fever (BEF) outbreaks during the last 17 years has revealed they have varied considerably during that time, and many are different to the ones used to make the ephemeral fever vaccine. This means the vaccines currently available may be less effective than they could be.

Researchers at the CSIRO Division of Tropical Animal Production, in Brisbane, are studying a collection of blood samples taken from BEF infected cows, to determine just what variation has and does exist in the viruses.

The project is being funded by the Dairy Research and Development Corporation (DRDC).

CSIRO researcher Toby St George said the work will lead to a more effective vaccine for ephemeral fever within a few years.

"We have found there are differences in the strains of the virus which have caused the outbreaks of BEF since 1956. We need to know if this variation is responsible for the failures of the ephemeral fever vaccine which have been reported since the vaccine came onto the market in 1985.

"Also, from the collection of viruses we have at the laboratory, we can determine if major BEF epidemics have been caused by big changes in the viruses, for which cows may have less resistance." he said.

"By understanding how the BEF virus has changed, and if the changes directly affect immunity to the virus, we can determine what are the chances of vaccines breaking down in the face of a major epidemic." Dr St George said.

From this work, the researchers will be able to accurately determine what is needed to produce a vaccine with sufficient diversity to be effective in preventing the disease.

Estimates of the losses which the dairy industry faces because of ephemeral fever range from nearly $2.0 million to about $50.0 million annually, depending on the prevalence of the infection.

The greater losses occur during major ephemeral fever epidemics, which have occurred six times since 1955.

Dr St George says that there has not been an epidemic reaching Victoria since 1976, but previous patterns suggest that another major epidemic could develop in the near future if environmental conditions are favourable for the insect which spread the virus to breed in large numbers.

During an epidemic, dairy cows from the far north of Queensland to northern Victoria are affected.

Dr St George said that in periods between epidemics, many smaller district outbreaks of ephemeral fever have occurred, but these have been mainly confined to the sub-tropical dairy industry and the Hunter Valley of New South Wales.

Work on this project started in 1990 and the Dairy Research and Development Corporation is funding the research for two years.

ON-FARM TRAINING NEW ZEALAND REPORT

Below is the Summary Report taken from the Log Book and Diary kept by Rodney Meissner during his trip to New Zealand with Dairy Group III of the T.A.F.E. On-Farm Training Course. The trip was from 11-25 October 1990.

SADA congratulates Rodney on his Report and indeed his Log Book and Diary. Rodney's enthusiasm is just what our industry needs. We trust members will encourage other young people to follow in Rodney's footsteps.

The next On-Farm Training Course intake is in early May 1991, so let's get young people into the course and watch them develop into valuable members of our industry.

SUMMARY REPORT FOR ON-FARM TRAINING NEW ZEALAND STUDY TOUR

Firstly, I have to thank the two milk companies for major sponsorship -Farmers Union and Dairy Vale and also T.A.F.E. for other funding to make the trip possible.

This surely has been a highlight for me as far as education is concerned and a special thanks must go to Glen Aldridge - T.A.F.E. for his itinery and travel arrangements and support.

This study tour was a learning experience in many ways - Both educationally and socially.

Every T.A.F.E. student (seven others including myself) would have come home with enthusiasm, gained knowledge and much much more. But here are just some thoughts from me in regard to the trip.

- Felt excited about having the opportunity to go to New Zealand.
- Wanted to learn as much as I could in the given time.
- Amazed at the scale of dairy operations in New Zealand. No dairy we looked at was smaller than 150 cows.
- New Zealand dairy farmers are very efficient farm operators in general.
- By direct grazing of pastures and good management, high production is achieved (at low capital costs).
- Virtually no concentrate feeding in the dairies which we visited.
- Very impressed with the New Zealand system of maize silage.
- Style of electric fencing is excellent, also low maintenance.
- Open style dairies - emphasise the New Zealand philosophy "The cows should be out on the pasture!!" Milking times range from 50 to 150 minutes in most dairies.
- There are big incentives for young New Zealand dairy farmers to share farm and end up as farm owners within 10 years.

There are many more aspects regarding the trip which will come to memory over time.

Of course not everything I learnt can be applied to dairying in South Australia but the trip has given me a great deal of confidence to face the challenges which lie ahead as a young dairy farmer of the future.

Once again a big thank you to sponsors for the opportunity and support which is needed by young generation farmers more now than ever before.

Rodney Meissner

DETECTION OF COWS ON HEAT

The accurate identification of cows on heat is claimed for a new system developed by the University of Reading, west of London.

Management of insemination of routine analysis (MOIRA) has been developed to form part of the university's well-established DAISY herd recording system. By using progesterone testing in conjunction with a new computer software package it is claimed that the accuracy of heat detection can be raised to 100% compared with the national average of 55%.

Initial testing of the progesterone level in the milk is used to establish the oestrus cycling activity of each cow after calving. The results are then entered in the farm computer. The MOIRA programme automatically lists which cows are ready to serve, which need re-testing, and which are failing to cycle normally and require veterinary attention.

The university says that using the system, 93% of the herd can be back in calf after a 365-day calving interval.

Researchers estimate that even with the average 13 tests needed per cow, the benefits outweigh the costs by more than five to one. The net margin could be expected to increase by more than 1000 pound sterling per cow.

COMPUTER-FRIENDLY MILK RECORDING

The second generation Fullflow recording system, from the milking machine specialists Fullwood, is now more compatible with computer management systems, though it can be used as a stand-alone unit.

The redesigned control panel, with touch pads instead of switches and buttons, retains its cluster wash and manual cluster removal switching. When the equipment is linked to a computer it can detect mastitis and warn of significant variations from average individual milk yield.

AI RECORD

An insemination team from the Scottish Milk Marketing Board is claiming a national record after completing 1060 inseminations in two days for one farmer.

The team inseminated 530 cows on two successive days in an oestrus synchronisation programme for John McIntosh of East Challock Farm, Dunragit, Stanraer. Another 300 cows were treated similarly a few days later.

For the past five years, Mr. McIntosh has carried out the synchronisation programme. He said: "I am achieving tighter calving pattern, producing large numbers of evenly sized calves. By using proven sires, I am also assured of known calving performances and good growth rate in the progeny."

CATTLE CHIPS AND SUCCESS

Implanted electronic devices are being used to recognise dairy cows. Individual identification, one of the most important tools for successful dairy farm management, is being encouraged in Britain. Electronic identification systems have been available in the United Kingdom for more than ten years, but only about 10% of British dairy herd owners use external transponders.

Reasons for their lack of popularity are that they can be lost or damaged and are not tamper-proof. Implanted devices are helping to overcome the problems.

A microchip, etched with a unique, ten-digit alpha-numeric code, attached to an antenna and sealed in a biocompatible glass tube to form a transponder, can be injected into animals of any age. Now scientists are investigating exactly where the transponder should be implanted and the base of the ear is likely to prove most suitable.

LIFE NUMBER

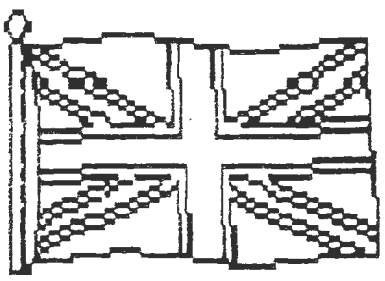
Present systems of electronic identification have limited value for dairy herd management because the information they provide is minimal. However, possible future uses of implanted electronic devices are wide and varied say British researchers.

A calf can be implanted with a unique life number at birth. It can then be reared on an automatic milk dispensing system, with its weight and growth rate monitored automatically. Its health can also be monitored by telemetry.

In the lactating animal, feed can be measured to milk yield and it could be milked and milk-recorded automatically, with oestrus cycle and health status constantly monitored as well.

Pedigree breeders would benefit from electronic identification through animal registration and individual life history, in conjunction with a central database. In marketing, the devices could ensure that producers were being properly paid.

Implantable electronic devices, already available for household pets, could be particularly useful in the dairy industry, says Robin Pollitt, produce marketing manager of Genus Animal Health in Surrey.



IT PAYS TO PROTECT YOUR MILKFAT

(Article number 2 of 2)

The previous article identified what lipolysis is and the following causes of lipolysis on the farm.

- Aeration of milk, especially while it is warm
- Undue turbulence in milk
- Late lactation milk
- Inadequate feeding
- Cows in ill health
- Natural lipase present in all milk which is inactivated by pasteurisation
- Microbial lipases produced by various bacteria, many of which grow slowly in cold milk.

The following recommendations are made to assist in the identification and elimination of sources of lipolysis on farm.

1. Avoid excessive airtake into the vacuum section of milking equipment

   In particular have your milking machine tested on a regular basis to ensure milking speed is adequate, there are no major leaks in the system and cup slip is kept to a minimum,.

   Air admission holes in the claws should only be large enough to allow the movement of milk through the lines. Admission holes that are too large will lead to excessive surging as well as unstable vacuum at the claw.

   Air leaks into milking machines should be minimised at all times and spraying water over suspect sights can quickly identify if there are any present. Some check points for identifying leaks are:

   (a) All joins in pipelines. Check the rubber seals in the unions for fit and deterioration before tightening.

   (b) Perished, cracked or split rubberware should be replaced.

   (c) Sight bowls and milk flow meters are notorious for leaking.

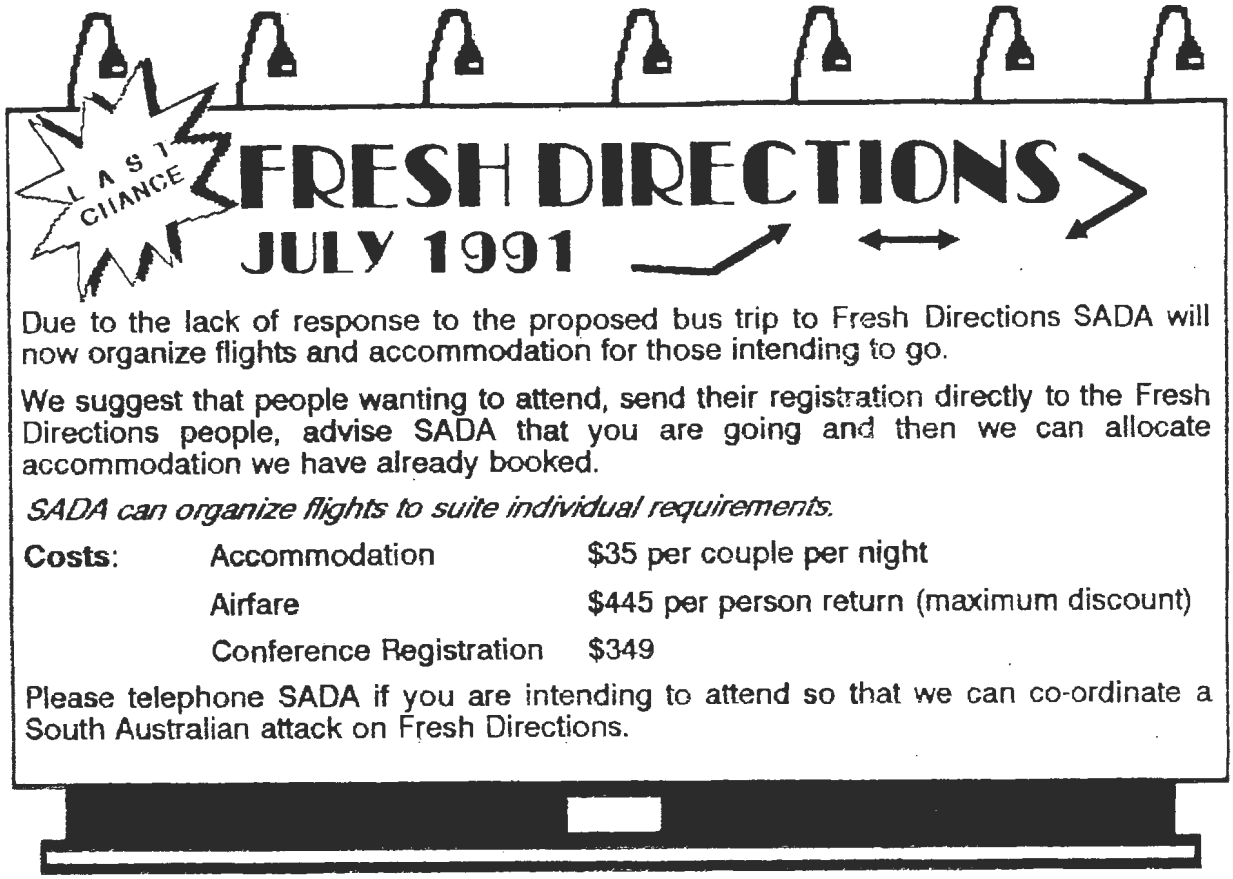
   The performance of the milk pump or releaser is of major importance as this is the sight where considerable agitation and air mixing can occur. Faulty or inefficient pumps will cause damage to milk so keep them well maintained and in good operating condition.

