

The South Australian Dairymen's...

IN THIS ISSUE

Comparative Value of Brewers' Grains
Changed Roster for Thursday Calf Run
Strain 19 Policy

Land Valuation Basis Changed

"Farm Focus in the in the 80's" - A Review

JOURNAL



The Official Publication of the
South Australian Dairymen's
Association

Published Bi-Monthly.

CHEESE TARIFF INQUIRY

"The Greatest Waste of Time Ever"

We must agree with John Bennett, the President of the Australian Dairy Farmers' Federation, when he describes the Industries Assistance Commission inquiry into cheese as "the greatest waste of time I have ever been associated with".

This inquiry, which began 3 years ago, was the third since 1927, when the preferential duty on cheese was lifted from 5.5c to 11c per kg and the general duty from 5.5c to 12.9c per kg and the duty remained unchanged from 1927 until the 25% "across the board" tariff reduction in 1973, which brought the preferential rate down to 8c and the general rate to 9.6c per kilogram (except for cheese from New Zealand which was given free entry under the Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement for all non-cheddar cheese and for up to 1200 tonnes of cheddar cheese).

The essential recommendation of the Commission was for duty to be lifted to 20c per kilogram for all imported cheese, including that from New Zealand.

Despite the Commission's recommendation, the Federal Government decided that **ADDITIONAL TARIFF ASSISTANCE WOULD NOT BE PROVIDED FOR THE PRODUCTION OF CHEESE IN AUSTRALIA.**

It was this decision that led John Bennett to accuse the Government of practising double standards when dealing with IAC recommendation on rural and non-rural industries, saying that "within the manufacturing sector, the IAC is criticised for being too harsh in its recommendations for restructuring heavily protected industries. By contrast, the cheese industry which receives very little Government assistance, has the unique distinction, as the only industry where tariff assistance had been reduced by the Government following an IAC recommendation for higher tariff levels".

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BREWERS' GRAINS FOR DAIRY COWS

Transport Cost A Major Factor To Consider

Brewers' grains are the residue remaining after the extraction of malt from barley grain used in brewing. Brewing removes some of the starch and other soluble constituents from the barley leaving a residue with relatively high concentrations of protein and fibre in the dry matter.

In South Australia, approximately 11 500 tonnes of wet brewers' grains are purchased each year by dairy farmers in the Adelaide Hills as a supplementary feed for dairy cows. Since little information was available on the nutritive value of wet brewers' grains available in South Australia for feeding to dairy cows, an experiment was carried out by the S.A. Department of Agriculture at the Northfield Research Centre to compare the milk production and milk composition of dairy cows fed either brewers' grains or rolled barley.

Groups of cows ate either 2.1, 4.5 or 6.0 kg of dry matter as brewers' grains or 3.9 kg of dry matter as rolled barley per head per day. On a fresh weight basis this is 9.1, 19.6 or 26.1 kg of brewers' grains or 4.3 kg of rolled barley. A further group of cows was offered no supplement. In addition to the brewers' grains or rolled barley supplement, each cow ate approximately 12.3 kg of pasture hay per day.

The daily yields of milk, fat, solids-not-fat (SNF) and the percentage of fat and SNF are shown in the table.

SUPPLEMENT EATEN (kg of dry matter per day)	MILK (litres)	FAT (kg)	SNF (kg)	FAT %	SNF %
None	9.6	0.4	0.8	4.6	8.7
Brewers' grains					
2.1	13.2	0.5	1.1	4.0	8.6
4.5	15.6	0.6	1.4	3.9	8.8
6.0	16.4	0.6	1.5	3.7	8.8
Rolled barley					
3.9	13.3	0.6	1.2	4.4	9.1

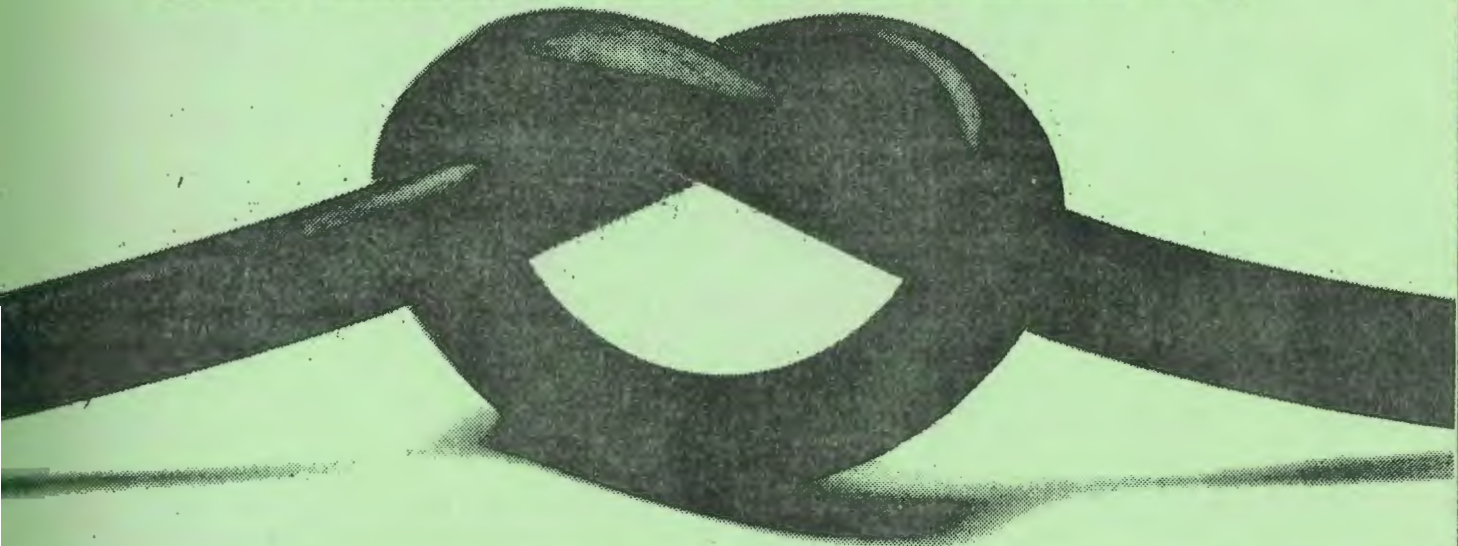
It can be seen from the table that the cows eating 4.5 and 6.0 kg of dry matter as brewers' grains produced more milk of lower fat content than the cows fed 3.9 kg of dry matter as rolled barley and consequently there was no difference in the yield of fat from these three groups of cows.

The brewers' grains fed to the cows in this experiment were collected fresh three times a week. Since brewers' grains deteriorate during storage, the nutritive value of brewers' grains fed after storage for a week on the farm may be lower than that fed in the Northfield experiment.

Since the yield of fat by cows consuming 4.5 kg of dry matter as brewers' grains was the same as that by the cows consuming 3.9 kg of dry matter as rolled barley, the economics of feeding brewers' grains or rolled barley is related to their costs of purchase and cartage. Assuming a price of \$3.50 per kg of milk fat, it can be calculated that feeding brewers' grains at the rate of 4.5 kg DM per cow per day would be economical for milk fat production until the cost of purchase and cartage of the grains exceeded \$33 per tonne of wet grains. If wet brewers' grains were priced at \$15.00 per tonne and cartage at \$0.10 per tonne per kilometre, then it would be economical to transport brewers' grains up to a distance of 180 kilometres for feeding to dairy cows. Similar calculations can be made for rolled barley which would be economical to feed to dairy cows if the total cost of purchase, cartage and rolling was less than \$130 per tonne. The results of the Northfield

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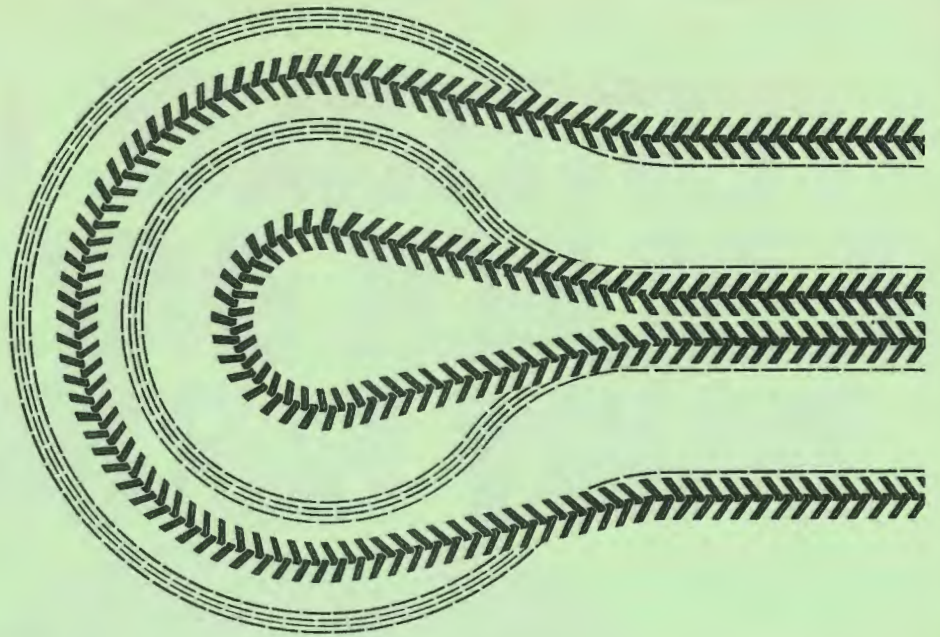


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experiment indicate that if both brewers' grains and rolled barley had to be purchased and transported over the same distance to the farm, then brewers' grains would be the more economical supplementary feed for dairy cows. However, contracts for the purchase of brewers' grains require that the grains have to be collected throughout the whole year even when pasture growth is adequate to maintain milk production.

* * * * *

A MESSAGE TO OUR SHOW HELPERS

NO DOUBT IT WAS THE CHANGEABLE WEATHER DURING LAST YEAR'S ROYAL ADELAIDE SHOW THAT CAUSED SOME OF THE YOUNG LADIES WORKING IN THE ASSOCIATION'S DAIRY FOODS SNACK BAR TO LEAVE BEHIND AN ASSORTMENT OF OUTER GARMENTS. IF THEY ARE NOT CLAIMED BY THE END OF APRIL, THEY WILL BE GIVEN TO A WORTHY CAUSE.

* * * * *

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9.45	WILLOW CREEK	1	HINDMARSH VY.
10.45	INMAN VALLEY	1.30	MT. JAGGED

Current Calf Prices

The minimum prices for calves on the pick-up runs are

Live Weight	40kg			35kg			30kg		less than 30kg
Grade	A	B	C	A	B	C	B	C	
Cents	70	45	30	60	35	20	30	20	\$2 per calf

STRAIN 19 VACCINATION POLICY

Milk Board Regulations Altered

Part VI of the Regulations under the Metropolitan Milk Supply Act has been amended by deleting the requirement for all licensed dairy farmers to have all female calves in their herds vaccinated for brucellosis between the ages of 3 and 6 months.

This amendment is part of the nation-wide campaign for the eradication of brucellosis, of which the now removed regulation was an important factor.

There has, however, been some confusion about the latest moves in the campaign. Dairy farmers are asking why, if vaccination was part of the fight against brucellosis, is vaccination by Strain 19 now virtually prohibited in the next stage of the fight?

The answers to this question, and to the other associated questions, are given below.

Q 1. Is it true that Strain 19 calf vaccination is going to cease in South Australia this year?

A Yes, this is a vital step in the programme to eradicate brucellosis, but it will be a gradual process. Vaccination will be phased out rather than stopped immediately.

Q 2. What does phasing out Strain 19 vaccination mean?

A Phasing out vaccination means a gradual process of stopping the use of vaccine in more and more herds. This will start by withdrawing calf vaccination from the large number of herds where there is minimal risk of exposure to infection.

Eventually all calfhood vaccination with Strain 19 will be stopped.

Q 3. When will this change come into operation?

A 1 March, 1981.

Q 4. The cattle owner has always been able to make up his own mind about whether to vaccinate his calves or not; will he still have a choice?

A No. The use of Strain 19 will be strictly controlled by the Chief Inspector of Stock.

Q 5. Strain 19 vaccination of calves has been a practice in South Australia for many years; why stop now?

A This measure represents an important step in the eradication campaign. As from 1 March South Australia will qualify for provisional freedom from brucellosis south of the Dog Fence, and will be well on the way towards the free status desirable for continued access to overseas markets. A condition of provisional freedom is that Strain 19 vaccination must cease except in herds given special permission by the Chief Inspector of Stock.