2. Avoid undue turbulence in milk

   Milk entries into the main milk line should preferably be tangential and above the centre point of the line to improve milk flow down the line and reduce agitation.

   Splashing of milk into the vat should be avoided by having the inlet pipe enter at the bottom of the vat. Unnecessarily vigorous or prolonged agitation of the milk in the bulk vat should not occur.

   Do not overmilk cows and when applying and removing cups handle them in a way to minimise the amount of air that is "sucked in". Not only lipolysis will be reduced but milking performance will be improved and the possibility of transferring mastitis infections will be reduced.



Due to the lack of response to the proposed bus trip to Fresh Directions SADA will now organize flights and accommodation for those intending to go.

We suggest that people wanting to attend, send their registration directly to the Fresh Directions people, advise SADA that you are going and then we can allocate accommodation we have already booked.

SADA can organize flights to suite individual requirements.

Costs:	Accommodation	$35 per couple per night
	Airfare	$445 per person return (maximum discount)
	Conference Registration	$349

Please telephone SADA if you are intending to attend so that we can co-ordinate a South Australian attack on Fresh Directions.

IT PAYS TO PROTECT YOUR MILKFAT (contd....)

3. Control the temperature of the milk

Keep the temperature of the milk as low as possible during storage but do not freeze. Avoid wide temperature fluctuations in stored milk, ensuring that the cooling capacity of the refrigeration system is adequate to prevent appreciable temperature rises on adding other milk. Use a plate cooler.

4. Maintain a high standard of hygiene

Shed and milking machine hygiene are extremely important in the attempt to reduce the numbers of bacteria that cause lipolysis. Apply cups to clean dry teats. If washing udders, wash thoroughly and avoid applying cups to dripping teats.

Keep a vigilance on milking machine washing routines, checking on water temperature, detergent usage and maintaining rubberware. Don't aim to keep your plate counts below the 50,000 limit, aim for less than 10,000.

5. Control the level of spontaneous lipolysis

Feed cows adequately, including green pasture whenever possible. Dry-off low producing cows in late lactation, control the level of mastitis in the herd and maintain healthy cows at all times.

Both manufacturers and dairy farmers have a responsibility to produce and maintain a quality product to maximise returns to the industry.

by JOHN THRELFALL

AQIS CALLS FOR GREATER CARE WITH ANTIBIOTICS

In January of this year, the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) called on Australian farmers to take greater care and responsibility in the use of antibiotics on their animals, and to strictly observe withholding periods before selling treated stock for slaughter.

In response to recent isolated incidents of antibiotic residues being found in meat destined for export, AQIS is stepping up its National Antibiotic Residue Minimization Program (NARM).

AQIS' Executive Director, Gardner Murray, said that NARM brochures were currently being distributed to pig and dairy farmers, feedlot operators and abattoirs to remind people of their responsibilities when using antibiotics on live animals.

"The last thing the rural economy needs right now is a residue problem that could put our meat exports at risk," Mr. Murray said.

"The NARM program complements ongoing AQIS testing programs at abattoirs, and is a simple way for all farmers to contribute to the maintenance of overseas markets like the United States and Japan.

"Importantly, the program should also lead to greater consumer confidence in meat, both here and overseas," Mr. Murray said.

The NARM Program is an initiative of AQIS, in conjunction with the State and Northern Territory Departments of Agriculture.

INVITATION

SADA Members are invited to give consideration to the needs they have for Department of Agriculture Services.

Such things as extension, information provision and inspection may be issues to be considered.

At the forthcoming round of AGMs we need to discuss and formulate an SADA position to enable us to work with the Department on provision of services for the future. This is necessary because of Government constraint and the reallocation of government resources.

We need to have a very clear idea of what we would like from our Department and how we see it interacting with our industry.

So put on your thinking hats and either put your views in writing to me, or come along to your Branch AGM in May/June and tell me what you think.

Let's be positive about our future.

Terry Inglis
Executive Officer

FROM THE DAIRY.....TO THE TABLE

CREAMY CORN & CRAB SOUP

2 Tablespoons butter

4 shallots, finely chopped

1 teaspoon mild curry powder

440g can cream of oyster or mushroom soup

2 cups milk

300 can cream-style sweet corn

Salt and pepper to taste

1 tablespoon lemon juice

1 cup cream

210g can crabmeat, drained and flaked

Extra chopped shallots to garnish

Heat butter in a medium-sized saucepan; cook shallots gently until softened. Stir in curry powder and cook for 30 seconds. Add soup, milk and sweet corn, and stir until well combined and simmering.

Season with salt and pepper and lemon juice; stir in cream and crabmeat. Heat through but do not boil. Ladle into bowls and sprinkle with chopped shallots.

Serves 4-5

This bread makes a tasty accompaniment with soup for a quick snack.

GOLDEN CORN BREAD

2 tablepoons butter

2 tablesppons sugar

1 1/2 cups plain flour

4 teaspoons baking powder

1 cup cornmeal

1/4 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon chilli powder

2 eggs, beaten

3/4 cup milk

125g cream style corn

1/4 cup red capsicum, diced

METHOD: Cream butter and sugar. Add sifted flour and baking powder. Add cornmeal, salt and chilli powder. Stir in eggs, milk and beat until smooth. Fold in corn and capsicum. Place into a well-greased microwave baking ring and cook 7-8 minutes on high. Remove and let stand 4 minutes.

ELSA'S TOMATO BOUILLON

6-8 Servings

6 cups tomato juice

2 chopped onions

2 tablespoons butter

1/2 cup chopped celery

1 bay leaf

4 cloves

2 tablespoons chopped parsley

1 tablespoons chopped basil

METHOD:

Fry onions gently in butter for 5 minutes. Add remaining ingredients and bring to boil. Strain and serve topped with whipped or sour cream.

ASSOCIATION GOODS

- °M5 Non-Chlorinated Alkaline Cleaner
- °D588 Formulated Acidic Cleaner
- °Iodine Cleaner/Sanitiser
- °Non-Iodine Heavy Duty Sanitiser
- °Sulphamic Acid
- °Glycerine
- °Stock-On-Road signs

ASSOCIATION SERVICES

- °Legal Service
- °Industrial Matters - Wages, Work Conditions Sharefarming Agreements
- °Lobbying
- °Representation On Concerns
- °Information
- °Watchdog Role
- °Sounding Board
- °Friendly Stop In The Big City (with conveniences!!)

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THANK YOU STAN!

This is the report given by Stan Schoell to the Onkaparinga Branch Annual Meeting at Charleston on Tuesday 28 May 1991, when he retired as that Branch's President.

It epitomises the reports Stan has become known for and is included here as a mark of respect to a man who has devoted a lot of time to SADA on behalf of his fellow dairy farmers.

This report will be a little different from the previous years, as I will be standing down as President of this branch of SADA after holding the position for 17 years as President , and 23 years as delegate or proxy to Central Council.

During this time there have been 4 presidents at Central Council namely Messrs. Loechel, Green, Kretschmer and presently Allan Manning. During this time David Higbed was General Secretary and Terry Inglis is the present Executive Officer.

The General President and Executive Officer will be giving their report on the industry later this evening on issues affecting the dairy industry and judging by the discussion points for branch meetings issued with our agenda for tonight it appears they will have much to report and discuss with members.

I would like to take a look back and see where our industry has come in the last 20 years and thus perhaps we can judge where we will be in the future.

Some of the older members would be aware that this branch covering the Mount Barker and Onkaparinga Council districts could be regarded as the cradle of the dairy industry in South Australia with most of the bigger towns having their own cheese and butter factories. I sometimes wonder if all this history has been sufficiently documented for the future, as most present residents would not be aware of the part dairying played in the early development of the hills.

According to the Metropolitan Milk Board Annual Report there were still almost 2,000 licensed producers milking an average of 41 cows in the Milk Board area in 1969, ten years later this had halved to about 1,000 producers with 70 cows and in 1990 this had fallen to just under 700 producers milking almost 100 cows on average.

Where to in the year 2000?

There has been a steady increase in the production of milk per cow over the period. In 1970 it was 3,000 litres per cow, 1980 3,200 litres and in 1990 almost 4,000 litres per cow. The production of butterfat per farm has also increased threefold over this time from 5,400 kilograms per farm in 1970, 9,700 in 1980 and 16,000 kilograms in 1990.

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in this issue

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During the period 1980-90 cream sales per annum increased from about 2 million litres to 3 million litres. Another interesting increase was in flavoured milk, in 1980 it was 7,122,000 litres and in 1990 it was 17 million litres plus 1,794,000 litres of UHT flavoured milk (some of this interstate milk).

So much for changes in the past,

What of the future for the dairy industry?

There is no doubt milk is very versatile judging by the great array of products now being made from it. In fact it is now often used as a part of the entree, main course and dessert of a meal.

There has been a big increase in the soft cheeses on the market, plus yoghurts, Fruche etc., no longer the cheddar cheese and butter factory only.

An interesting change to butter was shown on the "Beyond 2000" show on TV last week, where it was shown how 100% of the cholesterol was removed from butter by using carbon dioxide and then removing it with an absorbent material. This will be in commercial production by the end of the year in both New Zealand and France. The butter is easier to spread and should not be any dearer as there is a spin-off from the sale of the cholesterol powder.

What is the future of the dairy industry in this area?

My view is that it will continue in some form for a time yet, but I doubt if we can continue to increase our herds in the watershed area at a rate to keep up with herds interstate and other areas of this State, but I believe dairying will remain the mainstay of many farmers, who will have some other form of sideline to maintain income.

Looking ahead one wonders how long it will be, if we continue increasing herd numbers and losing farmers, before we only have one farmer left. In Britain quotas have cut milk production by 16% with another 8% to come off, since they were introduced in 1983, with farmers saying they have increased their profitability with greater efficiency.

Looking at Central Council over the period I have been attending, I would say that the standard of debate and the quality of delegate attending at the present time would be the best ever. Our present President Allan Manning is handling his position exceptionally well and has a good knowledge of the industry and its problems. I would particularly like to thank him for the way he has regularly attended our meetings. (Or perhaps he should thank this branch for the way we trained him up for the job? We also gave Aub Kretschmer most of his early training).

I think the industry has gained much having Terry Inglis as our Executive Officer. He kept quiet in the beginning, but when he gained sufficient knowledge of the industry, he had a valuable input. One thing I have noticed is that he has tried to make the industry and its workings much more easily understood by members.

Getting back to our own branch I would like to again thank Max for the work he has done as secretary during the year. The efficient running of meetings and branches depends very much on the work put in by the Secretary.

I guess I have been lucky to have been President of one of the best branches of SADA. This branch has been very active over the years, with good participation of members during meetings.

Let's keep it this way in the future!

Stan Schoell

"Do not follow where the path may lead.

Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

PRESIDENT'S COMMUNIQUE

It is that time of the year that we become conscious of opening prices.

Because of the downturn in export prices 9 months ago and the very fact that they have not yet recovered, Victorian farmers are facing the reality of a further downturn in prices. The Victorian opening prices are around the $3.70 kg protein and $1.95 kg butterfat minus volume charge of 2.6 cents.

The size of the S.A. industry has taken a pounding in recent years when S.A. prices lagged behind other states and it is clearly recognized that current payments must be maintained to ensure the survival of a S.A. industry at its current size.

The role of SADA has now changed with Unity and when we study the potential and level of payments statewide, there is specific concern regarding the opening price in the South East. I believe a strategic approach on a long term basis must be developed to ensure the highest possible return in that area. There has been no firm indication as to the outcome in the South East following the massive drop in returns during the year ended June 1991.

As I have indicated recently at some district meetings, the hope of the Central Region holding last years opening price appears uncertain. The good news at the time of writing is imminent from FUFL and DVCL that the prices of last year will be maintained.

In view of the current world prices and short term prospects, Central Region farmers must recognize this maintenance of returns as an extremely positive message.

The new SADA received an energetic and enthusiastic kick start at the Annual Conference and AGM at Nuriootpa. This enthusiasm will be invaluable when meeting the challenges of developing new statewide legislation consistent with the bottom lines of the Green Paper Review and ongoing development of an industry infrastructure with increased levels of efficiency to ensure the highest possible return to farmers.

I wish to sincerely thank our 2 retiring Executive members for their excellent contribution in the past 12 months. Ian Newman as Junior Vice President clearly deserves special recognition for his extra ordinary effort in co-ordinating the Vic Stock calf run in the last 12 months. Thank you Ian, and also Elaine and sons David and Gavin for your tremendous backup support. Don Holly has been a great contributor to SADA Executive for 7 years. Thank you Don, not just for your positive contribution in meeting forums, but also the quiet, no fuss support given behind the scenes. Thanks also to Don's wife Elaine for your untiring patience.