Q 6. How will stopping Strain 19 vaccination help the eradication programme?

A There are several factors involved here.

(i) Strain 19 as a control measure is very effective in preventing abortions. However, once a vaccinated animal is exposed to brucellosis, Strain 19 is only 70% effective in preventing infection becoming established. For this reason, VACCINATION ON ITS OWN WILL NEVER ERADICATE BRUCELLOSIS.

(ii) Strain 19 vaccination can lead to difficulties in interpreting the blood tests used in the eradication campaign.

Q 7. How could vaccination effect the tests?

- A Like other vaccines, Strain 19 will cause a strong antibody reaction in the animal after it is injected. This is part of developing an immunity to disease. The rise in antibodies present in the blood stream as a result of vaccination will also cause a positive reaction to a blood test. A positive reaction under these circumstances can be difficult to distinguish from a rise in antibodies due to exposure to infection.
- Q 8. How long does this antibody response last in the blood stream?
- A Usually for about 12 months but it can go on for much longer in some animals. We cannot predict which animals will react in this way - sometimes the antibody level can persist for several years. Fortunately this does not happen in a high percentage of animals PROVIDED VACCINATION IS CARRIED OUT AT THE RIGHT AGE i.e. 3 - 6 MONTHS.
- Q 9. What happens if you vaccinate calves over 6 months?
- A Since vaccinated animals are tested at 18 months of age, if the animal has been vaccinated in the past 12 months, there is a greater chance of a positive reaction to the blood test. This can be difficult to differentiate from actual infection. Over-age vaccination causes problems in determining whether or not infection is present in a herd.
- Q 10. In this case, isn't there a risk that using Strain 19 vaccine might cause infection in a herd to be overlooked?
- A Yes. This is another good reason to stop vaccination as soon as possible. Vaccination can hide active infection in a herd by minimising outward signs of disease e.g. abortion. Infected cows in such a herd may calve normally but will shed large numbers of the brucella bacteria at each calving. This could perpetuate disease in the herd by contaminating the pasture and exposing more animals to infection. REMEMBER, ERADICATION IS THE AIM - NOT JUST CONTROL.
- Q 11. If I have a clean herd, can I still vaccinate my calves after March 1981 if I want to?
- A No, only those herds designated by the Chief Inspector of Stock will be able to vaccinate after 1st March, 1981.
- Q 12. Who will decide which herds will continue vaccination after 1981?
- A The decision as to whether or not a herd needs to continue vaccination will be made by the Chief Veterinary Officer. In making this decision he will take into account the previous herd history and the advice of the D.V.O. concerned. The D.V.O. will consult with the cattle owner either directly or through the local veterinary practitioner who normally vaccinates the calves.
- Q 13. Why will it be necessary to continue vaccinating some herds? Why not stop altogether?
- A Although it is intended to stop all vaccination as soon as possible, at this stage of the campaign Strain 19 is still valuable in infected herds or herds considered "at risk". In this case it will help keep spread of the disease down to a minimum until eradication measures have been successful.
- Q 14. If I routinely vaccinate my calves how will I know if I am to stop in 1981 or not?
- A You will be advised either by the District Veterinary Officer or your local veterinarian if your herd is to continue routine calfhood Strain 19 vaccination.
- Q 15. If I have a clean herd and no longer vaccinate calves, how can I continue to protect my herd from the threat of infection?



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BASIS OF LAND VALUATION CHANGED

But Problems May Not All Be Solved

The pre-election promise of the present Liberal Government to change the basis of land valuation to a valuation placed on actual use rather than on its potential will materialise on 1 July, through the passing, earlier this year, of the Statutes Amendment (Valuation of Land) Act.

The change is, however, not quite as positive as might have been reasonably expected, and like the concessional fee for working dogs in the Dog Control Act, it must be requested.

The new section, 22a, which has been added to the Valuation of Land Act, states (in rather more words) that when land is used for primary production and its value is enhanced by its potential for subdivision or other use than its present use, the land may be valued **AT THE REQUEST OF THE OWNER** as if the potential for other use did not exist.

We will wait until the new basis comes into force to see what procedure is used to inform the landowner of his rights under the amended Act.

But even if primary producers are informed of their rights, and take advantage of them by requesting valuation on use instead of on potential, can we be sure that the valuation is reasonable? Will the virtual abolition of land tax, and state and gift duties, the uses of statutory land valuation are reduced to assessing water rates, local government rates, and similar, and to assessing stamp duty when a property is transferred other than by sale, for example, between members of a family.

This last, although occurring less frequently than the other uses of valuation, can substantially increase the cost of transfer if the official valuation is higher than the parties believe to be reasonable. Certainly they can lodge objections, and seek revaluations, but the chances of a successful objection appear to be slight, and the last resort, of engaging independent valuers, may, as well as further increasing the cost of the transaction, be no more successful.

A It is important to remember that the eradication testing done so far has eliminated disease from most herds, and those herds still infected are under strict quarantine.

Clean herds can be protected by:

- erecting and maintaining good fences
- making sure any introductions are from a tested herd and have not been exposed to infected or suspect animals through markets etc.
- buying direct from a clean herd or from an "approved" market only
- observing breeders regularly. Be on the alert for anything symptomatic of brucellosis such as abortions, still-births, weak calves, retained membranes or returns to service
- taking prompt action if any of these things occur - NOTIFY YOUR DISTRICT VETERINARY OFFICER OR PRIVATE VETERINARY PRACTITIONER
- good hygiene measures. All afterbirths and dead calves should be disposed of by burning or burying.

Q 16. Should I routinely notify abortions, still-births and weak calves?

A Yes. Any of these problems may be associated with brucellosis. The District Veterinary Officer will authorise a free investigation by your usual veterinary practitioner if he considers it warranted. BRUCELLOSIS IS A NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

Q 17. What is the risk of an outbreak of disease in some herds once vaccination is stopped?

A Overseas experience has shown that outbreaks will occur in any eradication campaign and we must remember that removing blanket vaccination leaves the cattle population more at risk if exposed to disease. In South Australia this risk has been minimised by isolating known infection and further reducing the prevalence of disease by vigorous eradication activity.

Q 18. What is the policy on vaccination in other States?

A Other States have already made the decision to stop vaccination in areas that have reached the same stage of eradication.

Q 19. What can be done to minimise the threat of outbreaks?

A Outbreaks can be attributed to many factors, these include:

- appearance/recognition of infection already present but not previously detected.
- increased cattle movements (due to drought or flood)
- poor application and observance of movement controls
- breaking quarantine restrictions
- complacency once a very low disease prevalence is reached
- introduction of infected animals (intentionally or unintentionally).

The co-operation and vigilance of all parts of the cattle industry as well as departmental staff will be needed to ensure risk in any of these areas is not overlooked.

Q 20. What will happen if an outbreak occurs?

A It is important that any outbreak of infection is swiftly recognised. This will allow prompt measures to be taken to eliminate the disease from the herd and stop any spread. Cattle owners should stay on the alert for any tell-tale signs in their herd.

Q 21. What about compulsory vaccination for Metropolitan Milk Board herds?

A The Metropolitan Milk Board has amended the regulation so that vaccination of calves is no longer a condition of licensing.

Q 22. What about countries which require Strain 19 vaccination for live export?

A This requirement remains for a few countries but can be overcome by negotiation through official channels.

* * * * *

WORKERS COMPENSATION

New Levy Is Another Cost Rise

We have been informed by Federation Insurance Limited (and all policy-holders will be informed when their Workers Compensation policy becomes due for renewal) that an amendment to the Workers Compensation Act requires employers, from 1 January 1981, to contribute to a fund equal to 1% of the premium, against which claims relating to Workers Compensation may be made in the event of the insolvency of an insurance company, or an insured employer, and for other purposes.

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"FARM FOCUS : THE 80's"

(The National Farmers' Federation Rural Policy Objectives)

"Farm Focus : The 80's" has been prepared by the National Farmers' Federation to fill a vacuum which the Federation believes exists in long-term policy making for Australian agriculture.

It comprises a set of policy principles for Australian agriculture which the Federation sees as retaining their relevance throughout the coming decade, and the Federation hopes that "Farm Focus" will stimulate individual farmers and other interested people to develop their own views, and to contribute to the general debate on policies for the future.

The Policy principles are derived from a discussion of both international and domestic influences affecting the farm sector in Australia during the 1980's.

As well as providing a basis for the development of specific agricultural policies by the rural industries themselves, the publication aims to explain, to Governments and the community generally, factors essential to the well-being of primary producers and rural industries, and the interdependence between agriculture and the rest of the Australian economy.

As might be expected, the scope of the book is broad, and there are very few references to particular commodities, so any reader seeking a solution to the specific problems of the dairy industry will be disappointed. Instead "Farm Focus" deals with the problems faced by all primary industries (and, indeed, by secondary industries, too) - world trade, exchange rates, tariff business, monetary policy, fuel and energy, and the multitude of subjects that were dealt with in "Rural Policy in Australia", the "green paper" of 1974, though from a different view point, remembering that "Farm Focus" is a statement of policy of a special-interest body whilst the "green paper" was the work of a group appointed by the Prime Minister of the day.

Copies of "Farm Focus : The 80's" are available from the Association, telephone (08) 513034.

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DOG REGISTRATION CONCESSION

Are You Claiming Your Rights?

Indications are that, although the law on dog registration (now the Dog Control Act) was changed 2 years ago, not all primary producers are making use of the concession granted to them under the new Act.

Sub section 28(4) states that the registration fee for a "working dog" shall not exceed one half of the prescribed maximum registration fee, the definition of a "working dog" being a dog used "principally for the droving or tending of stock".

The current prescribed fees for "working dogs" are \$5 for the first registration by each owner, and \$2.50 for the second and subsequent annual reregistration.

The fact that a concessional fee is chargeable for a working dog is not apparent to persons filling in Form 2 (Application and Certificate of Dog Registration) and no provision is made in the form for the class of dog to be stated, although the section of the form marked "Office Use Only" does provide for the class of dog (i.e. working, pensioner's, guide dog, etc) to be shown. It is, therefore, necessary for the applicant to be aware of his right in this respect, and to inform the registering authority that he claims that right.

The South Australian Dairymen's...

IN THIS ISSUE

Mainly Good News
Energy Usage In Fodder Harvesting
Milk Production Costs Up
Subdivision of Rural Land
The High Cost of Shipping Strikes
Feeding for Profit in the Adelaide Hills

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GOVERNMENT SUPPORT OF HERD-RECORDING

How Much - If Anything - Is Justified?

The simplistic view that the individual, participating, dairy farmer is the major beneficiary of herd-recording appears to have wide circulation, and to have influenced the members of the recent Committee of Enquiry into proposing a reduction in Government support, a proposal that was contrary to the thrust of the submission put to the Committee by the Association.

The terms of reference given to the first Committee of Enquiry into Herd Recording (the "Feagan Committee") in 1976 by the then Minister of Agriculture Brian Chatterton contained the clear implication that the State Government intended going to taper off the financial support that had previously been given to herd recording in South Australia.

At that time the Government support was of the order of 50% of total costs, and was estimated to be just under \$200 000 for the year 1976 - 77.

The Committee did not argue about the Government's intention, but it did warn of the danger of herd recording collapsing if adequate support was not continued.

The terms of reference given to the second Committee of Enquiry (the "Gear Committee") in 1980 did not imply that the Government intended to reduce financial aid; on the contrary, the Committee was given a free hand "to estimate the REQUIRED FINANCIAL SUPPORT to maintain herd recording in South Australia including sources of funds".

The Gear Committee obviously did not interpret this as a gesture of support to a very worthwhile productivity aid which benefitted the community as much and perhaps more than it benefitted the participating farmers.

Instead the Committee recommended a scaling-down of direct aid by some \$30 000 over a 5 year period and indicated that it favoured a scheme whereby all dairy farmers were charged a compulsory levy on production to finance herd recording.

Initially the Association had proposed "that the Government accept, as a responsibility, a permanent commitment in direct financial support, in the provision of or access to technical and other services, and in the provision, or seconding, of personnel to herd recording in South Australia".

The argument used by the Association in support of its proposal was that although, in the first instance, the participating dairy farmer was seen as the major beneficiary of herd-recording, through higher production at static or lower costs, if herd-recording did bring about a more efficient use of resources, (and that is really what it aims to do), it should not be confined to a fraction of the total number of dairy farmers; the target for participation should be 100%.

The Association based its case on the fact that in South Australia (and, possibly, in the world), arable, fertile land and agricultural water are in limited and diminishing supply, and that it is the responsibility of the Government to ensure, in the interests of the community, that these valuable and irreplaceable resources are conserved and most effectively used.

It followed, from this argument, that the Government had a duty to maximize conservation and effective utilization of its scarce productive resources by ensuring that herd-recording was used as widely as possible.

The aim would not be to increase dairy farmers' returns, but to provide the community with two benefits - first, the husbanding of what are, ultimately, community owned assets in soil and water, and second, a lower cost product through higher productivity. This latter benefit stems from the fact that, as the price paid for milk by the consumer is based on production costs, the wide-spread adoption of herd-recording would eventually act to the dairy farmer's disadvantage, in that he would have to undergo the inconvenience of herdrecording for no financial gain.

It is to be regretted that, although some portions of the Association's submission were quoted in the Gear Committee's Report, its recommendations were not included as such in the Committee's Report.

Fortunately the Minister of Agriculture has given the industry a second chance, by inviting comments on the Gear Committee's recommendations. In responding to Mr. Chapman's invitation the Association has written -

the essential difference between our attitude and that of the Committee is that we believe the Committee has undervalued the importance and worth of herd-recording as a means of optimizing economic productivity and of minimising costs, to the mutual advantage of the industry and the community.

From this follows the necessity for the dairy industry to maximise the use of herd recording, to ensure its own viability and eventual survival, and, on the part of the Government, a necessity; amounting to a duty, to promote and support its use in the interests of the community, first in the provision of access to the industry's produce at lowest cost, and second, in the conservation of the State's scarce and finite resources in agricultural land and water.

In respect to Government support, we are not soliciting a "hand-out". Paradoxically as the prices for milk, both for processing as market milk and for the manufacture of dairy produce are set by the appropriate authorities with the costs of production in mind at least, overall productivity increases gained by the wide-spread use of herd recording can be regarded as tending to lower production costs, to the advantage of the consumer, but with no corresponding advantage to dairy farmers, (other than in a situation such as the present, where herd recording is used by a minority, which is, thereby, able to gain the benefit of its consequent greater productivity in relation to the average on which milk prices are based).

There is, therefore, a good social reason why any move to expand the use of herd recording should be accompanied by an increase, not a decrease, in Government support, as the real beneficiaries, as in all productivity drives, will be the consumer, through prices, and the community, through the more economical use of its resources.

Despite The Season, Milk Production Is Increasing

A very slight reduction in the rate at which dairy farmers are leaving the industry (a net loss of 46 producers, or 4.6 per cent, for the 9 months to 31 March 1981, compared with 50, or 4.8 per cent and 55, or 5.0 per cent for the same periods in 2 previous years) has been accompanied by a surprising rise in milk production despite a less than favourable season.

In fact, at the Annual Conference of the Market Milk Producers Council in Brisbane in April, the Adelaide metropolitan producing district was the only region in Australia able to forecast a higher total milk production for the current fiscal year than for the previous year.

Production from 1 July 1980 to 31 March 1981 reached 185 008 000 litres, 2 per cent greater than the previous year, with a forecast, for the whole 1980-81 season, that indicates that total milk production will exceed 230 million litres, for the first time in 5 years.

Milk Sales Are Also Growing

Sales of milk in the metropolitan area are also on the rise, with 67 301 000 litres being sold for the 9 months to 31 March, 11.6 per cent up on the 66 253 000 litres in the year before, the previous slight downward trend having been replaced in September 1980 by a slight, but discernible upward trend that has continued through the succeeding months.

Assuming that the trend continues during the next 3 months, total sales for the year could again reach 90 million litres, last attained in 1977-78.

The reason is not obvious - South Australia's population is static, and the usual indices of economic conditions have not demonstrated any improvement in prosperity.

Perhaps the increased consumption indicates that the people hit hardest by hard times, the low income earners and the unemployed, realise the "value for money" of milk as a substantial contributor to a low-cost but healthy diet.

On the other hand we should not overlook the possibility that our "Milk It Instead" promotional campaign, now in its 2nd year is beginning to exert a subliminal impact on the audience that has been watching it during that period.

Expect Some Retrospectives Soon

Three retrospective payments are in the pipeline, and it is to be hoped that at least one will be received with the cheques that are posted out in early June. That payment will probably be the \$30 per tonne lift in the 1979-80 cheese pool, and should result in an equalised retrospective rate of approximately 4 cents per kilogram butterfat on all milk produced from July 1979 to June 1980.

It can be expected that this will be followed, in the July cheque, by a payment for the whole of the 1978-79 season, of about 3 cents per kilogram butterfat, this being the final payment for that year.

Finally, in the August cheque, there is expected to be a payment of approximately 6 cents per kilogram butterfat for all milk produced in the period July 1980 to the end of June 1981, resulting from a lift of \$40 per tonne in the current cheese pool price.

The reason for the uncertainty and delays is the necessity to obtain Commonwealth approval for all increases in pool values.

* * * * *

RURAL SUBDIVISION - POLICY AND PRACTICE

A Seminar To Explain It All To You

will be held in the Mount Barker Institute on
MONDAY 22 JUNE from 8 p.m. See page 10.

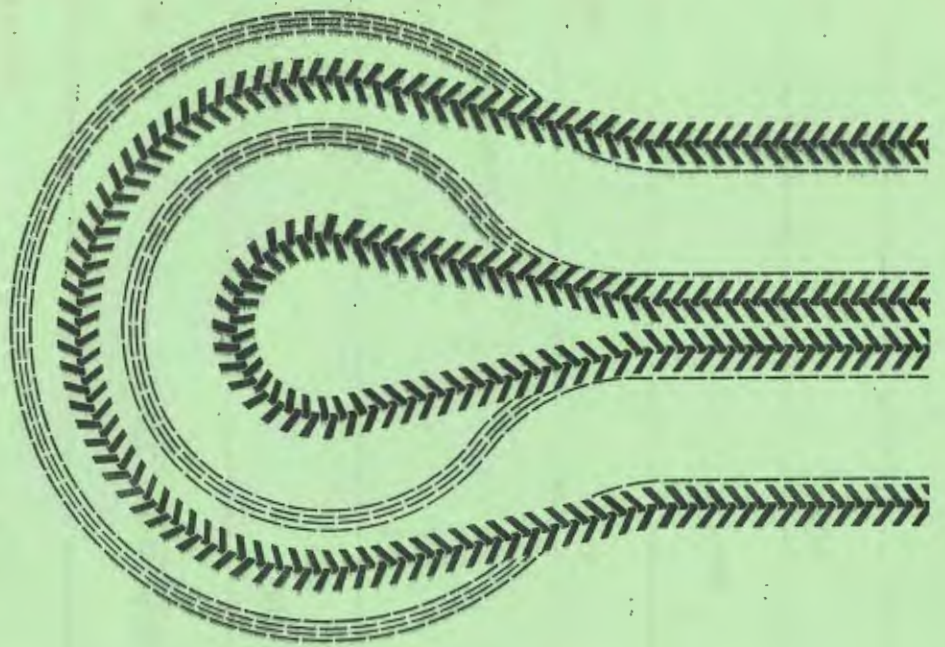
LABOUR AND FUEL REQUIREMENTS FOR PASTURE MOWING

r wer	LABOUR (at \$5.00 per hr)		FUEL (at 37.0c/litre)		TO \$/h
	Hours/ha	\$/ha	l/ha	\$/ha	
	0.83	4.15	7.1	2.63	6.7
	1.16	5.80	5.3	1.96	7.7
	0.95	4.75	3.4	1.26	6.0
	1.85	9.25	4.0	1.48	10.7
	0.93	4.65	3.2	1.18	5.8

FUEL (litres) AND LABOUR (hours) REQUIREMENTS FOR SILAGE MAKING
(per tonne Dry Matter)

II	WILTED SILAGE		DIRECT - CUT SILAGE	
	Fuel	Labour	Fuel	Labour
	1.6	0.3	-	-
	3.3	0.6	3.2	0.5
	4.0	0.6	3.0	0.5
	0.7	0.2	0.7	0.2

	(per tonne Digestible Dry Matter)	
	Fuel	Labour
	9.6	1.7
	6.9	1.2
	16.8	3.0
	19.0	3.3



Come and test-drive the John Deere tight turning circle.

Steering on full lock, touch the brakes and you're going out of one row and coming back down the other.

That's how tight the turning circle is on the John Deere 22 to 54 hp tractors. You know the benefits in time and productivity this means to you. You know just how much more effort it will save you. And with the help of the light, responsive steering and the strain-free brakes you're driving a tractor that's on your side.

There's more to come. When you test-drive these John Deere tractors, you'll immediately notice the excellent visibility both front and back. You'll appreciate the high ground clearance—the underneath of the tractor is clean and uncluttered. There are no projections to damage the crop.

Four models to choose from.

If you're into the higher horsepower range,

take a look at the John Deere 1040 37 kW (43 hp) PTO and the John Deere 1640 40 kW (54 hp) PTO models. They both have power steering, splendid tough closed centre hydraulics to increase productivity and are available with optional mechanical

front wheel drive. If you need something smaller and more compact, try out the John Deere 850 16 kW (22 hp) PTO and the John Deere 950 20 kW (27 hp) PTO. With 8-speed transmission and a three cylinder diesel engine, they face up to tough jobs with zest and verve.

Why not see your Chamberlain John Deere dealer, now?

There's a lot more to find out about these John Deere tractors. So get in

touch with your Chamberlain John Deere dealer and arrange to test drive one of these John Deere tractors. It's a real experience.



THE CENTRAL COUNCIL LOOKS AT -

Dairy Legislation, Herd Recording, and Car Registration

At the meeting of Central Council on 19 February 1981 delegates discussed a wide range of topics. Brief reports of the discussions on the major subjects, and the decisions taken, are given below.

ARTIFICIAL BREEDING ACT - The Minister of Agriculture has announced his intention of amending the Artificial Breeding Act in order to empower the Artificial Breeding Board to make regulations limiting the sale of semen to that which conforms with standards for genetic merit.

The delegates agreed that genetic merit was an important factor in the selection of bulls for lifting production but was not the only factor, and that legislation should not be passed that would restrict dairy farmers' choice in the purchase of semen.

The Council resolved THAT THE ASSOCIATION OPPOSE ANY AMENDMENT TO THE ARTIFICIAL BREEDING ACT, OR THE MAKING OF ANY REGULATIONS, WHETHER UNDER THE EXISTING ACT OR UNDER AN AMENDMENT TO THE ACT, WHICH WOULD ALLOW THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE OR THE ARTIFICIAL BREEDING BOARD TO SET MINIMUM GENETIC STANDARDS FOR DAIRY CATTLE SEMEN FOR USE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The Council also resolved THAT IT DOES NOT SUPPORT THE RECOMMENDATION THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BE ASKED TO PREPARE A LIST OF RECOMMENDED BULLS FOR THE GUIDANCE OF PURCHASERS OF SEMEN.

REVIEW OF STATE DAIRY LEGISLATION - In August 1980 the Minister of Agriculture announced that he proposed to repeal the Margarine Act and the Dairy Produce Act and to amend several other Acts relating to dairying. Early this year the Minister repeated his intention and asked for the Association's views by early February.

Because the proposed changes affected all sectors of the industry the Association prepared and distributed an "issues paper" and announced that it would convene a meeting of representatives of the industry at all levels, with the intention of presenting a joint submission to the Minister.

As there had not yet been time for the recipients of the "issues paper" to study it, prior to the convening of a representative conference, the Council resolved THAT THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE BE ASKED TO ALLOW THE INDUSTRY ANOTHER MONTH TO ENABLE ADEQUATE CONSULTATION TO TAKE PLACE CONCERNING THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO DAIRY LEGISLATION.

One of the most contentious proposals was to amend the Dairy Cattle Improvement Act to enable funds to be collected from dairy farmers, to be used for the advancement of the industry.

The Council resolved THAT THE ASSOCIATION SUPPORT THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE DAIRY CATTLE IMPROVEMENT ACT ONLY ON CONDITION THAT EACH PROPOSAL FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF MONEY BE APPROVED BY THE SADA, AND INCLUDE A BUDGET AND APPROPRIATE CONTROL OF EXPENDITURE.

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES - The proposal by the previous Minister of Agriculture (Hon. Brian Chatterton) to set up a Dairy Industry Consultative Committee had also been put to the industry by the present Minister (Hon. Ted Chapman), and had, further, been proposed by the Committee of Inquiry into Herd Recording.

Delegates considered that the industry had managed, thus far, without a consultative committee, and had demonstrated its ability to get together on matters of common interest and make a united decision.