I wish to personally congratulate Ray Heinrich on his appointment onto the Executive and his election as Junior Vice President and his resolute committment.

Likewise, I wish to welcome Eric Stewart onto the Executive. Although Eric has been an active contributor to SADA for a long time we look forward to his efforts on the Executive and I am pleased to see River Murray representation back on the Executive.

ALLAN MANNING.

GENERAL PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS TO THE 8th SADA CONFERENCE, NURIOOTPA 25th JUNE 1991.

Distinguished Guests, Fellow Dairyfarmers, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I sincerely welcome each one of you to the eighth (or maybe only the 1st) Conference of SADA.

The challenge of change within the SA dairy industry has confronted farmers and processors with formidable furor during the past 12 months.

However the industry has survived, arrested the downward spiral of production levels experienced during each of the previous 3 years and from a farmer point of view - has emerged as a stronger force.

I refer to the United Voice of the new SADA.

I wish to use this opportunity to express my personal gratitude to all those who have contributed in such a positive manner to achieve this goal.

Special recognition is due to Ray Heinrich and his team in the South East of the state.

I wish to express my special thanks to Di Heinrich - Manageress of the "Heinrich Hospitality Inn!" at Mingbool

One person, who, by the way has enjoyed this hospitality at the Mingbool dairy farm is Ric Teichert. Thank you Ric for your effort and contribution as facilitator of State Equity discussions which of course have been an integral part in the welding together of SADA and SEDA market sharing philosophies.

I would like to recognize the contribution and support of Central & Northern Region farmers at district level as well as Central Council delegates.

I believe the Executive Committee and Terry Inglis should feel proud of their achievement.

The further challenge of realizing a statewide equity scheme is on our doorstep.

Irrespective of the end result of the deregulation thrust at both State and Federal level, farmers will continue to apply more pressure on the processors to step out of their respective corners, to move away from the comfort of their own well being, and participate in one overall plan for a restructured industry in SA.

In achieving Unity, dairyfarmers have taken a large step in achieving the goals set at the November 1989 Dairy Industry Think Tank.

The Green Paper Review, facilitated by Minister of Agriculture Lynn Arnold, has opened the doors for change also.

From my point of view, this particular discussion document has opened the door far wider than practical - consequently causing extensive damage to the hinges.

However with concerted pressure from a unified industry we will soon have those hinges repaired allowing a free passage of sensible legislation, consistent with the policy of developing a statewide authority as suggested by the industry Think Tank.

Never-the-less pressure to remove stability from our industry appears to rage on.

The Green Paper suggestion to allow the sale of unpasteurised milk is a classic example of deregulation at its worst.

The equitable sharing of premiums from structured market milk sales has been the life-line of

the SA dairy producers.

To remove or destroy all or parts of this life-line would devastate the SA production sector - for example, last year SA lost 14% of its dairyfarmers operating at a time that could be termed relatively stable.

The release last week of the draft Industry Commission Report has added to this barrage of pressure, to pull down many of the structures our industry has worked hard to develop over time.

There is an incredible lack of understanding of the unique characteristics of 365 days/year milk production from a fluctuating seasonal pattern of available forage.

Of the 1,700 million litres of milk consumed by the Australian public during the year ended in June 1990, 50% was consumed at the breakfast table on a daily basis.

How many other fresh products are consumed on such a year round regular basis as MILK?

Yet Commissioner David McBride has followed the firm tradition of previous commissioners of IC and previously IAC, of creating political uproar. The IC supports free trade arguments that can be justified purely on coldly economic grounds and ignore reality and social factors.

It is interesting to note that the history of IAC & IC reports have been issued during the era, in which for the first time since the depression of the thirties, unemployment has become the top political problem.

An example of this cold economic policy is the IAC study in the late 70's which triggered the death knoll of the Australian ship building industry and the consequent closure of the Whyalla Ship-yards.

The original IAC was formed as a Statutory Body during the Whitlam era as the successor to the Tariff Board and the Advisory Authority to the Federal Government on assistance to Industry.

For this review of the Dairy Industry, the terms of reference established by Paul Keating under the Industry Commission Act 1989, requested the Commission to identify, institutional, regulatory or other arrangements subject to influence by Governments in Australia which lead to inefficient resource use, and advise on courses of action to reduce - or remove such inefficiencies.

In consequence - the current IC report recommends that our industry should reduce in size - and not receive a premium for market milk. i.e. less farmers - less income - less export!

It is intriguing and frustrating to note that the IC has no terms of reference to address a Macro-economic Policy for Australia. - Consequently, if the IC draft became policy - there would be more unemployment and less value - added dairy export return to help balance Australia's massive accumulated foreign debt - which, at the end of the year in June 1990 stood at $124,528,000,000..

Value added at wholesale level, the dairy industry is Australia's third largest rural industry, worth more than $4,000,000,000 annually.

The purpose of todays' Conference is to focus on the potential of the family farm and the exciting options of alternative management for farm operations that are just waiting to be picked up.

But the full potential of the family farm will only be reached if the management of our milk supply to the market-place is handled with ultimate efficiency.

Being the benefactors of all of better supply management - Dairy farmers need to be intimately involved. For this reason I wish to focus your attention on the importance of Managing Milk Supply.

The negotiations to date for a State Wide Equity Scheme have been continually bogged down on the principle of physical transfer of milk for Market Milk (ie liquid sales).

The motivation behind the lobby for this principle is best explained by focusing on the Victorian Industry Authority and Pura Foods Vic. (part of the Allowrie Beverage Division).

Pura Foods have no suppliers and are allocated their needs proportionately from each milk receival depot in Victoria irrespective of the proximity of the receival depot to the market. The acquisition and the collection of this milk is empowered through the vesting power of the UDIA.

In the central and northern region of South Australia the market milk is processed by Farmers Union Foods (SA liquid products Division of Allowrie) and Dairy Vale, who, as we well know have suppliers of their own who have traditionally supplied that milk.

Over time FUFL have made an excellent conscious effort in developing further markets and also increasing their market share.

With less than competitive payments to farmers, particularly in the year ended June 1989 - management of supply during this time has not matched this high level of expertise in marketing.

Consequently the Farmers Union Allowrie group in the last 2 year period have made numerous purchases of milk in all parts Victoria as far away as Gippsland and have also been contract processing milk from the Victorian based company Kraft Foods.

There are obvious points to be gleaned from this experience.

(1) There was adequate total milk within this State to service all the premium markets - had supply been managed correctly.

(2) The monetary premium being paid to Victorian farmers at that particular time was greater than the payment being made to FUFL Allowrie suppliers in South Australia.

This experience clearly indicates to me there is enormous scope to develop rational sourcing of premium dairy markets in South Australia with better and well planned management of the farm product.

The unity of South Australian dairy farmers now facilitates an excellent opportunity for SADA to instigate a supply management system - not just to achieve rational sourcing of markets but

to secure the highest payment possible, with the highest degree of fine tuning of commercial reality.

Staring us in the face is the opportunity for South Australian dairy farmers to fully capitalize, in a strictly commercial manner, on, not only the large domestic market in Adelaide and surrounding areas, but to also harvest full potential of all the excellent markets developed by our companies.

To date the principles of unity (ie the new SADA) have developed around the goal of attempting to achieve a State Wide System of equitable sharing of the market milk premium accrued from the gazetted farm gate price paid by all processors for milk sold on a daily basis in liquid from (ie Market Milk).

Although the current legislative review, through the Green Paper, has referred to State equity, the paper has not attempted to develop discussion regarding the legislative issues.

In fact the critical importance of current sideline legislation facilitated through the Metropolitan Milk Supply Act has been completely overlooked.

It is important for you to understand the function of this legislative net is there to support the industry any time a processor attempts to cut the tight wire on which our industry balances. For example: If a processor decides to pull out or break down the equalization arrangements managed by the Metropolitan Milk Equalization Committee the Metropolitan Milk Supply Act facilitates immediate restitution through the supply quotas that are set on a monthly basis.

This legislation has served our industry well in bringing maveric companies to heel in the past.

It is important to acknowledge the tremendous benefits accrued from the principle of our industry managed equity arrangements and to quote SADA member David Harvey from "Yalkuri" Narrung, "constitutes far less social cost than quota systems such as the one promoted in the Green Paper".

However, irrespective of the current status of legislative support the industry agreement made at the November 1989 Think Tank at Encounter Bay, to achieve a State-wide equity scheme has, from a processor's point of view -run aground!

The issue of Physical Transfer of milk on a State-wide basis similar to the Victorian system has become an uncompromised policy of the FUFL Liquid Products Division.

It must be understood that physical transfer under current arrangements is NOT commercially acceptable.

The current markets have been developed under one set of rules clearly known to all players. Having possession of the market developed under a set of rules - is like a game of football - If I had possession of the ball, positioned at full-back when the umpire blew the whistle and instructed the teams to change direction; it would be unfair to expect to maintain possession of the ball.

Even though farmers on a State-wide base are currently developing a fast track process to achieve State-wide equity, a total industry compromise appears bleak.

The FUFL Liquid Products Division's obsession to change the South Australian industry to a Victorian system of unnecessarily trucking milk from each receival dept to the milk processing plant, sadly clashes with the concept of commercially rational sourcing that has been admired by interstate industry leaders for many years.

It must be noted that when the Victorian system was changed to a State-side equalization scheme the processors, previously supplied by individual quota holders (a scheme that has never existed in South Australia) had no suppliers and could only be assured adequate milk through the vesting power granted to the UDIA.

To summarize these latter points I believe the South Australian industry is about to face dramatic change.

In brief, one of a multitude of options is that the current policy of FUFL can in principle be achieved overnight through the current equalization agreement - simply if they did not have any suppliers, all their milk requirements would be available through Clauses 26 and 27 of the current Metropolitan Equalization Agreement (commonly known as Accommodation Milk).

Although this change appears radical it facilitates the current policy of FUFL and brings the process of supply in line with its larger sister operation in Victoria (Pura Foods).

The separation of the Allowrie manufacturing plant at Murray Bridge has, I believe, been achieved with the separation of Allowrie Beverage Division and Allowrie Manufacture which already facilitates change.

Alternatively this possible dramatic change of supply arrangements would give dairy farmers the opportunity to develop a supply co-operative similar to the Barossa Mid-North Co-operative currently operated by Northern Region farmers.

This supply company would give dairy farmers the opportunity to be involved in the management of supply (an area they know well) to commercially, rationally source, not only the highly successful marketing company of FUFL Liquid Products Division but ensure at all times the adequate supply of milk in South Australia is allocated to all processors, responsive to price with ultimate efficiency - consequently ensuring that the South Australian milk is in the first instance exhausted by South Australian processors for premium markets.

The comments I have made are not meant to criticize the causes of our current dilemma! - but reflect my point of view as a positive manner in which we can face the reality - that we do live in a changing world and will need to change to survive.

To quote from John Watson (President of the UDV) "Our competitors in other countries, particularly New Zealand Dairy Board, are at least five years ahead of the Australian dairy industry in this evolutionary process".

The single marketing authority in New Zealand makes a fine example of industry co-ordination - but at this stage our challenge is confined to our ability to effectively stimulate a change that ensures our milk ends up in the best market at the highest price with the greatest efficiency! and facilitates a continuation of negotiation to achieve a statewide EQUITY SCHEME.

However! there are some aspects of our industry that are firmly in our control. For example -

the management strategies applied on our family farms.

Just as our industry is facing this continuous challenge of change our individual minds can be stimulated to meet similar challenges on our farms.

The vast potential though technology change and genetic improvement has unlocked scope for reproduction levels far beyond our conception 30 years ago -in that time farm production has increased more than 700%

Todays Conference will facilitate an opportunity to open your minds and focus on the ultimate potential of the FAMILY FARM.

Please enjoy the hospitality of the New SADA and the Barossa Valley as we attempt to balance the strengths of family farms against the Corporate Structure that has replaced so many other small businesses.

ALLAN MANNING, General President

A message for us all!

UNITED DAIRYFARMERS OF VICTORIA
AMALGAMATED WITH VFF AND AFFILIATED WITH ADFF
24-28 Collins Street, Melbourne, Vic. 3000.
Phone: (03) 650 9616
Telex: 37226
Fax No.: (03) 650 4428

24th June 1991

Mr. Allan Manning
General President
South Australian Dairyfarmers' Association
Aston House
13 Leigh Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Allan,

Congratulations to the members of SADA and SEDA on amalgamation.

I apologise for not being able to attend your Annual Conference and Dinner but would like to take the opportunity to wish you and you organisation continuing success.

These are difficult economic and political times for dairyfarm families which require the support that a well co-ordinated and widely supported effort can give. I am sure that South Australian dairyfarmers will be better represented following the amalgamation and your organisation will be able to more strongly represent their interests at both the State and National level.

As President of the United Dairyfarmers of Victoria, I have enjoyed working with your organisation and look forward to continuing positive interaction to improve the economic environment for dairyfarm families throughout Australia.

Best wishes.

King regards.

JOHN C. WATSON
President

NEW BRANCH.....

.....NOT SO NEW

IN APRIL OF THIS YEAR, THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DAIRYFARMERS' ASSOCIATION AND THE SOUTH EASTERN DAIRYFARMERS' ASSOCIATION UNITED AND FORMED A NEW STRENGTH. SEDA MEMBERS NOW BELONG TO OUR NEW SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH, BUT AS THIS HISTORY SHOWS, THERE'S NOT MUCH THAT IS *"NEW"* TO THE SOUTH EAST MEMBERS.

SEDA HISTORY

In July 1938 a representative meeting of nearly 200 Lower South-Eastern Dairymen was held in the Caledonian Hall, Mount Gambier. The President of the Victorian Dairymen's Association (Mr A McKenzie) and the General Secretary of the South Australian Dairymen's Association (Mr A H Nelson) attended in an advisory capacity.

At that time there was much dissatisfaction with the various ways in which milk and cream were paid for. Some factories were buying milk by the gallon and some by butter fat content.

Another area of concern was the new Dairy Produce Act being introduced into Parliament which would interfere with the Commonwealth Equalisation Scheme.

There were 15 factories in the district and prices varied from factory to factory. Gambier West price 17.5 pence a pound Butterfat. The management of the factories had formed their own organisation.

With more than 4000 connected with the dairy industry in the district, the forming of an Association would give them a far stronger voice in decisions made by Parliament.

The Mayor, Mr W E Pyne, presided over the meeting and apologized for the absence of Mr John Fletcher MP. Representatives were present from Millicent, Tantanoola, Glencoe and Kongorong, who had already formed their own association.

A committee consisting of Messrs P Lamont, H Ruwoldt, H Meinck, T J Murphy (later chairman) and C Kaiser were selected to form the SEDA and with the help of others to draw up a constitution and objectives. Other names mentioned at that first meeting were A J Johnston, D Gilmour, R C McCormick, A W Kilsby, R C Rowley, J Bigham, D A MacIntosh(Acting Sec). At a subsequent committee meeting Mr A M Thompson was appointed Secretary and Treasurer at 1 pound per week ($2), a position he held until June 1941.

On 26/7/38 nearly 100 dairymen attended a meeting of the recently formed Dairymen's Association and adopted a constitution as drawn up by the committee appointed at the first meeting. This had been drawn up on the lines of the Victorian Dairymen's Association with slight alterations to suit conditions in the South East.

The Constitution began as follows:-

The Association shall be non-party and the objects shall be:-

1. To stabilise the Dairying Industry so as to ensure for Dairy Farmers a fair return for their labour and capital.

Objective 4 read:-

4. To improve the organisation of marketing dairy produce.

At a meeting called to form a Dairymen's association at Millicent in August 1938 it was explained to the assembly the necessity of dairymen being organised. The Premier, Mr Butler had earlier stated at Mount Gambier that they would get nowhere without an organisation. There were 16 dairymen present at the meeting. Some of those present were Messrs M C Watson,elected President, Ian Edwards, elected Secretary, Graham Major, R G Collins, Len Watson, Ken Stuckey. Subs were set at 10/-.

Mr T J Murphy told the meeting that at the Empire Conference he had attended in Sydney, the NSW delegates spoke for 16,000 members, VIC delegates 10,000, but the only organised body for dairyfarmer's in SA was the Adelaide Dairymen's Association set up some 3 years earlier with 1,100 members. The South East was the only dairying district in the Commonwealth that had no organisation, he stated.

Until SA was organised and legislation passed SA could not join the Commonwealth scheme for equalising butter prices. Queensland, NSW and VIC held four shares each in the Commonwealth Dairy Produce Equalisation Committee, Tasmania 2 shares and 2 shares were being held in reserve for SA. Until these were taken up Mr Murphy was admitted to these meetings under sufferance, but had no vote.

Kongorong Dairyfarmer's Association

A meeting was called on June 13th 1938 to form the above association, 19 present. Mr C Storer and Mr J Itzerott moved this. Officers elected were:- President, L MacDonald, Secretary, C H Black. Committee:- J L Schinckel, A Itzerott, J E Ashby. Messrs Itzerott and G Lightbody were to write to obtain rules and constitution from Apollo Bay Dairymen's Association. Proposed by C S McLean and C T Atkins that membership be 2/- per member.

It was proposed by Mr Kemp and W Crowe that Mr Downs, the Dairy Instructor test the weights of the Kongorong Factory Scales. Other names of that date are; W Gerloff, A Hodge, R Adams, F Kemp, J T Chant, S J McCall, Itzerott Bros, A C Gust, L M Kenney.

By a meeting on the 1st August, Mr Downs still had not checked the Kongorong Factory scales.... It was moved that Kongorong Dairymen's Association affiliate with the South Eastern Dairymen's Association. The Glencoe branch was formed in 1938. The October meeting minutes show it as the Glencoe sub-branch of the Southeastern Dairymen's Protection Association. First chairman was Mr F Childs, but no secretary is named until Mr G R Holloway in 1940. Other early members were Messrs P G Ryan, S O Whitehead, J Carthew, A G Tregenza, L Williams, S G Bonney. In 1939 Mr Laslett was appointed to canvas for new members.

The Allendale/Mt Schank/Pt MacDonnell branch was formed on the 12th March 1946 at a meeting held in the Allendale Hall. Mr W L Saunders was elected chairman and Mr R T Laslett secretary. Other names mentioned at that meeting were R J Laslett, Gordon Thompson, H Kerr.

The inaugural meeting of the Tatiara Branch of the SEDA was held in the Bordertown Institute supper room on October 1st, 1956. Mr E L Gaffney, Vice-President SEDA presided over a meeting of 15 dairyfarmers. Mr D G Manton, President of the Naracoorte Branch and Mr M C Duffield Sect. SEDA and Mr Chillingnorth, dairy adviser for the area, also attended. Office bearers elected were President, Mr Clive R Williams, Vice-president, H F Stopp, Secretary, J Collins. Committee were Messrs C Druwitt, Don Williams, E Evans, D Wiese, L Hutchings, P H Densley and C Manning.

Branches were also formed at Penola/ Coonawarra, probably about 1940, and Naracoorte, 1942, but the whereabouts of their early records is not known as the branches of Millicent/Tantanoola and Naracoorte have been disbanded.

The Central Council of the South East Dairyfarmers Association consisted of delegates from each branch. From there, all proposals were channeled to the appropriate bodies, be they Local, State or Federal Government Departments. This Central Council has been very well served by its chairmen during the past 50 years:

Mr T J Murphy	1938-48
Mr F Childs	1948-57
Mr N H Whitehead	1957-65
Mr E L Gaffney	1965-69
Mr M M Healy	1969-73
Mr R L Clements	1973-86
Mr R R Heinrich	1986-91

The Central Council Secretaries were also a very devoted group. Mr A M Thompson was appointed in 1938 for the remuneration of 1 pound per week; he resigned in 1942. Mr M C Duffield was his successor for the same fee but this was increased through the years as he continued in this position until his sudden death in 1978. Mr A R B Cameron then served from 1978-83. Mr Hank Bruins is the present secretary.

During the early years much work was done to get a uniform payment system and price at the many small factories, a lot of them being privately owned.

War time saw shortages of many commodities necessary to the dairyfarmer, e.g. tyres for horse drawn trolleys to deliver milk to the factory,

petrol and machinery parts. When a member at Glencoe became seriously ill, the SEDA endeavoured to get a member of that family released from military service to help out on the farm as there was much pressure for increases in production of cheese and butter. The SEDA was also successful in getting a greater allocation of superphosphate for those who were solely producing milk.

Through the years many other issues were taken up - the appointment of Govt veterinary officers; inspectors to enforce health and other regulations on both factories and farmers; the eradication of Contagious Abortion & TB; setting up of compensation schemes and milk equalisation arrangements. Many of these are on-going and need adjusting as time changes, requiring much time and effort from dedicated men.

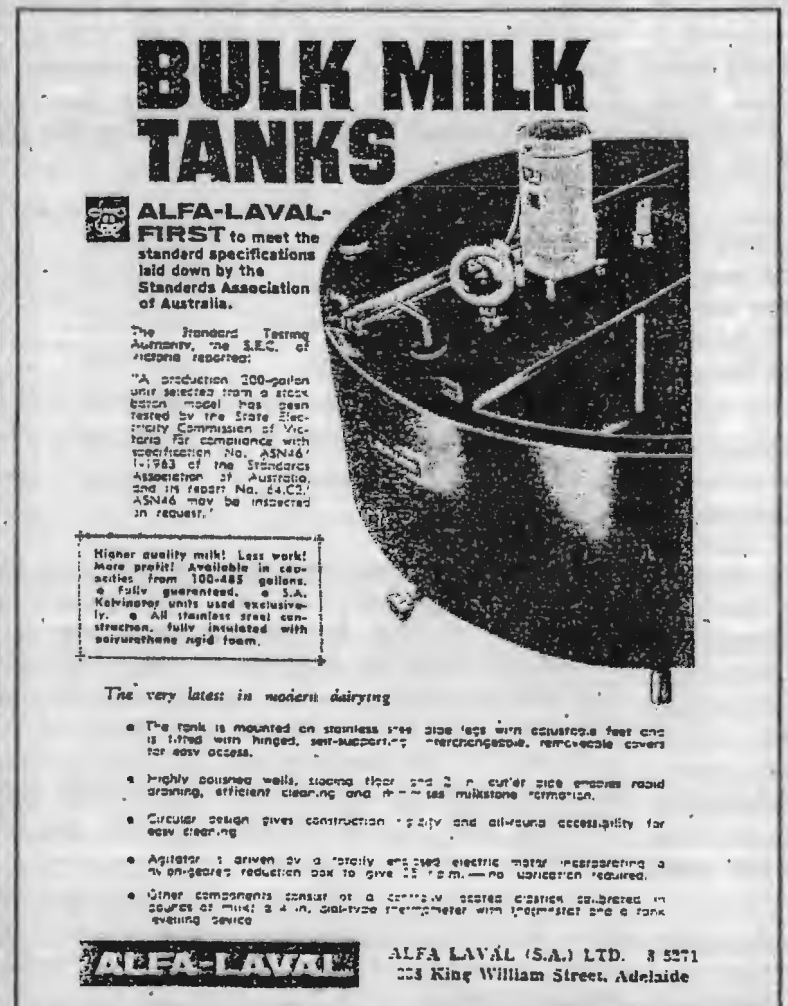
In 1939 there were 585 members but numbers had dropped to 450 by 1946. A vigorous campaign for members in 1948 saw numbers reach 1226 with a continuing rise until 1963 when there were 1629 members. Owing to rationalisation of the industry there are now fewer than 200 dairyfarms in the area covered by the SEDA but these 200 farms produce significantly more than the greater numbers of earlier years.

M.J. Wilson

South East Branch

MAINTENANCE OF MILK VATS

The introduction of the bulk milk system began just on 25 years ago...



25 Years Ago ..... South Australian Dairymen's Journal, January-February 1966

It is now the accepted norm on dairy farms. So much so that a member recently suggested many farmers have begun to take the system of the milking machine for granted.

He said that there are a number of simple preventative maintenance checks that could be undertaken. For instance when did you last check all the BELTS? Do you know what to look for to check for any gas or fluid LEAKS? When you have your regular maintenance check do you follow a certain sequence? Can it be reversed to check the check procedure? If you have a refrigeration technician regularly check your vat system do you observe, enquire and note so that you can do any of the basic superficial checking? Do you use the Milk Board supervisor as a policing agent only (i.e. they visit you) or do you seek their advice on a problem you have noticed or detected (i.e. you ask them to visit)?

Being positive and being pro-active makes you feel a lot better than being defensive ever can!

ūn′ity, n. Oneness, being one or single or individual, being formed of parts that constitute a whole, due interconnexion & coherence of parts, as *disturbs the ~ of the idea, pictures lack ~, national ~*; thing showing such ~, thing that forms a complex whole, as a *person regarded as* (math.) the number one, factor that ...ged the quantity on which ...unities, unities of ...sup-

UNITY WHAT CAN IT MEAN?

The strength of a unified dairy farmer voice in South Australia can achieve much and will achieve what is best for all dairy farmers. It can and will be successful if all dairy farmers support the organization that has resulted.