The Council consequently resolved THAT IT ENDORSE THE PRINCIPLE OF SADA CONTINUING TO CONVENE SUCH MEETINGS OF THE S.A. DAIRY INDUSTRY AS ARE NEEDED TO DEAL WITH ISSUES ARISING FROM TIME TO TIME AND THAT THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE BE INFORMED ACCORDINGLY.

AUGMENTATION SCHEME - The South East augmentation scheme had finally commenced at the beginning of this year, the first contribution had been made, and the second contribution would be made before July.

A "letter of intent", containing all the details agreed on between the SADA and the SEDA, had been drafted, and was awaiting acceptance. The one thing still to be done was to decide on an acceptable definition of "South East" for inclusion in the Equalisation Agreement.

It was then resolved THAT THE SOUTH EAST REGION BE DEFINED AS THAT PORTION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA SOUTH OF LATITUDE 36 DEGREES SOUTH.

It was also resolved that the "letter of intent" be made more positive by requiring that South Eastern dairy companies could sell milk outside the "South East" as defined only with the prior approval of the SADA.

HERD RECORDING INQUIRY - The Council was informed that the Interim Report of the Committee of Inquiry into Herd Recording had not included any of the Association's recommendations. The Committee had, in fact, appeared to take a contrary view, along the lines that Government involvement and support should be scaled down, with the aim that herd recording should eventually be self-supporting.

The Executive Committee believed that the Association should take a firm line in connexion with Government support for herd recording, particularly in view of the Minister's proposal to amend the Dairy Cattle Improvement Act in a manner that might open the way for herd recording to be funded by a levy on milk production.

The Council then resolved THAT IT ENDORSES THE VIEW THAT THERE IS JUSTIFICATION FOR INCREASED GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF HERD RECORDING.

COST OF RURAL TRANSPORT - Delegates agreed that, although there was community support for greater use of public transport, it was generally overlooked that public transport was not always available to the rural population, and resolved THAT THE ASSOCIATION ASK THE PREMIER TO CONSIDER REDUCING THE REGISTRATION FEES ON RURAL VEHICLES TO OFFSET THE INCREASING COST OF TRANSPORT IN THOSE AREAS WHERE PUBLIC TRANSPORT IS NOT AVAILABLE.

DELEGATES PRESENT - The General President (Mr. N.M.Green), Messrs. D. Schulz (Barossa District), M. Ferrarese (Central Hills), R. Fromm (Gawler), R. Ielasi and A. Kretschmer (Jervois), G. Camac and J. Secomb (Lakes), C. Jaeschke, M. Jaeschke and D. Zweck (Mid North), K. Turvey and D. Stacey (Milang), R. Nettle, Mrs. A. Pope, and A. Sargent (Mount Barker), V. Walters and B. Woodman (Myponga), S. Schoell and M. Green (Onkaparinga), M. Diener (River Murray), A. McEwin, P. Price and P. Stock (South Coast), K. Watkins and D. Holly (Southern Hills), D. Irrgang and D. Forrest (Spring Valley), A. Manning and E. Stewart (Torrens Valley).

APOLOGIES - Messrs. J. Nietschke (Barossa), D. Plaisted (Central Hills), K. Larsen (Myponga) J. Erickson (River Murray).

* * * * *

HELP AT OUR SHOW STAND

Hard Work, Award Pay, And A Free Pass

1981 will be the fourth year in which we have operated our Dairy Foods Snack Bar at the Royal Adelaide Show. In past years our stand has been staffed by a charming and hard working group of dairyfarmers wives and daughters. Unfortunately, as everyone knows, daughters grow older and the award rates that we must pay to our teenage helpers increase accordingly.

So, this year, we would welcome some applications from younger daughters, to help on the stand.



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The Leaders in Dairy Sanitation present NEW

I-O-DIP

READY MIXED IODOPHOR TEAT DIP
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MILK PRODUCTION COST UP NEARLY 3 CENTS

Government And Semi-Government Charges Head The Increases

The 2.73 cents per litre increase recorded in the Metropolitan Milk Board's dairy farm production cost survey for the year ended 31 January 1981 is the highest in money terms in the survey's 22 year history, and, at 14 per cent, the third highest in relative terms.

Only 1973-74 (24.4 per cent) and 1975-76 (18.4 per cent) showed higher proportionate increases, with both of these years being included in the high inflation period that began with the election of the Whitlam Government in 1972.

The average production cost rose from 19.25 cents per litre in the previous year to 22.25 cents in the latest survey, the total being made up of cash costs of 7.01 cents (5.78 in 1980), depreciation of 1.05 cents (1.03), imputed interest on capital of 4.38 cents (3.44) and labour allowance of 9.81 cents (9.17).

The highest proportionate rise for any major category was the 27.3 per cent increase in the imputed interest on capital, reflecting both the current high interest rates and the steadily rising farm values. Total cash costs rose by 21.3 per cent, the highest individual items in that group being rates and taxes (36 per cent); light and power (29 per cent); artificial insemination charges (also 29 per cent); repairs and maintenance (28 per cent); veterinary fees (27 per cent); fodder and concentrates (also 27 per cent); herd recording fees (25 per cent) and tractor and motor vehicle repairs (24 per cent). Insurance premiums were the only item that recorded no increase.

Milk production (276 000 litres compared with 269 500 litres in the previous year) and butter fat production (12 300 kg compared with the previous 12 200 kg) were relatively static, reflecting the generally indifferent seasonal conditions.

It is expected that the increased production cost revealed by the Board's survey will be matched by a correspondingly higher farm-gate return in the Milk Board's next milk price review.

SUBDIVISION OF RURAL LAND

Seminar To Be Held At Mount Barker

Despite numerous amendments to the Planning and Development Act, the subject of the subdivision, and resubdivision of rural land is, in the minds of most landowners, as obscure as ever.

Now a further amendment to the Act is expected to come before Parliament at its next sitting in June, but we should not be too optimistic that, suddenly, the whole matter will become readily understandable, or that the number of anomalies will decrease.

The problem is related directly to the conflicting interests of the parties involved - primary producers who wish to remain primary producers and to retain their properties - primary producers who, legitimately, want to sell their properties to the highest bidders - investors who want to follow Mark Twain's advice to "invest in land; they're not making any more of it" - city dwellers who want a share of rural tranquility - hobby farmers - and local government.

The Association's opinion on rural planning, in answer to questions from successive State Governments, is that NO FURTHER ENCROACHMENT SHOULD BE PERMITTED, EITHER BY HOBBY FARMS OR BY SUB-DIVISION, INTO THE PRIMARY PRODUCING AREAS IN THE MOUNT LOFTY RANGES, THE FLEURIEU PENINSULA, AND REGIONS ADJACENT THERETO, and that THE CHARACTER OF THE PRIMARY PRODUCING AREAS ADJACENT TO THE ADELAIDE PLAINS SHOULD BE PRESERVED AND NO ACTION PERMITTED WHICH WOULD DIMINISH THE VISUAL OR RURAL ENVIRONMENT.

But there appears to be no reduction in the rate of "development" in rural areas, and dairyfarmers, particularly in the near Hills, wonder just what the future holds for them and for the industry if the pace continues.

An answer of some sort may be provided by representatives of the appropriate government departments at a SEMINAR on RURAL PLANNING to be held in the MOUNT BARKER INSTITUTE on Monday 22 June 1981 from 8 p.m.

* * * * *

SHIPPING COSTS - AUSTRALIA'S CONTRIBUTION

What We Don't Know Does Hurt Us!

It's easy to see, and not that hard to calculate, the damage done to the economy, and the costs loaded onto the community, by strikes such as the radar operators', the Omega dispute, and the dozen or so industrial foul-ups that occur every week.

What is less easily seen, less widely known, and possibly far more damaging, is the cost burden added, not necessarily by actual stoppages, but by the continuing disease that afflicts the Australian waterfront.

Consider, for example, as reported to the National Farmers' Federation executive meeting in December, that AUSTRALIAN waterside disturbances are responsible for 62 per cent of all the shipping hold-ups IN THE WORLD.

Which means that shipping lines and insurance companies demand excessive rates for cargoes shipped through Australian ports, such as the extra \$6 per tonne which adds \$100 million to the cost of exporting the Australian wheat crop.

And that same \$6 per tonne goes on to the cost of bringing to Australia the 3 million tonnes of phosphate rock brought into the country's fertilizer works, the cartage of which can be done ONLY on ships manned by Australian seamen.

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"FEEDING FOR PROFIT"

Adelaide Hills Farmers Tell How

Following the well-attended and highly-praised seminar on "Feeding for Profit" held at Hindmarsh Valley in August, a seminar with the same title was held at Charleston in February.

At this seminar, after the talk on the theory and economics of bovine nutrition, given, as at the first seminar, by Mr. Brian Bartsch, of Northfield, two prominent Hills dairyfarmers, Kevin Barnes and David Forrest, explained the management practices which they used in order to achieve their high production, low cost status.

KEVIN BARNES, whose operation is centred around irrigated pastures, sticks strictly to the principle of avoiding pugging, and never over-grazing. In wet conditions in winter paddock use is restricted to one night, and paddocks are grazed on a 7 day rotation.

In summer the grazing period per paddock is extended to 4 nights, giving a 20 day rotation with 5 paddocks.

Calving is, broadly, all the year round, with two-thirds from August to January and one third from February to July, a pattern which is linked to feed availability. The result is that the milking herd is lowest from June to July when feed growth is also at its lowest. Heifers are mated to calve at 27 months.

Good pasture hay is fed most of the year, to maintain fibre content in the ration, especially when irrigated pasture is being grazed, to the extent that more hay is fed in summer than in winter, giving an over-all figure for the whole herd of 100 bales per cow.

Prior to last July (1980) there was a surprising discrepancy between herd recording and factory figures, the factory results being the higher, and although production per cow had not varied much (by factory figures) in the previous 3 years, an increase in herd size from 50 to 56 cows lifted total production from 10 265 to 12 193 kg in 1979-80.

In July 1980 an additional 13 ha (33 acres) became available for lease, which lifted the total area to 46 ha (115 acres) of which 21 ha (52 acres) is irrigated from 3 bores with a total hourly output of 26 000 gallons, and on that basis the herd was increased to 80 cows and a share dairyfarmer engaged.

The results of the 6 months July to December 1980, compared with the same period in the previous year are shown below (at an assured price of \$3.37 per kg fat):-

	<u>1979</u>		<u>1980</u>	
	<u>Milk (lb.)</u>	<u>Fat (kg)</u>	<u>Milk (lb.)</u>	<u>Fat (kg)</u>
July	46 100	932.3	57 590	1 150.4
Aug.	43 885	855.9	66 725	1 260.0
Sept.	45 380	871.3	74 430	1 360.9
Oct.	59 240	1 169.6	83 405	1 576.8
Nov.	61 130	1 155.3	77 970	1 462.2
Dec.	55 780	1 060.7	75 290	1 399.0
	<u>311 515</u>	<u>6 045.1</u>	<u>435 410</u>	<u>8 209.3</u>

Gross income @ \$3.37 kg = \$20 371.48

@ \$3.37 kg = \$27 665.34

Sharefarmer's income for 6 months $\frac{27\ 665}{4}$ = \$6 916, leaving a balance for the proprietors of \$20 749.

The saving of \$2 136 when buying hay and feeding concentrates ceased was partly offset by the lease cost of \$972 for the extra land, and power costs for the pump on that property.

Income increase from 1979 to 1980	7 294 (\$)	Sharefarmer	6 919 (\$)
Savings from not feeding concentrates or buying hay	2 136	Lease costs	972
Casual wages and insurance saved	2 000	Cash benefit to proprietor	3 542
	<u>\$11 430</u>		<u>\$11 430</u>

The benefit does not stop there. This year the response on the irrigated portion of the leased property has been greater with more feed available for milking cows, so that the income for the next six months will show a bigger benefit than the \$3 542 above.

DAVID FORREST, and his brother Jim, at Springton, farm 417 ha (1 029 acres) with an effective area of 120 ha (300 acres). The dairyherd consists of 80 stud Friesians and 50 replacements, from which about 5 low yielding cows or poor types are culled when heifers are evaluated after the first 3 months lactation.

Using herd recording, production per cow was lifted, in 4 years, from 141 kg to over 200 kg. (73 cows averaged 213 kg over 290 days) lifting total production beyond 15 000 kg. Changing calving from an extended Autumn-Winter-Spring pattern to concentrated April May brought the opportunity for family holidays when all the cows are completely dry, after a winding-down in January, when cows are milked only once daily.