Any difficulties must be sorted out internally because it is imperative that in negotiating with politicians, companies or any other group or groups that SADA has one coherent uniform attitude.

There will be difficulties because vested interests will try to play one dairy farmer against another, region against region and idea against idea. You must be firm in your resolve to have one voice, one industry and one mind set.

This will require open, frank, considered communication between dairy farmers. It will require strength of character to accommodate different points of view and a vision to have South Australia above regions and indeed Australia above South Australia.

This is essential if our dairy industry is to capitalize on the tremendous productivity capability it has and to develop, maintain and exploit the export markets that are growing. The Australian industry needs to be in top condition to be ready to take advantage of every and any change that may occur in USA, EC or Japanese circumstances. GATT success can lift prices on the world scene. There is reason to be optimistic in the long term.

We all must ensure our State industry is in shape to take advantage of change.

Terry Inglis

AS A UNITED VOICE SADA CAN BE A FORCE FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL DAIRY FARMERS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA!

(law) joint ... joint possession by one per... rights. [ME, f. OF *unite*, or L *unitas* one, see -TY)]

THE MEMBERS OF SADA THANK THE SPONSORS WHO MADE THE 8TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE AT NURIOOTPA SUCH A MARVELLOUS SUCCESS.

MAJOR SPONSORS

DAIRY INDUSTRY FUND
FEDERATION INSURANCE

MINOR SPONSORS

AUSTRALIAN DAIRY CORPORATION
DAIRY VALE CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED
FARMERS UNION FOODS LIMITED
MOUNT GAMBIER CO-OPERATIVE
HENKEL (AUST.) PTY. LTD.
MILLLING INDUSTRIES
PENFOLD WINES
ALFA LAVAL
MURRAY MILKING PLANT SERVICES

WITHOUT THEIR SUPPORT WE COULD NOT SUPPORT THEM!

MASTITIS CONTROL

REMOVE EXISTING INFECTIONS

Clinical Cases

- Use an antibiotic recommended by your veterinarian.
- Use the full course of treatment according to label.
- Clearly mark treated cows and withold milk for the recommended period.

Treat at Drying Off

- Treat all quarters of all cows when there is no reliable method of selecting infected cows.
- Treat all quarters of any cow with clinical mastitis record or with cell count above 250,000 or with elevated NAGase or RMT.
- Clean and dip teats before treating with a high dose antibiotic in a long acting base then dip teats again after treatment.

Culling

- Cull cows that have more than three clinical cases per lactation.
- Cull cows that do not respond to dry cow therapy.
- Ensure that cows recently treated are not culled for slaughter.

Feature Article

THE SOUTH EAST

A SPECIAL REGION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

☞ INTRODUCTION

The South East of South Australia is different things to different people. There is no denying it is a special region of South Australia and an important segment of the rural fabric of this State. For many years Central Region dairy farmers have been suspicious of South Eastern dairy farmers. The licence fee and, before that, augmentation, were elements of a history of difference. For 50 years SADA and SEDA had looked at, courted with, and thought about getting together to give dairy farmers one united voice, not only within South Australia, but also on the national scene.

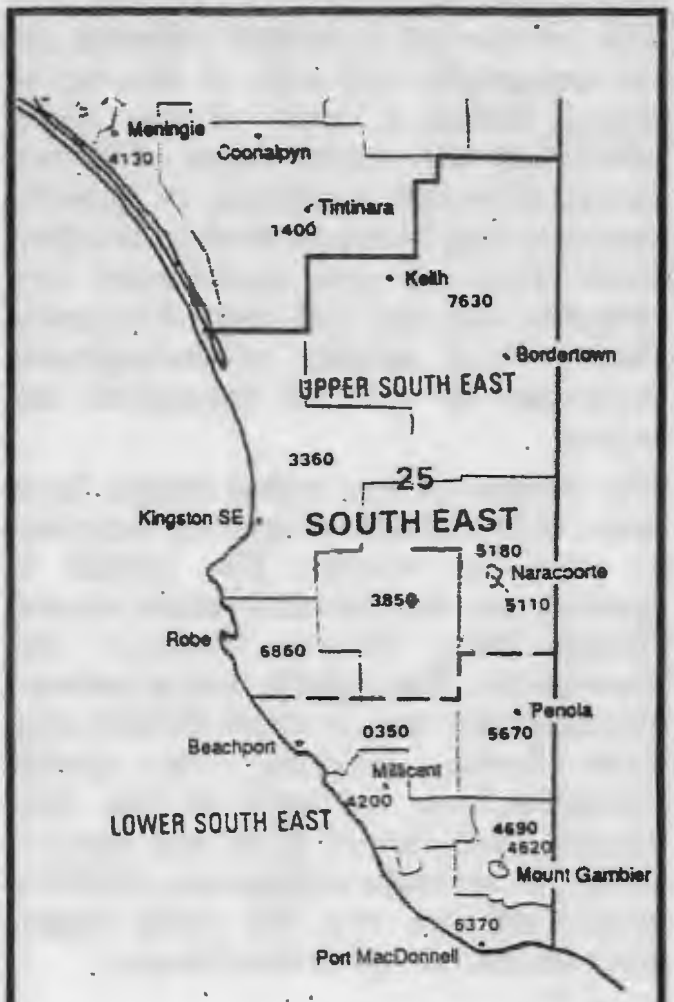
That is all in the past!

On April 29th the unification of SEDA and SADA resulted in one voice for dairy farmers. The goal now must be to make all farmers equal through a system that will ensure commercial decisions alone determine dairy farmer viability.

Enough of the industry centred matters. What I want to do in this feature is to paint a broad picture of the South East for all SADA members. In doing so I would urge all Journal readers to visit the South East at some time so that the people there can show you their region of which they are justifiably proud.

☞ THE REGION

The map shown is from the Australian Bureau of Statistics and shows the statistical areas as well as the major towns and the City of Mount Gambier.



STATISTICAL LOCAL AREAS

0350	Beachport
3360	Lacepede
3850	Lucindale
4200	Millicent
4620	Mount Gambier (City)
4690	Mount Gambier (District Council)
5180	Naracoorte (District Council)
5110	Naracoorte (Municipality)
5670	Penola
6370	Port MacDonnell
6860	Robe
7630	Tatiara

☞ TOPOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

In recent geological time a vast shallow sea covered most of the South East of South Australia and part of Victoria.

This sea has had a marked influence on the topography and soils of the region leaving behind a series of low ridges which were the coastal dunes of former shores. Originally composed of material similar to that found on modern beaches, these ridges are now consolidated into limestone although still covered by sandy matter. Good supplies of underground water can be obtained throughout the region.

The climate of the region ranges from warm to hot, predominantly dry summers to cool wet winters. The rainfall is greatest over the elevated terrain around Mount Burr, Mount Gambier and Kalangadoo. The highest annual average rainfall in the area is about 830mm near Lake Leake. However, the rainfall decreases fairly uniformly to less than 450mm north-east of Keith and Bordertown. For agricultural purposes, rainfall is usually effective over the whole region from the end of April until October.

☞ STATISTICS

The South East is truly a diverse agriculture and forestry production region as these selected statistics show:

Value of Selected Agricultural Production (1988-89)	$m
Wool	170
Cattle for meat	70
Sheep for meat	43
Milk	17
Pasture and Grass Seed	10
Grapes	18
Potatoes	17
Total for South East	**418**

% of South Australia's Gross Agricultural Commodities produced in the South East in 1989 was 19%.

The South East has 3% of the total area of all rural establishments in South Australia yet produces:

- ☞ 45% of the cattle and calves
- ☞ 30% of the sheep and lambs
- ☞ 58% of the lucerne seed
- ☞ 62% of other pasture seed
- ☞ 98% of the rape seed
- ☞ 87% of the sunflower
- ☞ 95% of the vegetable seed
- ☞ 35% of the potatoes
- ☞ 15% of the grapes (43,000 tonnes)
- ☞ 19% of the milk

produced in South Australia.

In terms of forestry 80% of the State's plantations are in the South East and in 1989 85% of all State Forestry plantings were in the South East.

☞ POPULATION

Approximately 62,000 people (or 5% of South Australians) live in the South East with about 20,000 living in Mount Gambier.

☞ DAIRY FARMS

As Jim Wilson's history details the number of dairy farms in the South East has declined by about 90%. Currently there are about 185 dairy farms operating in the South East, producing some 68-70 million litres.

☞ HISTORY

The South East has a very interesting history with its coastal life, rural growth and forestry development perhaps dominating European settlement.

The Mounts that are dispersed across the

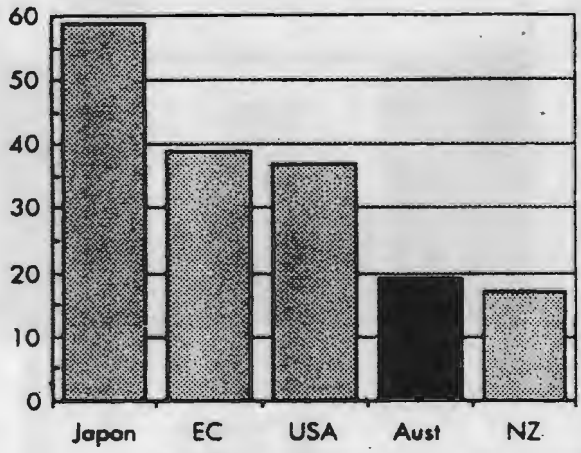
Australia's Dairy Industry

May 1991

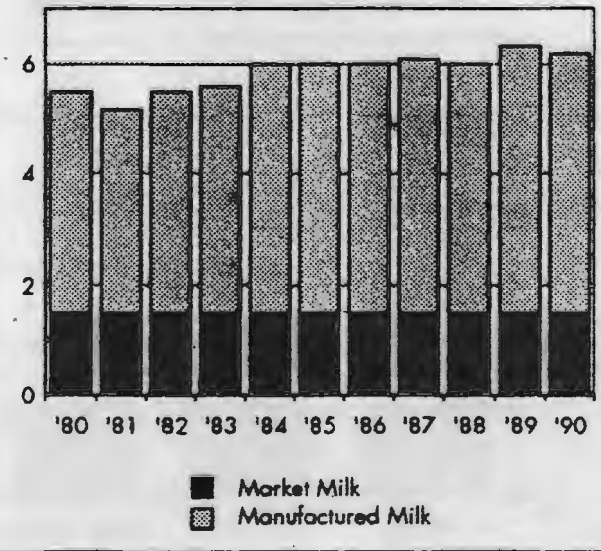
- The Australian dairy industry is important to all Australians.
- The industry is internationally competitive due to our cost-efficiencies both on farm and at the manufacturing level. The industry is also a major regional employer.
- Dairying is technically advanced at both the farm and manufacturing levels, and continues to make productivity gains which give Australian consumers dairy products at prices as low as anywhere in the world.
- The dairy industry is currently under review. The Industry Commission Inquiry into the Australian Dairy Industry will soon make recommendations (September 1991) to the government about marketing arrangements and the level of support the industry should receive after June, 1992.
- It is vitally important that those making decisions be aware of the facts.
- Here are those facts.

- Australian dairy farmers produce milk more efficiently than other major producing and consuming countries.
- This efficiency is passed directly to Australian consumers in the form of a wide range of low cost dairy products.

Direct Production Costs (cents/litre)



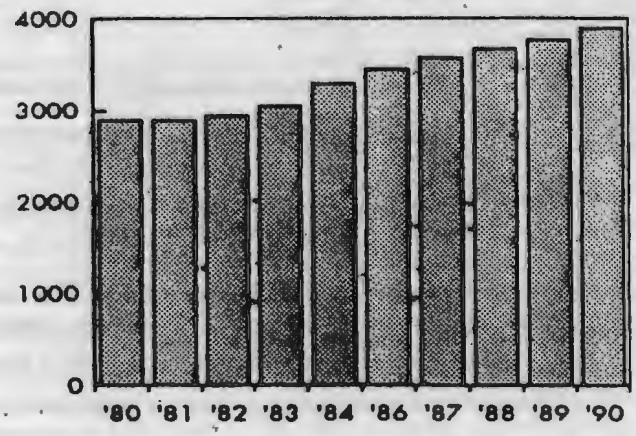
Milk Production (billion litres)



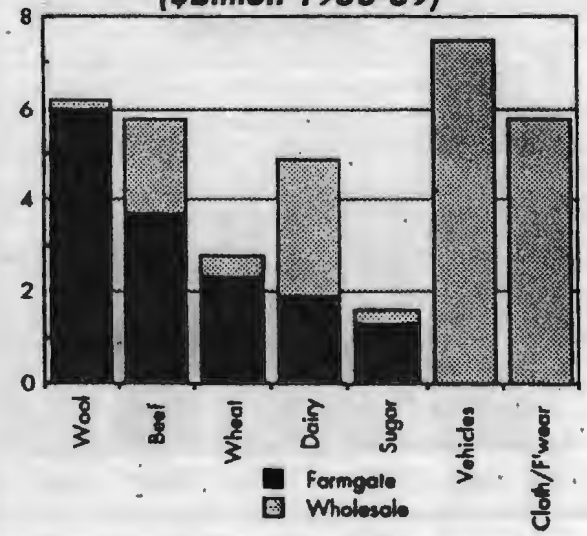
- Australia's 15,000 dairy farmers produce some 6.2 billion litres of milk annually.

- Although dairy cow numbers have dropped by 13 per cent over the last decade, Australian dairy farmer skills have increased production per cow by 33 per cent; Australia's total milk production is now similar to that of the mid-70s.

Dairy Cow Production (litres/cow)



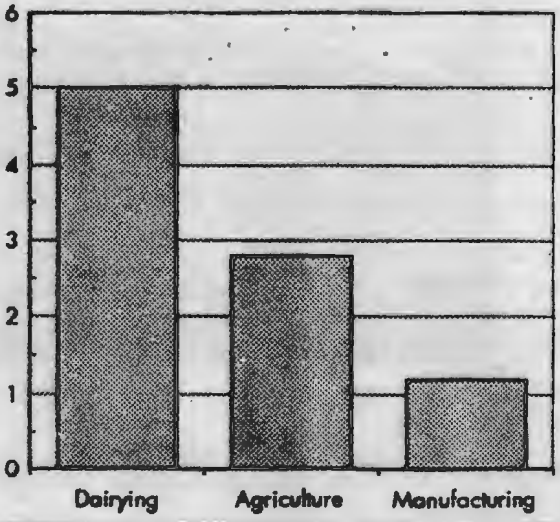
Value Added ($billion 1988-89)



- At the farm gate level, the dairy industry is Australia's fourth largest rural industry, and each year earns around $750 million in exports.
- When valued at the wholesale level — after value has been added through manufacturing and processing — the dairy industry is Australia's third largest rural industry, worth more than $4 billion annually.
- The added value gained through manufacturing is indicative of the high level of technology associated with the industry.

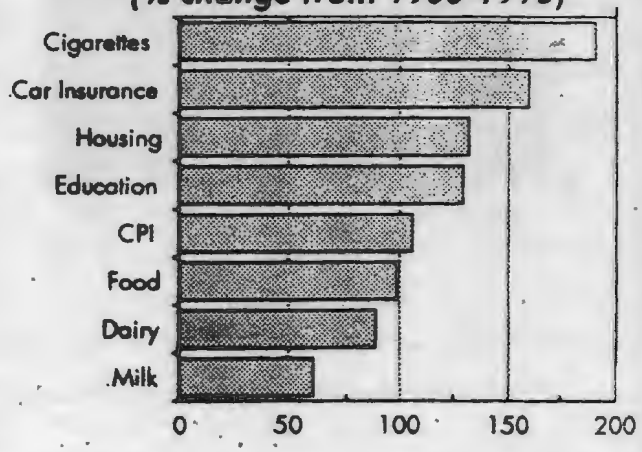
- In economic terms, the industry is extremely efficient by world standards.
- Throughout the '80s the industry made consistent productivity gains.
- Dairy farm output has improved by over five per cent per farm each year. This productivity improvement exceeds gains achieved in other Australian rural industries.
- In recent years Australian dairy companies have made major investments in manufacturing plant and equipment and the development of new domestic market brands. These investments have paid off with the output per person employed in dairy processing increasing markedly.

Productivity Improvement (% change per year 1980-90)

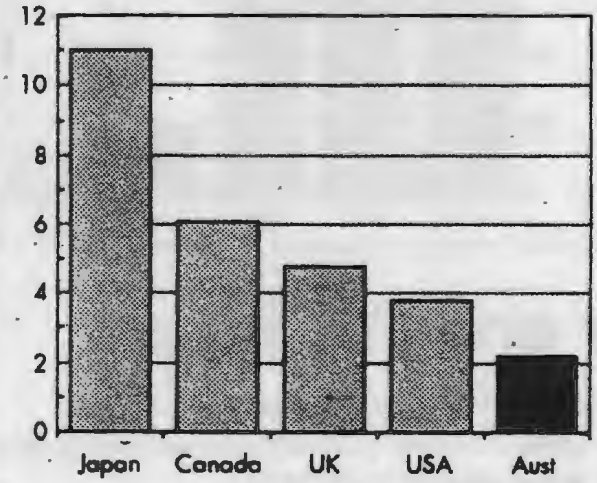


- Gains in productivity have enhanced the industry's competitiveness, and led to consumers benefiting from a lower rate of increase in the price of milk and dairy products than for most other products in Australia.

Retail Price Changes (% change from 1980-1990)



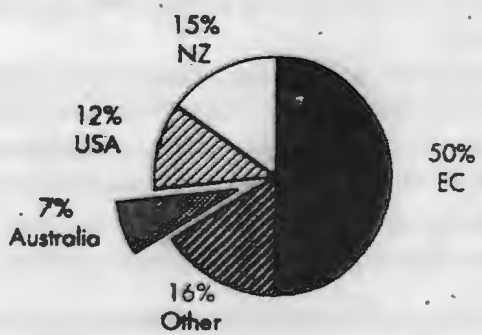
Wholesale Prices: Butter ($A/kg, 1989)

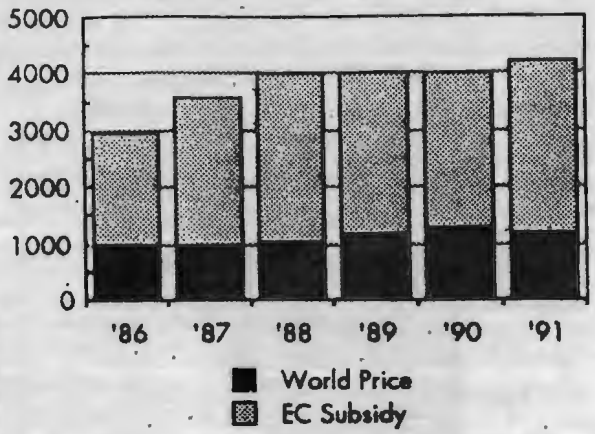


- The industry's economic efficiency ensures Australians can purchase dairy products at lower prices than consumers in most countries.

- Australia is a significant player in the international trading of dairy products with a seven per cent share of the world market.
- The international market is dominated by exports from the European Community.
- The European Community and the United States of America, along with Japan, impose considerable government barriers to trade affecting not only the total volume of international trade, but also export prices. Thus, Australia is doubly disadvantaged.

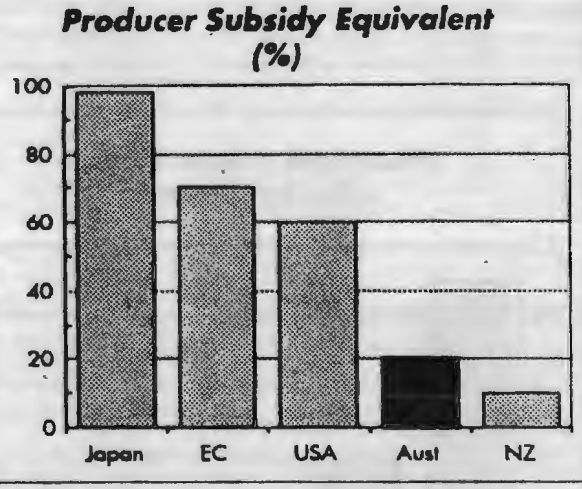
Export Market Shares (milk equivalent, 1986-90)





- Higher cost producers, like those in the European Community, are highly subsidised.
- The EC is prepared to support the sale of their domestic surpluses onto the export market with subsidies worth more than twice the world price.
- These subsidies lead to an imbalance between production and consumption within these countries which further compounds the problem confronting Australian dairy farmers.
- Without the subsidies, both the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) have estimated that world prices would increase by more than 40%.

- International measurements of assistance provided to producers (producer subsidy equivalents) confirm that Australian dairy farmers produce milk much more efficiently than most other countries and yet receive much lower levels of assistance.



The dairy industry and the future

- The dairy industry is a major contributor to the Australian economy both domestically and internationally.
- And, because we have a low cost of production, we can produce and supply Australian consumers with products at prices lower than those paid anywhere else, and as low as those paid in New Zealand.
- Maintaining this efficiency will mean continuing to apply advanced technology both on-farm and at the manufacturing level.
- The industry will need to continue along the path of constructive change.
- The industry has demonstrated its willingness to change, both in the manufacturing and market milk sectors, with the structural reforms of the Kerin Plan.
- While the industry is prepared to respond to change, progress elsewhere in the economy has been slow.
- With our low cost of production we can compete in a "free market", but only if others are playing by the same rules.
- International trade negotiations show promising signs, but the dairy industry needs to be allowed to pace the rate of change to enable it to remain competitive until all players are competing on an equal footing.
- Then, the Australian dairy industry's production efficiency will place it at the forefront of the international dairy trade, earning more export income and continuing to provide employment and food for Australians.

For more information, contact: Australian Dairy Industry Council Executive Officer Michael Taylor, First Floor, 1601 Malvern Road, Glen Iris, Victoria, Australia, 3146. Phone: (03) 885 9782 Fax: (03) 885 1526.

ADIC

AUSTRALIAN DAIRY INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC.

South East hinterland are remnant volcanic cones and craters. The contribution of volcanic activity to the soil and physical structure of the region has perhaps been overshadowed by the advancing coastline and the remnant beaches. Geologically the South East's a fascinating area with areas of classic kunkar landscape including sink holes, caves and grottos.

The presence of underground water in rock and in underground streams has assisted agriculture in the region. The quality of this water is variable and its location spectacularly erratic.

☞ COASTAL LIFE

The coastline of the South East includes the fishing ports of Kingston, Robe, Beachport and Port MacDonnell. Famed as a crayfish producing area the coast of the South East has a history of shipping activity stretching back to the days of the great sailors of History. Flinders and Baudin are perhaps the first that come to mind.

The coastline has created its own share of shipwrecks and today as you walk the cliffs of Robe or visit some of the region's museums the marine history of the region is vivid enough to those with a bit of imagination.

The nature of the coastline enables the South East to reap the benefits of a moderated climate - except for the northerly days. The rainfall is also a product of the coastal configuration and the prevailing weather direction.

For anyone who loves the sea, coastal life and seafood, the South East has all the bounty available to please even the most ardent enthusiast.

☞ RURAL GROWTH

Since the middle of the last century the natural pastoral strength of the South East has been used by those who sought expanses of grasslands with reliable rainfall and good water supplies.

Grain growing, hay production, horticulture and seed production are activities that have seen tremendous growth in the last 20-30 years.

Dairy farming has been a part of South East life for over a century with the famous Yahl, 8 Mile Creek and Mil Lel cheeses being nationally and internationally known.

One of the most spectacular engineering feats linked with agriculture and accomplished by one man is to be found near Robe. The Woakwine Cutting is an example of the ingenuity that has opened many thousands of hectares of former swamp country to agriculture. (See "A One Man Wonder" for a brief account of the Woakwine Cutting").

☞ FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT

The extensive pine plantations of the South East were commenced in the 1880's to provide South Australia with construction timber, paper and assured timber supplies. The natural timber stands cleared for agriculture provided the opportunity for this forestry development.

The devastation of the timber store by the 1982 Ash Wednesday fire is not apparent as one drives around the forestry areas. An aerial view shows the extent of the disaster and is now signified by extensive young plantations.

☞ SUMMARY

This article has only touched some of the surface of some of the information about the South East. The South East was the

home of some of our most famous citizens. Adam Lindsay Gordon, Sir Robert Helpman and Mother Mary MacKillop.

The towns of Penola, Robe, Naracoorte and Beachport and Mount Gambier itself are immensely rich in history. Throughout the South East it is possible to find outstanding examples of local museums and the countryside itself is a tapestry of history.

Finally, I would return to my introductory comment and urge you all to take the opportunity when it arises to visit the South East. It is a tremendous holiday destination made all the more enjoyable by a lot of very friendly South Australians.

By ..... Terry Inglis

DAIRY VALE YOUNG FARMER OF THE YEAR

The finalists for the Dairy Vale Young Farmer of the Year have all been selected by now. The ten young people who will contest the final have every reason to be proud of their achievement thus far.

The importance of this Dairy Vale initiative will only become apparent to the industry in the years to come. Any move to motivate young people to develop a pro-active attitude to our industry must be applauded. To encourage and foster progressive thinking, to raise the profile of our industry and to give reason for pride are all admirable goals that Dairy Vale has been striving for in this competition.