The fodder conservation program of silage and hay (rectangular bales) was changed to all hay (large round bales) with automatic bale handling and feeding equipment.

Hay is fed bulk at the rate of 650 big round bales for 130 head of stock, the milking cows each receiving the equivalent of 110 conventional bales in the paddock over the milking period.

* * * * *



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The South Australian Dairymen's...

IN THIS ISSUE

Forty-Sixth Annual Report
A Message From The New General President
No Extension to the Milk Board Area
All Prices Up In New Season
Central Council Elects New Officers
Central Council Looks At Issues

JOURNAL

...THE MEASURE OF OUR NEW PHILOSOPHY...
The General President's Annual Report - 1980-81



The Official Publication of the
South Australian Dairymen's
Association

Published Bi-Monthly.

In my annual report a year ago, I predicted that we could, in the season then beginning, look forward to stability and, I hoped, prosperity, for our industry. I believe that the prediction and the hope have both, in a large measure, been fulfilled, and that now I can, with even greater confidence, forecast a coming season of promise and progress.

I make this forecast on the basis of personal observation and a knowledge of the industry's store of self-reliance and initiative.

Despite the continuing decline in the number of dairy farmers (and there is still no sign of any halt in the rate of exit as measured by the number of producers licenses) the trend towards larger farm machinery, increasing mechanisation, and more sheer hard work has combined to lift milk production in the Central Region to 231 million litres, just below the level of 5 years ago, and, although this figure is 13 per cent less than the peak of 1969-70, little better than an average season might enable that output to be again achieved.

But production alone is not the key to the industry's prosperity, it is determined equally by the level of sales, and the price at which the industry's output is sold, each of which has substantially increased during the year under review.

White milk sales have almost completely recovered from the collapse of 7 years ago, and, at 99.4 million litres, are now only 2 percent below the record level of 1972, a shortfall that, if present trends continue, will be easily filled during the next 12 months.

The improvement in prices, whilst apparently substantial, must, of course, be considered in relation to the continuing inflationary trend and correspondingly increasing cost of production, which, in the past 5 years has risen at an average annual rate of 9 percent, a figure which is marginally exceeded by the average annual increase of 10 percent in the farmgate price for market milk, from 14.25 cents per litre in 1975-76 to 22.97 cents in the year just completed.

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Periodical Category "A"

The greatest improvement in price is in that for milk for manufacture, due to the dramatic decline in exported dairy products, which has lifted the basic milk price, during the same period, at an average rate of 13 percent, from 147 cents per kilogram butterfat in 1975-76 to an estimated final 273 cents for 1980-81, whilst the equalised return combining both figures, has risen, in that time from 222.6 cents per kilogram at an average rate of 12 per cent per year, to an estimated 385 cents in the year just completed.

However, important though they are, prices, production and sales are not the only determinants of stability. The dairy industry is a complex structure of mutually dependant sectors, each sector contributing to, and benefiting from the well-being of the others, and I believe the present state of the industry is due to the relationships that exist, first, between the dairy farming sector which this Association represents and the three companies with which we are involved, and second, between the Association as an organisation and the statutory bodies which administer the industry.

The strength of these relationships is due largely, perhaps solely, to the local industry's tradition of self-regulation, and the responsibility that is thereby placed on each sector and unit within the industry.

Nowhere is this tradition better seen than in the augmentation scheme devised to minimise tension between the State's major dairying regions. It would be wrong to pretend that the scheme, which involves the transfer of substantial and, for a time, increasing contributions from the Central Region to the South Eastern Region, has been welcomed by the contributors, but there is no doubt that negotiations between the regions produced a scheme far less damaging to the Central Region, and far less costly to the industry as a whole, than the options which were available to the Government of the day.

That is not to say that the augmentation scheme has not had its problems. Its introduction was delayed far beyond the intentions of the negotiating bodies by the unexpected and long drawn-out refusal of two successive Ministers of Agriculture either to signify their support of the principle of the scheme or to clear the way for the industry itself to shoulder the responsibility, by approving a procedural amendment to the Equalisation Agreement. The eventual removal, after months of delay, of an obstacle placed in the Agreement by an earlier Government, cleared the way for the industry to commence, within a matter of weeks, a scheme that had taken over three years of discussion and negotiation.

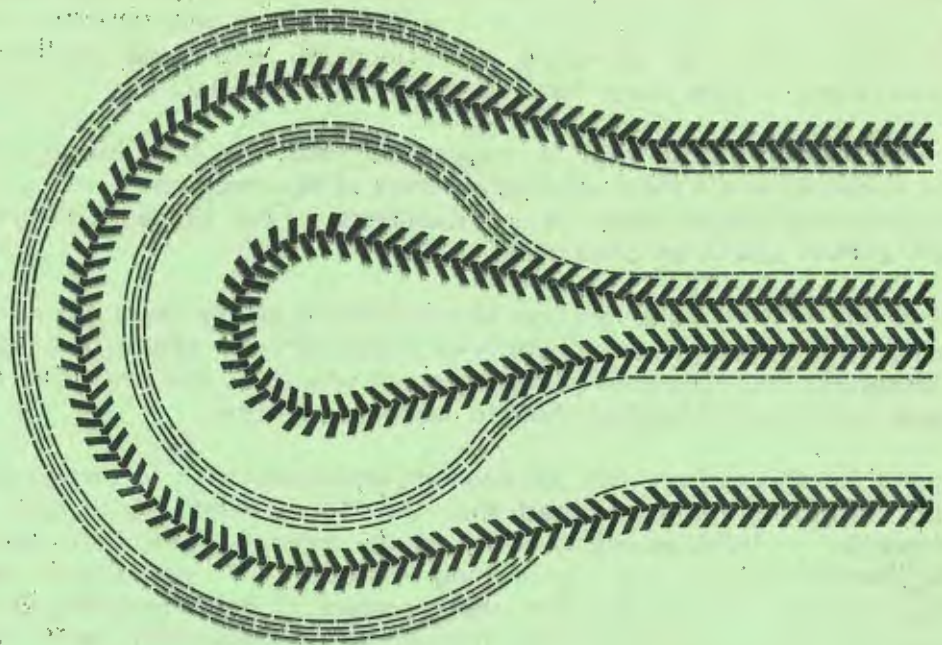
Fortunately the problem created by the two successive Ministers on the augmentation scheme was a unique exception to the cordiality and co-operation that exist between the Association and the State's Ministers.

Two examples of this relationship are the referrals to the Association, by the Minister of Agriculture and by the Attorney General, of their intentions to amend, respectively, dairy industry legislation and the law relating to animals.

In both cases the Association has, by the preparation of background documents, the convening of conferences of all concerned parties, and the making of a unified submission, demonstrated the readiness with which the dairy industry as a whole, despite the apparent diversity of interests of its sectors, can determine and express a single viewpoint.

It is this demonstrated ability of the industry to manage its own affairs that has led the Association to reject the concept of a formal Consultative Committee, which was first mooted by the previous Minister of Agriculture in connection with his sweeping proposals for new legislative directions, and later briefly considered by the present Minister.

A Consultative Committee, with all its procedural requirements, would offer no advantage over the ability of the industry itself to create whatever groupings are required to deal with each issue as it arises, without any Ministerial or statutory oversight, particularly as most such groupings are no more than extensions of the industry's existing internal relationships.



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That's how tight the turning circle is on the John Deere 22 to 54 hp tractors. You know the benefits in time and productivity this means to you. You know just how much more effort it will save you. And with the help of the light, responsive steering and the strain-free brakes you're driving a tractor that's on your side.

There's more to come. When you test-drive these John Deere tractors, you'll immediately notice the excellent visibility both front and back. You'll appreciate the high ground clearance—the underneath of the tractor is clean and uncluttered. There are no projections to damage the crop.

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take a look at the John Deere 1040 37 kW (43 hp) PTO and the John Deere 1640 40 kW (54 hp) PTO models. They both have power steering, splendid tough closed centre hydraulics to increase productivity and are available with optional mechanical

front wheel drive. If you need something smaller and more compact, try out the John Deere 850 16 kW (22 hp) PTO and the John Deere 950 20 kW (27 hp) PTO. With 8-speed transmission and a three cylinder diesel engine, they face up to tough jobs with zest and verve.

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There's a lot more to find out about these John Deere tractors. So get in

touch with your Chamberlain John Deere dealer and arrange to test drive one of these John Deere tractors. It's a real experience.



There exists also the danger that excessive formalisation of the industry's structure, as well as being contrary to the principle of self-regulation, may obscure the goal to which all such activities should be directed, the financial well-being of the industry and, for the Association, of the dairy farming sector in particular.

It was for this reason that, in August last year, the Association convened the first of what has since become a most successful series of seminars on "Feeding for Profit", with the aim of focussing the attention of our members on the financial returns from their enterprise, rather than solely on production.

However, as the major portion of the income of the dairy farming sector is derived from market milk, the price for which is based on farm production cost, economic gains from widespread improvements in management practices and productivity lead, paradoxically, to lower retail prices rather than to increased returns.

It was for this reason that the Association's submission to the second Committee of Enquiry into Herd Recording proposed that the Government should bear a substantially greater proportion of herd-recording costs, on the grounds, first, that ensuring the efficient use of the State's scarce and diminishing resources of agricultural land was a Government responsibility and, second, that the expansion of herd recording, by raising productivity and lowering costs, would benefit taxpayers, as consumers, more than the users of herd recording themselves, who were now bearing an increasing portion of the cost.

As events turned out, the Committee's recommendation was contrary to the Association's submission, and there will probably be no reduction in the rate of increase in the share of the cost of herd recording borne by the user, even to the eventual extent of a statutory contribution imposed on all dairy farmers.

If, therefore, the net return to dairy farmers is to keep pace with the greater effort and responsibility required by increased productivity and improved husbandry, it is necessary for us to devise a method of assessing production cost that retains these benefits for us, rather than the present method, which requires us to run even faster to stay in the same place.

Apart from that, what other gains can we look forward to? Reference has already been made to the improvement in the price for manufacturing milk as the result of declining exports. Perhaps this national trend is only part of the story, and credit must be given to the three companies which our members supply, for their positive orientation to domestic markets.

This is seen particularly clearly in the case of flavored milk, (a product which we can claim to have originated in this State with the introduction of chocolate flavored milk in 1964) sales of which increased by 20 per cent during the past twelve months.

The Association has, on several occasions in recent years, debated the action that should be taken concerning the price received for flavored milk. South Australia is the only State in which the farmgate price for milk for flavored milk is not fixed by regulation. We appreciate the dairy companies' claim that the marketing of flavored milk is not comparable with that of which milk, that it is, instead, a competitor in the leisure beverage market, and its marketing strategy requires a flexibility that is inconsistent with a statutorily regulated price.

The sales performance of the metropolitan based companies in the past year appears to support that claim, and we would be foolish to jeopardize the situation, but on the other hand we must be aware, from motions submitted by several of the Association's Districts, of a belief that producers should participate more directly in the gains made in this market.

Although not as spectacular as the growth in sales of flavored milk, sales of which milk increased during the year by 2.6 per cent, a result that must be regarded as most satisfactory, comparable with the best performance in any other State, and a welcome contrast to the downward drift of the preceding period.



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The increase is even more commendable when contrasted with the State's virtually stable and aging population, and in considering the factors which may have brought it about, it is impossible to overlook the contribution that may have been made by the current promotion program.

Whilst it may seem incomprehensible to some of us that the radio and television advertising campaigns which have been selected by the Milk and Cream Promotion Advisory Committee, can induce increased purchases, we cannot overlook the fact that the lift in milk sales has coincided with a substantially greater expenditure on promotion, and we await, with great expectation, the result of yet a further rise in promotion expenditure in the year just beginning.

Perhaps that is now, the measure of our new philosophy; a willingness to be adventurous, to adopt innovation rather than to avoid it, a course that has already been followed, with commendable success, by the manufacturing sector of the industry.

The undoubted progress of the year just past has given us a confidence that can be carried forward into the year ahead, with the knowledge that our industry, though smaller numerically has gained in strength and influence, with the help and collaboration of our colleagues within and ancillary to the industry.

On behalf of the members of the Association, I express our thanks to the staff and management of the dairy companies with which we are so closely associated, to the Members and staff of the Metropolitan Milk Board, to the officers of the Department of Agriculture, and to the Minister of Agriculture, the Honorable Ted Chapman, for the ready access which he has always granted us.

To you as delegates, and as representatives of the members of your respective Districts, I express my thanks for your support of your dedicated Executive Committee, and the Association's staff.