The quality of the entrants has been excellent and all of the young people who were put forward or indeed who stepped forward to be contestants deserve the heartiest congratulations of the whole industry.

SADA supports the concept fully and congratulates Dairy Vale for providing this statewide, all farmer (within the age guidelines) competition.

Terry Inglis.

A ONE-MAN WONDER

No trip along the South East coastal road is complete without a slight diversion inland from the highway between Robe and Beachport to see the Woakwine Cutting.

Nearly a kilometre in length and 27.14 metres down at its deepest point, it is Australia's largest one-man engineering feat.

The cutting, through the Woakwine Range, drains a large swamp on the land of Mr. M.D. McCourt.

The huge cutting was made in three years by Mr. McCourt with some help from only one workman.

No-one believed it could be done.

Mr. McCourt used a bulldozer and attachments on the job which occupied 5000 engine hours.

Enough rubble was taken out to make a road surface 75mm deep, six metres wide and more then 650km long.

The base of the cutting was wide enough to permit a large truck to enter.

Using a theodolite which he learned to use on the job, and his own observations, Mr. McCourt found when he broke through that there was an inaccuracy of his pre-determined levels of only 100mm when it was completed. When the dam between the swamp and the cutting was broken, it took 35 minutes for the water to rush from one end of the cutting to the other.

Now thousands of acres of valuable grazing land have been brought under pasture instead of nearly a metre of water.

A viewing platform and picnic area have been established at the head of the cutting and the accomplishment documented for all visitors to read.

REPRODUCED FROM "THE VISITOR"

BIG WINS FOR DAIRY VALE

At the recent national championships conducted by the Dairy Industry Association of Australia, Dairy Vale was a major prizewinner with five firsts and two seconds from 37 classes.

These included two innovation awards for new products and packs (ProActive milk and Lite'Fruity yoghurt) and a special award for highest score in the yoghurt classes.

Dairy Vale also scooped the pool at the competitions held by the SA division of the DIAA and was this week presented with 13 first and four second placings from 19 classes.

"They have been very pleasing results for all of us - dairyfarmer shareholders and employees alike," Dairy Vale's Marketing Manager, Mr David Wood, said today.

"It was satisfying to do so well in the national championships against the best dairy products in Australia - to cap it off with the State successes was great."

The other Dairy Vale winners at the national awards wre in classes for mild cheddar cheese (from 13 entries) and chocolate flavored milk.

At the State awards, Dairy Vale won the award for best new dairy product with Lite 'N Fruity yoghurt and the champion cheese award with a vintage cheddar from the co-op's Jervois factory, while associated companies Freesia and Fallands (based in the Riverland) also won awards.

Other winning products were DV mild cheddar cheese, DV edam cheese, DV natural yoghurt, DV thickened cream, DV swiss-style chocolate milk, DV The Max iced coffee, Freesia vanilla icecream (for the sixth time since 1984), Freesia hoeny icecream, Fallands custard, DV butter and Fallands reduced fat milk.

DAIRY INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
1991 Australian Championships

First placings:

Cheddar cheese, rindless, mild	DV Jervois
Yoghurt, real fruit (stirred), low fat, not strawberry	DV Clarence Gardens
Flavoured milk, chocolate, low fat	DV Clarence Gardens
Any non-cultured dairy, consumer pack innovation award	DV Clarence Gardens
Any cultured dairy product, consumer pack, innovation award	DV Clarence Gardens

Second placings:

Cheddar cheese, rindless, vintage	DV Jervois
Yoghurt, Natural (set) - low fat	DV Clarence Gardens

1991 South Australian Championships

First placings:

Cheddar cheese, mild	DV Jervois	
Cheddar cheese, vintage	DV Jervois	(Champion Cheese)
Any cheese, not cheddar	DV Mt Compass	Edam
Yoghurt, natural	DV Clarence Gardens	
Thickened cream	DV Clarence Gardens	
Flavoured milk, nominated	DV Clarence Gardens	Swiss Style Chocolate
Flavoured milk coffee	DV Clarence Gardens	The Max Iced Coffee
Ice cream, vanilla	Freesia, Mile End	
Ice cream, any flavour	Freesia, Mile End	
Custard	G.W. Falland, Renmark	
Butter, retail packs	DV Mt Compass	
Best new dairy product	DV Clarence Gardens	Lite 'N Fruity yoghurt
White milk, specialty	G.W. Falland, Renmark	Reduced fat

CENTRAL COUNCIL 1991

BRANCH	DELEGATES
BAROSSA	JOHN NIETSCHKE
CENTRAL HILLS	EVAN SCHMIDT, KEN SMITH
JERVOIS	MARK SCHUBERT, ERIC STEWART
LAKES	STEPHEN TRELOAR, JEFF WRIGHT
MID NORTH	JOHN TIVER
MILANG	LYNDON CLEGGETT
MYPONGA	VIC WALTER, MIKE WEATHERALD, IAN WILLIAMS
NORTHERN HILLS	NEIL KROEHN, JEFF SEMMLER
ONKAPARINGA	MAX GREEN, TREVOR NEUMAN
RIVER MURRAY	MILTON BAULDERSTONE, JOANNE PFIEFFER
SOUTH COAST	JOHN CROMPTON, ROB MULHERN
SOUTH EAST	PETER DOMAN, BYRON GILMORE, RAY HEINRICH, RON PURVIS, BRONTE WILSON
SOUTHERN HILLS	ROGER BASHAM, DON HOLLY
GENERAL PRESIDENT	ALLAN MANNING

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 1991

GENERAL PRESIDENT	ALLAN MANNING
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT	ROGER BASHAM
JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT	RAY HEINRICH
MEMBERS	JOHN NIETSCHKE, ERIC STEWART STEPHEN TRELOAR, IAN WILLIAMS

MATTERS BEFORE THE EXECUTIVE & CENTRAL COUNCIL include:

- ☆ Green Paper
- ☆ IC Draft Report
- ☆ Research & Extension
- ☆ Statewide Equity
- ☆ Young Dairy Farmers
- ☆ Restructuring of ADFF
- ☆ Irrigation Issues
- ☆ National Herd Recording Scheme
- ☆ SADA Finances

Special Thanks....

General President, Allan Manning, on behalf of the members of SADA would like to acknowledge the work of the following Central Council Delegates who retire due to the changes made to the organization through the new Constitution and through other reasons:

Messrs.	Murray Klemm	Trevor King
	Greg Steven	Dean Whitford
	Lindsay Randell	Derris Koch
	Terry Murphy	Wes Seeliger
	Stan Schoell	Rod Baker
	Colin Blacker	Les Goodridge

Those two stalwarts who are missing from the Executive Committee

Ian Newman and Don Holly

are going to be missed and it is to be hoped they maintain their interest in SADA to help it help dairy farmers.

Congratulations for a job well done and a very sincere thank you from the members of SADA.

JUDITH WOOD RETURNS

In the March-April 1990 edition of the Journal we introduced Judith Wood. Judith is undertaking a Master of Arts course at the University of Adelaide in Economic Geography.

Judith is currently trialling her questionnaire on 10 very kind volunteers. After she has ironed out the bugs in the draft questionnaire she will be sending out 368 questionnaires at random to dairy farmers in the Metropolitan Milk Supply Area.

The results of her work will be of tremendous help to SADA as a source of objective information we can lay before the powers that be.

Please respond positively by filling in her questionnaire and posting it back promptly if you are lucky enough to be selected at random.

I have seen the questionnaire. It is designed to be as easy to fill in as possible, with many tick and number questions as is practical. The other assurance is that you do not need to put your name to it in any way only your postcodes. The statistics generated will truly be confidential in the sense that no individual will be identifiable in any way, shape or form.

Please help Judith help us to help you.

Terry Inglis

REMEMBER WHEN ?

IN MAY/JUNE 1971

The May/June Journal ran a story on the 1970-1974 Marginal Dairy Farms Reconstruction Scheme. Logically a definition of a Marginal Dairy Farm was incorporated into the story.

Included were such things as:

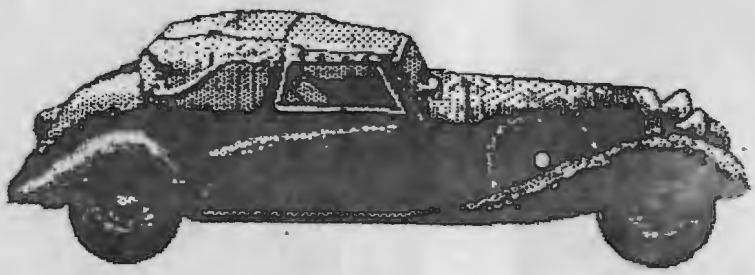
- a minimum of 20 lactating cows
- unable to produce 12,000 pounds of butterfat per year (5,443 kg)

If the % change in herd size since 1971 is used as a conversion factor the current base size of a marginal dairy farm would be 39 cows.

The farm would be unable to produce 6,358 kg of butterfat if the % change in per cow production since 1971 (+17%) is used as the base measure.

It would be interesting to see what the bureaucrats would come up with as a marginal dairy farm in 1991.

South Australian Dairymen's Journal March-April 1964



IN MAY/JUNE 1941

In the Minutes of an Executive Meeting held at SADA offices, 28 Davenport Chambers, Currie Street, Adelaide on 30 June 1941, the following was written:

"ELECTRIC LIGHT

The Secretary stated that he had been working back four nights a week for the last six weeks, and the single globe in his office was convenient for using at both his desk and the large table, each of which he frequently used in the same evening. He recommended that another light be obtained for the office desk.

With regard to the typist's office, he considered that the typists should have a light conveniently placed for typing. On most winter days, from at least 4 p.m., it was necessary to switch on the light for typing, and he therefore recommended that an extra light be placed over the typing table.

Both matters were agreed to by the Committee, and it was left to the General Secretary to have the matter arranged."

History has a way of bringing the computer age back to earth, doesn't it?

AND IN 1891

It is interesting to note in 1991 that 1891 was a period of great depression of the Australian economy. The per capita Gross National Product fell by 13% between 1891 and 1900.

Perhaps Mr. Keating's "Recession we had to have" was based on a climatic 100-year cycle?

Fred & Ginger Crompton?

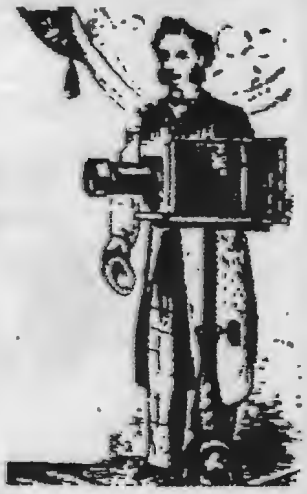
Mr. John Frearson, ADC Chairman with our new Junior Vice President, Ray Heinrich.

SADA-CAM

VERSUS

"I've never milked a cow before - Oooh it's such fun!!"

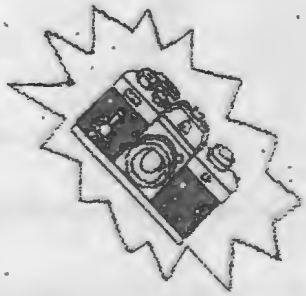
John Meier, Shadow Minister of Agriculture, Allan Manning,SADA President and Ray Heinrich, former SEDA President toast the amalgamation of the two Associations.



1991 ANNUAL DINNER

Who is this man, with no grey hairs, keeping an SADA staff member on her toes?

There's always one isn't there!



REFORM OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

Speaking in Brussels on April 25, the EC Commissioner responsible for Agriculture and Rural Development, Ray Mac Sharry, said that there was now a substantial degree of consensus on the need to reform the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). It is generally agreed, he said, that a ''continuation of the status quo is not a real option and that more is needed than marginal adjustments of current policies''.

While he accepted that recent exceptional factors had contributed to a deterioration in the Community's agricultural situation it would be ''illusory'', he said, to suggest that the factors that have led to the creation of structural surpluses will disappear - if anything they are likely to become more prominent over the next year or two.

In the course of address to the Club de Bruxelles Mr. Mac Sharry emphasized that the reform of the CAP would not question the fundamental principles of the policy but rather the mechanisms to be employed to achieve the objectives.

He pointed out that the current system concentrated support on a minority of well structured farms producing the greater part of agricultural output, provided an incentive to increase production and has not been effective in arresting the decline of farm incomes and the rural population.

The new approach he said would ''recognize the dual role of the farmer as a producer of food, a guardian of the countryside and a major contributor to rural development''. The objective ''must be to channel the maximum resources direct to the farmer rather than dilute the impact through payments for some agribusiness activities''. The consumer and environmental benefits which would accrue as a result provided a strong case for an increase in budgetary resources but this would not necessarily mean an increase in overall economic support for agriculture.