Adelaide, 23 July 1981

N.M. Green J.P. General President.

THE GENERAL PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Greetings,

This is the first of a series of columns I hope to write on topics of interest to members of the South Australian Dairymen's Association.

I accepted nomination to the above position because I had been persuaded that the time was right for change to ensure continuity of management of the Association and of the Equalisation Committee. Our past General President, Mr. Norm Green, of Monteith, has served the Association faithfully, both as its President and as Chairman of Directors of the Metropolitan Milk Equalisation Committee for thirteen years.

Mr. Ken Turvey, perhaps the most knowledgeable man on our Executive Committee, also resigned from the position of Senior Vice President. I am pleased that both these men have remained on the Executive Committee, and I am sure that the other Executive Committee members, as well as myself, will benefit from this decision.

Alan Manning (Torrens Valley) and Michael Diener (River Murray) were elected as my deputies and, together, we look forward to advancing the interests of the members of our Association. I welcome the return of Andrew McEwin (South Coast) to the Executive and congratulate Mark Eckermann (Barossa) on his appointment. They join an enthusiastic group who are keen to see that your interests are protected and advanced.

Please feel free to contact any of these men on the Executive (they are listed elsewhere in this Journal) if you are concerned about anything that you think the Executive should be doing, or should not be doing.

I look forward to working closer with our General Secretary, David Higbed; I have the highest regard for his talents, his knowledge of the industry and its needs for the future.

I have expressed the hope that our members will become more actively interested in Association meetings, and indeed, other Dairy Industry Meetings. These are the opportunities provided for you to become better informed and are the best places for you to express your opinions. Many important decisions have been formulated from opinions expressed at these meetings.

The opening Basic Price of \$2.90 per kilogram butterfat with a 6 cent per kilogram Advance Bonus Payment is certainly the best opening we have ever had and the future of the industry looks bright. I have always been optimistic about the future of our industry but we must not be lulled into a false sense of security. I believe that we are about to be caught up in another period of high wage rises, which, coupled with the advent of the thirty five hour week and the upward valuation of the Australian dollar, will present us with new challenges.

In spite of this we should be able to look forward to a prosperity that will allow us to employ staff, or to mechanise, so that we may enjoy similar leisure hours to other members of the community, which, I feel, this is vital to the future prospects of the dairy industry.

The recent "Feeding for Profit" seminars were aimed to stimulate thoughts to aid profitability of dairy farmers. The co-operation of the Department of Agriculture and Metropolitan Milk Board was significant. It demonstrated the importance that all sections of the industry place on the future prosperity of dairy farmers.

The Association is planning a bus study tour of the Victorian dairy scene for next year. I expect the tour could last about five days. It should be most enjoyable and certainly highly educational (and probably tax deductible). Having participated in a similar tour of the North Island in New Zealand, I am confident that the participants will enjoy greater profits after the stimulation of observing other successful dairy farmers' management practices. More details will be released in the near future and I hope many dairy farmers and their families will be able to utilize this opportunity.

I look forward to working together with you all for the future prosperity of the dairy industry.

Sincerely Yours

Aub Kretschmer

FARM EMPLOYEES' WAGE RATES RISE

All wage rates payable under the Pastoral Industry (South Australia) Award were increased, following the general National Wage Case rise, from 3 July, 1981 as under:-

ADULT RATES per 40 hour week without keep :-

Station Hand - less than 12 months experience	162.90
Station Hand - more than 12 months experience	164.60
General Station Hand	166.30

("General Station Hand" means a person who has had at least 2 years experience, and is capable of performing efficiently, without supervision, any task, including driving a tractor and motor vehicle and operating farm machinery, which might reasonably be required of a station hand on the property where he is employed.)

JUVENILE RATES per 40 hour week without keep :-

Age	\$	Age	\$	Age	\$
15	73.40	17	89.70	19	122.20
16	81.50	18	105.90	20	146.60

WITH KEEP :- The above rates less \$33.89 per week for adults and juveniles.

DAILY HIRING:- The minimum rate for adult employees engaged by the day is \$32.60. For juvenile employees the minimum rate is one fifth of the weekly rate shown.

HOURLY and CASUAL RATES:- No rates for hourly and casual (i.e. less than 1 day) are provided in the award, but on the other hand the award does not state any minimum period of hiring. In awards where a "casual" rate is provided, the rate is generally 20 per cent greater than the normal hourly rate.

EMPLOYERS' OBLIGATIONS:- Members are reminded that it is compulsory for a copy of these rates to be made available at the place of employment for perusal by any employee.

* * * * *

CHANGES IN CALF-RUN TIMETABLES

ANGASTON Added - Some Others Deleted

As in previous years, the seasonal decline in calf numbers has resulted in changes to the calf-run timetables, ON AND FROM MONDAY 7 SEPTEMBER.

NORTHERN - MONDAYS

9. Lobethal	11.15 ANGASTON*	2. Birdwood
9.30 Kenton Valley	11.45 Flaxman Valley	2.30 Mt. Torrens
10 Gumeracha	12.30 Eden Valley	3. Charleston
10.30 Williamstown	1.30 Springton	3.30 Woodside

*Collingrove Bridge. NOTE - Please advise this office if you believe a stop between Lyndoch and Angaston, via Tanunda, would be worthwhile.

CENTRAL - TUESDAYS

9. Meadows 1	10.45 Kuitpo	1.15 Mt. Compass (factory)
9.30 Meadows 2	11.15 Kyeema	2. Tooperang
10 Kangarilla	11.45 Hope Forest	2.30 Finnis
	12.15 Yundi	

(SOUTHERN COMBINED) - THURSDAYS

9. Page's Flat Corner	11.15 Normanville	12.30 Back Valley
10.30 Myponga	11.30 Torrens Vale Corner	1.45 Hindmarsh Valley
10.45 Wattle Flat	12. Inman Valley	2.15 Mt. Jagged

NEW SEASON STARTS WITH ALL PRICES UP

The 1981-82 season has started with increases in the Basic Price for manufacturing milk, the Advance Bonus Payment, and the farmgate price for market milk.

Compared with last year's opening Basic Price of 238.23 cents kg fat, the new price of 290.00 cents is 22 per cent higher, and may finish, when the pool is closed, at 330 cents per kg fat compared with an estimated 270 cents final for the season just finished.

The Advance Bonus Payment, first introduced, after negotiations with the dairy companies, in April 1980, and paid during 1980-81 at 5 cents kg fat, has been renegotiated at 6 cents, an increase of 20 per cent.

The combined total of both these prices, 296 cents is, as far as is known, the season's highest opening price in Australia for manufacturing milk, the range in other States being from 290 to 295 cents.

The farmgate price for market milk was increased by the Metropolitan Milk Board to 25.2 cents from 25 July, 6 per cent up on the previous price of 23.7 cents, fixed in December 1980 but 14 per cent up on the 22.1 cents current in July last year, just a slightly better lift than the 13.9 per cent increase in the assessed farm production cost.

The 1.5 cent increase in the farmgate price was exactly half of the 3 cent increase in the retail price, which went from 51 to 54 cents per litre carton.

Although the higher farmgate price operated for only the last 7 days in July, it is expected that the July interim equalised price, (which does NOT include the 6 cents Advance Payment,) will, for the first time, be in excess of \$4 a kg fat.

Indications are that the 1981-82 final "cash flow" figure will be over \$4.45 (not including factory bonus distribution) compared with \$3.75 for the season just passed.



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CENTRAL COUNCIL APPOINTS NEW OFFICERS

And Enlarges The Executive Committee

At the Annual Meeting on 23 July 1981 delegates to the Central Council made several changes in the Association's executive positions:-

General President - Aub Kretschmer succeeded Norman Green;

Senior Vice-President - Alan Manning succeeded Ken Turvey;

Junior Vice-President - Michael Diener succeeded Aub Kretschmer;

Other Executive Members - Graham Camac, Ron Fromm, Norman Green and Ken Turvey were re-elected; Mark Eckermann replaced Don Zweck, and Andrew McEwin returned to fill an added position on the Committee, making a total Executive Committee of nine members.

- - -And Looks At Current Issues- - -

SALVATION JANE - Concern was again expressed at the continuing delay in implementing biological control of this pest plant, which was rapidly infesting the higher rainfall areas because of the delay and lack of other action by appropriate authorities. It was also believed that eradication attempts, using conventional methods, had ceased, in some District Council areas, in expectation of eventual biological control measures.

Delegates decided to inform the Minister of Agriculture of their fears that the weed could be already out of control and of their belief that biological control should be introduced immediately.

It was also decided that the Association's opinion that there was a widespread and alarming increase in infestation by plant pests of all types be firmly impressed on the Minister, with a request for very speedy action all round.

The Council was informed that letters were being sent to all District Councils in the Central Region, under the signatures of the Association's District Presidents and Secretaries, asking them not to sit back and wait for biological control of salvation jane, but to resume using other methods, at least until biological control was introduced, and even after.

CALF PICK-UP RUN - Dissatisfaction was expressed at both the unsatisfactory situation concerning the scales, and the low prices being paid. The General Secretary reported that latest prices in the Victorian scheme were 5 cents to 15 cents per kg liveweight above the local scheme's prices for heavier calves, and for small calves (20 - 25 kg) were up to 80 cents per kg compared with the local scheme's \$2 per calf.

Knude Larsen stated that the prices he had received at auction during the present season were about twice those he had received from the calf run.

The Executive was directed to give high priority to improving prices and service on the run.

The proposed extension of the Northern run beyond Flaxman Valley, which was, at present, the furthest stopping point, was warmly supported.

CONTAGIOUS ABORTION - Delegates expressed some doubts that the Department of Agriculture's policy of notifying all neighbours, where a property is quarantined for brucellosis, was being fully carried out, and agreed that any instances where this action had not been taken should immediately be notified to Head Office, to be brought to the attention of the Department and the Minister.

It was also decided that all members of the Association should be advised, through the Journal, that when any case of abortion was reported to a vet, the cost of the vet's visit and the necessary pathology were paid by the Department. It was, however, agreed that, where there were incidental problems associated with an abortion, the full fee for the visit might be charged against the allied problems.

"SAVE THE MURRAY COMMITTEE" - Graham Camac reported on the inaugural meeting of this Committee, and proposed that the Association make a donation to the committee's fund appeal, and perhaps invite members to contribute individually. Some members expressed doubt about the effectiveness of "yet another committee" and the possibility that funds could be frittered away on pointless actions like court injunctions.

It was finally decided that a first donation of \$250 be made by the Association.

SOUTH EAST AUGMENTATION SCHEME - A letter from the South East Dairymen's Association, objecting to some clauses in the "letter of intent" setting out the conditions of the augmentation scheme, was discussed. Although it was accepted that a future Government might consider that the terms of the "letter of intent" were too restrictive, it was agreed that Government would be reluctant to intervene in the matter, and it was decided to adhere to the conditions in the "letter of intent" as it now stood.

FEES FOR FARM BUILDINGS - The General Secretary stated that although the Minister of Local Government (Hon. Murray Hill) had, last November, gazetted regulations under the Building Act which gave District Councils power to remit all or part of building inspection fees in certain cases, as had been requested by the Association, no cases of these concessions being granted had come to his attention. However, he had been informed by the Mount Barker Council, (which, so far, had refused all requests for remission of fees) that the Building Advisory Committee was investigating a new fee structure, although little was known of its plans.

MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION - As decided at the previous Central Council meeting, the State Government was asked to consider granting reduced registration fees for private motor vehicles in country areas not served by public transport. The basis of the request was that all taxpayers contribute to the multi-million dollar subsidy paid to public transport, with no benefit coming back to those who had no access to public transport services.

The Government had since refused the request, on the grounds that substantial concessions were already enjoyed by primary producers, such as reduced registration fees on farm vehicles, costing \$2.4 million a year, and the right to drive unregistered tractors and farm implements on roads within 40 km of the owners' farms, under certain circumstances, the cost of which could not be estimated "...but... would be considerable" in the Government's opinion.

Although the Government's reply seemed to have missed the point, which was that concessions ought to be provided to country residents, whether primary producers or not, who were forced to use private transport because no public service was available, the Council agreed that further pursuit of the request would be unproductive.

ROAD MAINTENANCE TAX CONCESSIONS - It was noted that no further correspondence had been received from the Minister of Transport on this subject, which arose from the loss of the exemptions previously granted on the transport of perishable foodstuffs and livestock when the Road Maintenance Tax was replaced by a fuel surcharge, following the nation-wide truck operators' strike.

At that time the Minister, then in Opposition, had strongly criticized the then Minister (Hon.G. Virgo) for the change, but since taking over the responsibility himself, the Minister did not appear to be able to find a way to compensate dairyfarmers and dairy companies for the loss of the exemption from road tax, amounting to perhaps several hundreds of thousands of dollars yearly.

* * * * *

DON'T FORGET OUR DAIRY FOODS SNACK BAR

If you visit the Adelaide Royal Show for one day only, you still need to eat, lunch, or morning or afternoon tea, or all three, and there is no more nutritious, or tastier, or cheaper food than at the Association's Dairy Foods Snack Bar, which is staffed by dairy farmers wives and daughters, and is west along the Kingsway, just before the Dairy Pavilion.

But if you are showing cattle, and staying at the Showgrounds, remember, we are open continuously from 8.30 am to 10.30 pm, for hot coffee, hot chocolate or soup, cold milk drinks, toasted sandwiches of all kinds, but mainly cheese, and plowman's lunches, which, despite their name, are just as good for breakfast or for dinner.

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Board Refuses Licence Application From Outside The Zone

The Metropolitan Milk Board has rejected an application for a milk producer's licence for a property at Wellington, outside the present recognised milk producing area, after strong opposition from the Association.

Although it was agreed that the milk from the proposed dairy farm would only partly offset the apparently continuing decline in milk supply from the existing area, the Association argued that the decline was due to economic factors, and that there was plenty of potential for increased milk production within the area if the price was improved.

Furthermore, the Association's case continued, the granting of new licences outside the traditional area could be expected to speed up the rate of decline within the area, as economic factors nowadays demanded that new dairy enterprises would invariably be on a large scale, and the subsequent injection, into the equalisation system, of substantial quantities of milk would depress current returns even further.

There was the further problem that, although it could be argued that the property in question, being a reclaimed swamp, was suitable for dairying, dairy farmers in the Lakes area had demonstrated that dairying could be carried on very effectively in a dry-land farming situation, east of the river so that there was a possibility that, if this application was granted, there could be a number of applications from that area.

Although it was recognised that a higher milk throughput could reduce average manufacturing costs in the local dairy factories, the Association claimed that such milk, which was worth only manufacturing price, should not share in the milk equalisation scheme.

* * * * *

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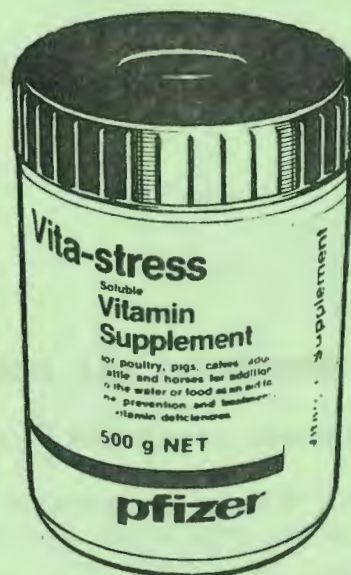
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IN THIS ISSUE

Bull Licensing Abolished
Funding Central Testing Laboratory
A Breakthrough in Bacteria Counting
Food Resources of Australia- Book Review
Reporting Suspected Abortions
Guide to Pastoral Award

JOURNAL

BULL LICENCES TO BE ABOLISHED - AT LAST

The Association has been trying to have the compulsory licensing of dairy bulls abolished ever since the wide-spread adoption of artificial insemination made such licensing inequitable, by imposing a burden on only a portion of the dairy farming sector.

Despite promises by previous Ministers of Agriculture, no action was taken specifically to repeal that section of the Dairy Cattle Improvement Act which requires dairy bulls to be licensed, but the subject was generally regarded as being "low key" and it is probable that most dairy farmers disregarded the annual reminders sent out by the Department of Agriculture.

That is, until this year, when the annual reminder was followed by a "pay up or else" letter, threatening legal action, which was sufficient to convince a number of dairyfarmers that they should no longer disregard the annual reminder, but pay up to avoid prosecution. Because so many dairyfarmers appeared to be worried about this change in procedure the Association decided it was time to take the initiative, and not merely wait for the legislation to be changed.

We therefore made a direct request to the current Minister of Agriculture, Ted Chapman, to repeal the bull-licensing provision, and to make the other proposed changes later.

We have now received advice from the Minister that he intends to repeal, forthwith, the Dairy Cattle Improvement Act, and with it, the need to license dairy bulls.

AGNOTES AVAILABLE

We now have a small number of complete sets of AGNOTES, including ring binders, available for sale at \$25 per set, posted. Contact Head Office (08) 51 3034.



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THE GENERAL PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Greetings,

Herd Improvement has been the subject of much study by numerous researchers over a period of many years, and has, as well, had its fair share of public inquiries.

Professor R.W. Everett, a geneticist of world standing, in his recent report on "Designs for Dairy Cattle Breeding Programs in Australia" had this to say :-

"A key ingredient for genetic progress is a stable and aggressive milk recording program" and "the greatest need of A.I. is NOT new or different designs of programs; it is facts from the analysis of data accumulated on cows of the cooperating dairymen, facts that will reinforce the basic principles of the merit of A.I.

Many figures have been quoted as to the value of herd-recording to those dairy farmers who use the service and its value to them is unquestionable, but to the dairy industry as a whole the value of herd recording must be virtually inestimable. Whatever the type of bull used, whether with artificial insemination or natural mating, dairy farmers rely on the figures of tested herds, and dairy companies, in turn, enjoy the advantages of increased production by way of higher throughput, whilst, as our Association has frequently claimed, the consumers of dairy products also benefit through cheaper prices based on lower production costs.

Herd recording in this State has been gaining momentum in recent years. It is now entering a period in which its future must be carefully planned, and consideration given to an injection of some \$300 000 to enable us to take the next step into that future.

The testing equipment now employed is nearing the end of its useful life. Spare parts are almost impossible to buy and, even when they are available, the prices are exorbitant. There is an obvious need for HISCOL to replace the present equipment with new, electronic apparatus.

Our Association has consistently supported the establishing of a Central Testing Laboratory as a matter of high priority, and HISCOL is now examining the possibility of putting the idea into practical form. It is envisaged that the laboratory will be equipped to test for fat and protein; a cell-counting service for individual cows will be offered to all dairy farmers on a fee basis; and an on-site computer will facilitate better use of the herd recording figures for the benefit of the whole dairy industry.

The problem is, of course, how the finance is to be raised. Borrowing would impose a large repayment burden on the users of herd-recording, which would adversely affect the number of farmers willing to participate, and consequently have a snowballing, counterproductive effect on the South Australian dairy industry.

The State Government has reiterated that it does not intend to finance the project although it may assist with its establishment.

The project could be financed from the industry's own resources, within 12 months, if all dairy farmers were prepared to support such a move. We have the opportunity to prove that we can look after ourselves, and the challenge is there to be grasped.

THE DAIRY FOODS SNACK BAR

The Association is grateful to those people who worked so hard to make our Dairy Foods Snack Bar at the 1981 Royal Show such a tremendous success.

The General Secretary, who worked tirelessly throughout to ensure its success, was supported by an excellent team of assistants, all helping to promote the use of dairy products.

The Snack Bar is increasing in popularity each year, and this year the venture was profitable. Well done.

Sincerely yours,

Aub Kretschmer.

SUPPORT THE S.A.D.A. CALF PICK-UP SCHEME



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A QUICK TEST TO COUNT BACTERIA IN MILK

Break-through By Northfield Research Scientists

The method used in South Australia to assess, or, more correctly, to estimate the number of bacteria in milk is the "plate count", a laboratory technique which takes some three days from sampling to the finished result.

As with the methylene blue test which preceded the plate count, by the time the test is completed the milk has been processed, and the results of the test can only be used to decide whether future supply from the tested farm can be used for market milk (or, in extreme cases, used at all).

The "direct" microscopic count is a much faster test than either of the foregoing, but is far too inaccurate, even in the hands of experienced staff, to be used to measure whether milk conforms to bacteriological standards.

Northfield Research scientists Colin Beck and Alan Hehir have now developed a method which may be even faster than the direct count and is also accurate enough to be used to test milk for conforming with standard, possibly even more accurately than the plate count, which is not, anyway, either a very precise or consistent method.

The principle on which the new method is based is the concentrating of the bacteria in a milk sample by membrane filtration, so that many more bacteria are present than in the samples used in any of the previous methods. The concentrated bacteria are then stained with a dye which has fluorescent properties and placed under an "Epi-Fluorescence" microscope, which permits the number of orange and yellow fluorescing bacteria to be counted.

It is claimed that a bacteriological test can be made by this method in less than 20 minutes, compared with 3 days for the plate count, and for a fraction of the \$Z per test which the plate count costs.

"FOOD RESOURCES OF AUSTRALIA"

(Australian Academy of Technological Sciences)

Anyone attempting to keep abreast of the flow of publications on the world's food resources relative to the world's growing population must alternate between hope and despair - hope because science and technology hold out the promise of plenty, despair because of doubts that governments, and vested interests, and Mankind generally will ever show the resolve necessary to make the promise a reality.

This was the doubt that led the United States' National Academy of Sciences, in its benchmark study "Resources and Man", published in 1969, to conclude that although an "all-out effort, including the provision of ample fertilizer, and genetic, ecological and chemical research, could probably quadruple production from the lands and double production from the waters by the end of the century WILL SUCH ALL-OUT EFFORT BE STARTED AND SUSTAINED?"

The other side of the case is put by Professor Keith Campbell, of the University of Sydney, in his book, "Food for the Future", published in 1979, in which he concludes that "Food production need not be a problem. The jeremiads of the doomsday men about the future food production potential of the world are just plain wrong.

With the prospect of continued progress in containing population growth and with more attention to agricultural science and its application on farms, the world can look forward to substantially better diets in the future than were ever enjoyed in the past".

Regrettably governments, including those of Third World countries, appear to have more urgent priorities than merely feeding people, and only time will tell whether the nations of the world will ever tackle the problem of mass hunger.

But just in case they do, it is the duty of all involved in food production, whether agriculturists, technologists or scientists, to make sure that when the challenge comes, they are ready. This was the theme of the Fourth Invitation Symposium of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences, held in Melbourne last October, the proceedings of which have just been published under the title "Food Resources of Australia" (available from the Society at Clunies Ross House, 191 Royal Parade, Parkville, 3052, for \$22).

The contributors, all leaders in their field, demonstrate that Australia has a potential for vastly increased production of foodstuffs, provided the determination is there to exploit it.

The possibly over-optimistic views of the specialist contributors are wisely modified in the first paper - "World Food Resources - An Overview", - given by J.H. Hulse, Director of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Sciences Division of Canada's International Development Research Centre. Mr. Hulse warns that "scientists probably bear as great a responsibility as politicians for the world-wide failure to ensure a universally adequate food supply for all mankind", and adds that "ALL TOO FREQUENTLY SCIENTISTS APPEAR MORE CONCERNED WITH THE PURSUIT OF WHAT IS INGENIOUS RATHER THAN WHAT IS USEFUL, (and) ECONOMICALLY DESIRABLE..." an indictment that may well be echoed by the dairy industry in Australia.

Later in his paper, Hulse put his finger on possibly the most vital of all the factors inhibiting food production in the northern hemisphere, and we could justifiably add Australia (and particularly South Australia) to his accusation that " . . . though they should know better, the developed countries of North America and Europe offer an unfortunate example to developing countries by the manner in which they permit MUCH OF THEIR BEST AGRICULTURAL LAND TO BE DESTROYED BY THE BULLDOZERS AND CEMENT MIXERS OF THE URBAN DEVELOPERS".

Apart from that commentary on political reality, the tone of the proceedings is, otherwise, generally optimistic (though it is not for this reviewer to assess whether the optimism is justified).

Papers contributed to the Symposium dealt with crops and animals in both Northern Australia and temperate Australia, change and opportunity in each of the major commodities - meat, fruits, cereals, edible oils - and in their processing, and the changing production patterns for home consumption and export.

Perhaps the least optimistic paper was that on "The potential for milk and milk products" contributed by Mr. W.R. Dickson, Production Director of Kraft Foods Limited, which, after listing the changes that had taken place in the dairy industry in respect to production patterns and to markets, Mr. Dickson concluded by stating only that "...at farm level there is considerable potential for increased milk production, PROVIDED THE FINANCIAL INCENTIVES ARE SUFFICIENT TO ENCOURAGE FARMERS TO REMAIN IN DAIRYING".