Referring to the agricultural price negotiations Mr. Mac Sharry said that those involved were finally tending to concentrate on measures necessary to bring some markets back into balance following weeks of ''rather sterile debate on the agricultural guideline''. What is required, he said, is corrective action in the markets and not more money to add to the present high level of food stocks which are overhanging the market and depressing prices received by farmers. Expenditure on the CAP will be 30 per cent or some ECU 8 billion higher in 1991 compared to 1990 and yet farm incomes will increase very little, if at all this year.

THE GREEN PAPER - Changes for the Better ?

The release of the Green Paper in May provided a focus for dairy industry thinking post June 1991 in a South Australian context. The great disappointment with the Green Paper is the level of error in fact contained in it and the very poor countenance taken of industry wide advice on certain issues.

The Green Paper will probably be regarded as a successful discussion paper though it has not generated any informed public discussion. Discounting the industry effort the only comments made thus far have been from fringe dwelling dreamers who have no concern for the industry.

The Review Team convinced the Minister that the Green Paper was the result of consultation with industry. The truth is that parts of the Green Paper were discussed with representatives of the industry but other parts were kept secret from industry and not discussed at all.

The content of the Green Paper is disappointing because it is not wholly accurate and not therefore wholly truthful. SADA is concerned that full discussion about the best future for the South Australian dairy industry be based on the whole truth and nothing but the truth. This is made more difficult because of the Green Paper. Many of the bottom lines however are quite general and could become acceptable to industry.

Another aspect of concern, perhaps more personally held because I am amongst other things an historian, is the disregard the Review Team has shown in the Green Paper for history. The reason current rules exist is because of past experience. South Australia provides milk for consumers and milk products of a standard equivalent to the best in the world and at the cheapest prices. Why the whole system needs to be dismantled is a mystery. The propositions with respect to unpasteurized milk, quality, pricing and administration are all neglectful of why current systems were created. To expect the motives of man to have changed to the extent that altruism is the dominant force in everyone is not only supremely optimistic but downright naive.

Important issues such as statewide equity and Section 38 type legislation to bring South Australia into line with the national industry are avoided by the Review Team. Indeed many of the hard questions are overcome by the Team by referring such issues back to industry to solve.

Another basic tenet that the members of the Review Team jointly hold is that a Code of Practice or Code of Conduct can work well. The Motor Traders Association was held up as a glowing example of self imposed industry controlled standards. The problem with such optimism was clearly revealed in a recent press report where 261 of 781 cars in MTA member car yards were defected by police inspections because they were unroadworthy. A clear example of the MTA code that "no unroadworthy vehicle be offered for sale" really working. All of the defected cars were for sale. In the dairy industry we are dealing with public health and the changes to a code of practice for quality could well be brought about by death. The cost to the dairy industry in this state in such a circumstance could be catastrophic. We must not allow standards to decline or our systems of safeguard to be removed. The good of the whole is more important than short term gains for a few.

Terry Inglis

SADA Executive Officer

Two brothers gave their 92-year-old mother a cordless phone for her birthday. She was usually frugal, but the brothers began receiving an unusual number of long-distance calls from her. When they asked her about it, she replied, "Why not? It doesn't cost a cent. The phone's not attached to anything."

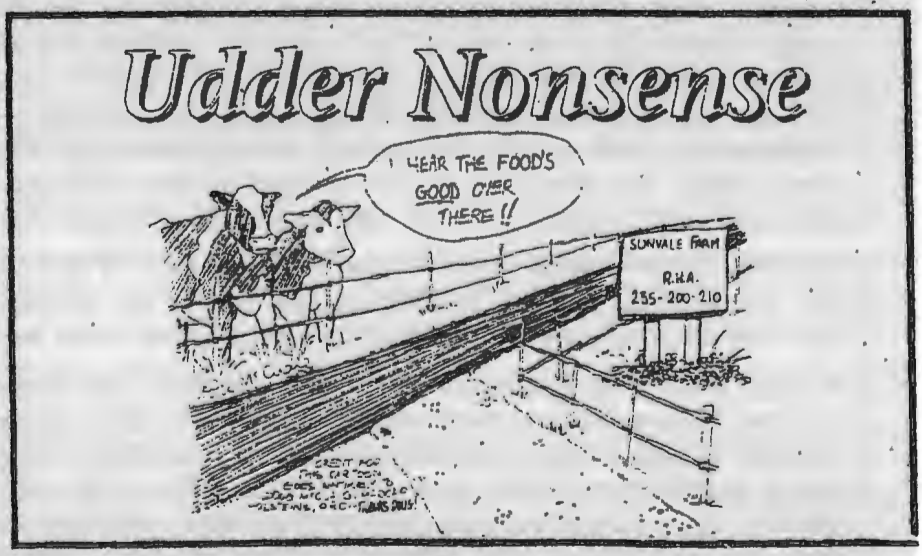
"What kind of cost estimate is — 'Your guess is as good as mine."

How many Country & Western singers does it take to change a light bulb?

Five. One to put the new bulb in, and four to sing about how much they long for the old one.

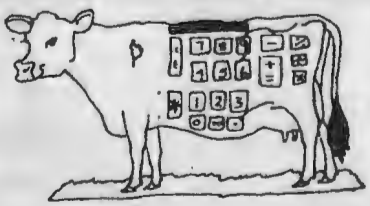
THE FUNNY FARM

"Egad!.... Sounds like the farmer's wife has really flipped out this time!"



A well-developed sense of humor is the pole that adds balance to your steps as you walk the tightrope of life.
— William A. Ward

How does a dairy farmer count his herd?



With a COWCULATOR!

A cyclist whose tyre was punctured as he rode along a country road stopped beside a paddock where a farmer was working. "Excuse me!" he shouted. "How far is it to the nearest service station?"

The farmer rubbed his chin and looked across his huge farm. "I'd say about 30 kilometres as the crow flies."

The tired cyclist sighed. "How far is that if the crow has to carry a bike?"

BEST TEACHER I EVER HAD

By David Owen

Mr. Whitson taught year six science. On the first day of class, he gave us a lecture about a creature called the cattywampus, an ill-adapted nocturnal animal that was wiped out during the Ice Age. He passed around a skull as he talked. We all took notes and later had a test.

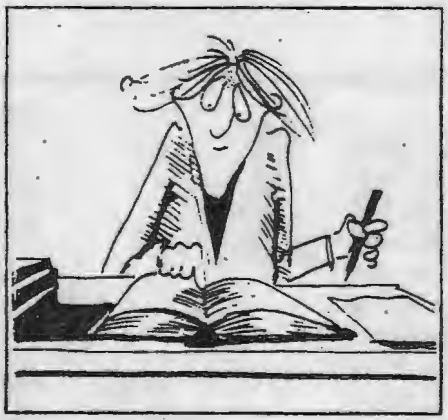
When he returned my paper, I was shocked. There was a big red X through each of my answers. I had failed. There had to be some mistake! I had written down exactly what Mr. Whitson said. Then I realized that everyone in the class had failed. What had happened?

Very simple, Mr. Whitson explained. He had made up all that stuff about the cattywampus. There had never been any such animal. The information in our notes was, therefore, incorrect. Did we expect credit for incorrect answers?

Needless to say, we were outraged. What kind of test was this? And what kind of teacher?

We should have figured it out, Mr. Whitson said. After all, at the very moment he was passing around the cattywampus skull (in truth a cat's), hadn't he been telling us that no trace of the animal remained? He had described its amazing night vision, the colour of its fur and any number of other facts he couldn't have known. He had given the animal a ridiculous name, and we still hadn't been suspicious. The zeros on our papers would be recorded in his grade book, he said. And they were.

Mr. Whitson said he hoped we would learn something from his experience.



Teachers and textbooks are not infallible. In fact, no-one is. He told us not to let our minds go to sleep, and to speak up if we ever thought he or the textbook was wrong.

Every class was an adventure with Mr. Whitson. I can still remember some science periods almost from beginning to end. One day he told us that his Volkswagon was a living organism. It took us two full days to put together a refutation he would accept. He didn't let us off the hook until we had proved not only that we knew what an organism was but also that we had the fortitude to stand up for the truth.

We carried our brand-new scepticism into all our classes. This caused problems for the other teachers, who weren't used to being challenged. Our history teacher would be lecturing about something, and then there would be clearings of the throat and someone would say "cattywampus".

If I'm ever asked to propose a solution to the crisis in our schools, it will be Mr. Whitson. I haven't made any great scientific discoveries, but his class gave me and my classmates something just as important: the courage to look people in the eye and tell them they are wrong. He also showed us that you can have fun doing it.

Not everyone sees the value in this. I once told a primary-school teacher about Mr. Whitson. "He shouldn't have tricked you like that", the teacher said, appalled. I looked that teacher right in the eye and told him he was wrong.

Extract from Readers Digest, May 1991 Edition, pp 139-140.

CFC ≈ BULK VATS ≈ R12 ≈ OZONE LAYER

The concern over R12 as the operant gas in milk vat cooling systems has been a concern to SADA since the issue was brought to our attention in April 1990. The response adopted has been to try to identify commercial alternatives and two major alternatives have emerged as contenders for the future.

Firstly direct replacement gases. Dupont believe their R124A will be commercially available in Australia later this year (1991). It will be a matter of removing the R12 and replacing it with R124A which is not a prescribed substance and is "ozone friendly". Research and development will produce even more alternatives. The refrigerant industry has really only begun to seek alternatives.

The cost of R124A is expected to be about four times the cost of R12 but this is better than R22 which is ten times as expensive as R12. R22 has the additional problem of requiring either new equipment or extensive, expensive modification of current equipment.

Secondly, new cooling technology is being developed to cope with large milk flows and to use off-peak power. SADA has been pushing for DRDC to co-ordinate and accelerate this work but with little success at this stage.

Members are advised to resist pressure to force them to cease using current equipment. The best commercial decision that will provide the long-term environmental best option is what we are striving for in our efforts. We are serious about protecting the environment - others seem to be short-sighted and avaricious.

LOST

On Sunday 2nd June 1991 at the MENINGIE GOLF DAY, a brown corduroy peaked cap answering to the name of Inglis. Last seen askew atop the head of one happy Executive Officer. (First missed a week later when on the way to son's football match!)

Believed to have been tossed in the air when receiving gifts, such as frozen chook.

Also lost one brown and gold fluffy No. 4 wood cover and an assortment of tees - especially my favourite orange one.

Please return via plain brown wrapped parcel to said Executive Officer - Inglis.

Reward offered - my return next year.

Line 'em up Joe Leese!

FROM THE DAIRY ..... TO THE TABLE

- **BAKED FISH**

8 small fish fillets, 2 onions, 2 tomatoes, salt and pepper, 125 gr jar capers, 1-1/4 cups sour cream, 1/2 cup dry white wine, parsley sprigs, lemon slices.

METHOD: Arrange fish, skin side down in a well buttered baking dish. Thinly slice onions into rings and place on the fish fillets. Slice tomatoes thinly and place on fish fillets. Season with salt and pepper. Drain capers and mix caper vinegar with sour cream, spoon over fish and then sprinkle with capers. Add wine to baking dish and cover with aluminium foil.

Cook, covered, in a hot oven (220 degreesC or 425 degreesF) for 10 minutes. Then uncover, and cook for further 10 minutes or until tender. Serve on hot plates and spoon over a little of the liquid.
Garnish with parsley and lemon slices.

MOIST ORANGE CAKE

4 oz butter, 8 oz S.R. Flour, 1/4 cup milk, 6 oz sugar, 3 eggs, Juice and rind of 1 orange.

METHOD: Beat butter and sugar to a cream, add eggs one at a time and beat in well, then add milk. Sift S.R. flour and add to mixture and stir well. Lastly add grated rind and juice of one orange. Bake 30 minutes in tin 10" x 10" in moderate oven. Ice with plain or orange icing and sprinkle with coconut.

EGG & BACON TART

Line a pie plate with slices of cheese, then fry 2 or 3 rashers of bacon, and 1 small onion chopped finely. Place on top of cheese. Add 1 cup bread-crumbs. Beat 4 eggs, add approx. 1-1/2 cups milk, pepper, salt, and chopped parsley. Pour over mixture. Bake in slow oven approx. 30 mins. Nice hot or cold.

HAPPINESS CAKE

1lb good temper, 2lb cheerfulness, 2lb forbearance, 3lb unselfishness, 1lb patience, 1lb time, 1-1/2lb contentment, 1 quart kindness.

METHOD: Mix well. Dose - a cupful first thing after getting out of bed. To be repeated as soon as effect has worn off.

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