CONTROL OF DAIRYING IN THE WATERSHED

No Barrier To Farm Sales In Zone I

At a meeting of the Torrens Valley District late last year, it was asked whether any change had been made in the control of animal husbandry activities in Zone I of the Mount Lofty Ranges Watershed, as it has been reported that a sale of an existing dairy had been blocked by the E & W S Department.

The answer received from the Director-General and Engineer-in-Chief (Mr. Keith Lewis) is that there has been no change in the control measures since they were first introduced in 1974 as regulations under the Waterworks Act.

These regulations prohibit the establishing of any animal husbandry enterprise in Zone I or the enlarging of any existing cowshed, poultry shed, kennels, stable or stockyard, but the sale or transfer of any existing operation is permitted without restriction.



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OESTRUS SYNCHRONIZATION IN CATTLE

A method of oestrus synchronization, which does not use oestrogens, has been developed at the Animal Research Institute, Werribee.

The method involves a fixed-time insemination and the following sequence of events. A coil is inserted in each of the cows for 12 days and a prostoglandin injection ('Estrumate') is given one day before the coils are removed. Insemination takes place 56 hours after the removal of the coils. Cows failing to hold this artificial insemination are inseminated again at the next observed oestrus during a normal 21 - 24 day artificial insemination program.

The benefits are - fertility rate equal to natural mating - elimination of oestrus detection problems and reduction of lactational anoestrus - reduction in number of insemination visits.

It is reported that the coils will soon be registered and released for general use.

MILK CONTAMINATED, SAYS CONSUMER MAGAZINE

"Choice", the journal of the Australian Consumer's Association, claimed, in its September issue, that milk samples from 3 States (N.S.W., Victoria and Tasmania) had high levels of bacterial contamination, certainly higher than those recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council.

The magazine blames "faulty handling after the milk leaves the factory" for most of the problems. We suspect that what they mean is too long a time lapse, and perhaps too high a temperature, before the milk is stored in the shop refrigerators, and possibly a temperature not low enough when the milk is in the refrigerated display cabinet awaiting sale.

It is difficult to see what the dairy industry can do about that sort of problem, but the industry will get the blame and its products will suffer accordingly.

Brian Hannaford, the Chairman of the Metropolitan Milk Board, claimed in a press statement that Adelaide milk was of world quality and that this State "had pioneered a new bacteria control which protected milk quality from the cow to the consumer", but it is doubtful whether Mr Hannaford's remarks came to the notice of even a fraction of the public who received the full impact of the original statements in the press and on radio.

RESEARCH AIMS TO INCREASE COW PRODUCTIVITY

Increasing the productivity of the dairy cow would be given high priority in future industry research, according to the president of the Australian Dairy Farmers Federation, Mr. John Bennett.

In a report on the activities of the Australian Dairying Research Committee presented to the annual meeting of the ADFFF in Melbourne, Mr. Bennett said the Committee had supported productivity research for some years, but closer co-ordination and concentration was now required in order to accelerate results which would give immediate benefits to the industry.

He said the Committee was now reviewing all the information accumulated which was ready for practical application, and in the process was identifying strategic gaps which required further research and funding effort.

Mr. Bennett said the Committee would spend \$454 690 in 1981-82 on farm research directed towards husbandry and management methods designed to improve efficiency and reduce costs. Projects would include animal health, physiology, herd improvement, nutrition, and productivity, pasture and feed quality, and milking systems and management techniques, including the use of computers.

RELIEF MILKING

Available During Christmas Period

Debra Smart, who succeeded Wendy Hansen in providing the Association's relief milking service, has not yet been booked for the coming Christmas vacation (December, January, early February) and is also available during part of November.

As in the case of Wendy, it is hoped that advance bookings for Debra's services can be made throughout most of the coming year, in order that charges may be kept as low as possible (as each idle period means that charges for engagements must be higher as Debra is ineligible for social service payments between bookings).

We have had nothing but good reports from members for whom Debra has worked, and we believe she can now handle any reasonably sized herd capably and satisfactorily.

For bookings and charges contact the Association's head office (08) 51 3034.

AGNOTES - MISSING SHEETS

All the sets of the Victorian Agriculture Department AGNOTES have been sent out from this office and should, by now, have been received by those members who ordered them.

We regret the delays, sometimes very long delays, but they were due to circumstances over which we had absolutely no control.

During the packing and posting we noticed that, in an occasional set, a sheet had been mis-printed, or was, at times missing altogether - there were about half-a-dozen mistakes in the office copy - and one batch even contained slips of paper which stated that, because of an industrial dispute, some of the sheets had been omitted, (and missing pages could be obtained, on request, from regional offices of the Victorian Department).

Whenever we noticed that a sheet was mis-printed or missing - and we probably did not even pick up 10 per cent of the errors - we provided a photo-copied replacement - not as colourful as the original but better than nothing.

If, when you have checked your Agnotes with the index, and find that some sheets are missing, or illegible, let us know the Agdex numbers and titles. We may be able to supply your needs from the few spare sheets that we have, or we can send you photocopies, or we can try to get them from the Victorian Department of Agriculture.

MILK PRICES RISE IN QUEENSLAND

Now 12 Cents Per Litre Above S.A.

All market milk prices in Queensland were increased on 15 October ensuring that now, more than ever, retail prices and farmgate prices are higher in that State than anywhere else in Australia.

The farmgate price rises by 2.01 cents to 31 cents and the retail price per litre carton by 4 cents to 66 cents maximum, 64 cents minimum in the Brisbane District. Retail prices elsewhere in Queensland go as high as 3 cents per litre above the capital city price.

Milk prices (in cents per litre) in each State are now as under :-

	QLD.	W.A.	N.S.W.	VIC.	A.C.T.	TAS.	S.A.
Retail (per carton)	66/64	60	59	57	56	54	54
Farmgate (net)	31.00	24.62	24.85	23.01	20.23	20.80	24.84

BRUCellosis - WHAT TO DO IN SUSPECTED CASES

Free Veterinary Attendance And Free Pathology

Maintaining the momentum of the fight against brucellosis requires every diaryfarmer's full cooperation, with no holding back for fear of what it will cost. And to ensure this cooperation, and to minimise financial loss, the brucellosis eradication campaign pays the cost of veterinary attendance at any suspected case of abortion, and the cost of any associated pathology services.

Any farmer, therefore, who knows or suspects that an abortion has occurred in his herd should immediately notify his usual veterinary practitioner.

Notification should also be made when a WEAKLING full term calf has been dropped, as this can also be a symptom of the presence of brucellosis.

The practitioner will be authorised to make a visit to the property for the collection of herd reproductive history, and of various appropriate specimens, including blood, milk, and aborted material. These will be laboratory tested for the presence of disease.

LABORATORY AND PRACTITIONER FEES FOR SUCH SERVICE WILL BE PAID DIRECT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

It should, however, be noted that the free laboratory service includes only tests relevant to the diagnosis of brucellosis. If, in the course of such testing, evidence is found of other reproductive disease being present, such information will be reported, and it is also likely that, in such a case, the practitioner will charge for any treatment considered necessary by the presence of the reproductive disease.

Quarantine - You And Your Neighbour

It is the policy of the Department of Agriculture, when brucellosis is diagnosed as being present on a property, to quarantine the property and to notify the adjoining landholders, both to enable them to keep their stock clear of the boundaries, where infected material may be present, and to warn them of the need to keep a sharp look-out for any sign of abortion in their own herds.

A recent case of apparent failure to notify neighbouring landholders of a possible brucellosis infection has turned out to be the result of "trace-back" activities. A test on a herd, from which a suspect brucellosis case had been detected at the abattoirs, proved negative, but neighbouring herds were tested to see whether they were the possible sources of any infection.

Fortunately all tests proved negative.

CHEDDAR CHEESE MAY PREVENT TOOTH DECAY

Research carried out by Dr. Michael Edgar, of the University of Newcastle (England) and Dr. William Bowen of the U.S. National Institute of Dental Research indicates that eating cheddar cheese may retard tooth decay.

The English tests were carried out on human subjects, and similar results were obtained by the Institute from laboratory rats.

Milk and milk products have always been highly regarded by the dental profession, but this research is probably the first demonstration of a direct link between a particular dairy product and the prevention of decay.

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A WORKING GUIDE TO THE PASTORAL (S.A.) AWARD

The Pastoral Industry (South Australia) Award, like all legal documents, never uses one word when ten will say the same thing.

In any case, of the 74 clauses in the award, less than a dozen have any practical reference to dairy farm employment.

This summary is, consequently, offered as a working guide to those clauses with which the employer or potential employer needs to be familiar. It is suggested that this summary be retained for reference.

Clause 4. SCOPE

The award does NOT apply to members of the employers' FAMILY, to MANAGERS, or to bona fide STUDENTS of a university or college working during their course of study to gain experience in the industry.

Clause 52. EMPLOYMENT ARRANGEMENTS

1. TERM OF HIRING.
At the Employer's option, by the WEEK or by the DAY.
2. NOTICE.
If employed by the week, one week's notice may be given by either party, or else payment, or forfeiture, (as the case may be) of one week's wages, except in the case of 3 following.
3. DISMISSAL WITHOUT NOTICE.
An employer has the right to dismiss without notice, but with pay made up to the time of the dismissal, for inefficiency, neglect of duty, or misconduct.

Clause 54 HOURS OF WORK, OVERTIME, AND SUNDAY WORK

1. Weekly employment may be either 5 days, Monday to Friday, or 5 1/2 days, Monday to Saturday morning, when work on Saturday is essential for "good husbandry" or tending stock.
2. However, provided the 5 or 5 1/2 days arrangement is adhered to, the hours actually worked are flexible, provided they do not exceed 160 HOURS IN ANY CONSECUTIVE PERIOD OF 4 WEEKS.
3. All work in excess of 160 hours in 4 weeks is deemed to be OVERTIME.
4. OVERTIME shall be adjusted, AT THE EMPLOYEE'S OPTION, by either PAYMENT (see 6) or by paid TIME OFF equal to the length of overtime worked.
5. If the employee opts for equivalent paid time off, the time off must be taken within the next 3 weeks, unless employer and employee mutually agree that it be taken some other time.
6. OVERTIME RATES
Time-and-a-half for all overtime worked except on SUNDAYS.
7. SUNDAY RATES
Time-and-a-half in the case of FEEDING, MILKING, OR WATERING stock, otherwise double time.
8. DAILY HIRING
Ordinary hours are 8 per day. OVERTIME at time-and-a-half is to be paid for all work in excess of 8 hours per day. Work on SATURDAYS and SUNDAYS and PUBLIC HOLIDAYS for employees under daily hiring is paid for at ordinary rates up to 8 hours per day.
9. Overtime must be CLAIMED by the employee, either as time-off or by payment, within two weeks of its having been worked, or by the next date of payment of wages, whichever is the later.

Clause 56 PAYMENT OF WAGES

1. If so required by the employee, wages shall be paid FORTNIGHTLY, but 1 week's pay may be retained until employment terminates.

Clause 57 RENT

When living accommodation is provided for a "without keep" employee and his family, the rent charged (including electric power if agreed) shall be the amount agreed to, IN WRITING, by the employer and employee.

Clause 58 PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

1. Employees on weekly hiring shall be entitled to all gazetted public holidays, (10 at present) WITH PAY, BUT the employer and employee may mutually agree beforehand, to another day off in lieu of a gazetted holiday.
2. PAYMENT FOR WORKING ON HOLIDAYS shall be at DOUBLE-TIME, which means that the employee is paid ORDINARY TIME for the hours worked, added to the day's pay received for the public holiday.
3. Employees shall be allowed time off, (not exceeding one full day) with pay, to vote at any Federal or State ELECTION.
4. If an employee fails to report for duty on the day BEFORE or the day AFTER a gazetted holiday, without reasonable excuse, or without the employers' consent, he is NOT entitled to be paid for the holiday (or for the extra day off).

Clause 59 ANNUAL LEAVE

1. The employee is entitled to FOUR WEEKS ANNUAL LEAVE at the end of each completed year of service.
2. Before going on leave the employee shall be paid 4 WEEKS WAGES (without any deduction for keep) plus 17 1/2 per cent loading.
3. The 4 weeks annual leave shall be taken in one period or, if agreed between employer and employee, NOT MORE THAN 2 SEPARATE PERIODS.
4. A PRO RATA PAYMENT shall be made to any employee leaving before completing a full year's service, at the rate of ONE-TWELFTH of the pay earned for the period of service.

Clause 60 SICK LEAVE

1. The employee shall inform the employer of his inability to attend for duty WITHIN 24 HOURS after the absence begins.
2. If required by the employer, the employee shall produce a MEDICAL CERTIFICATE or other reasonable evidence.
3. SICK LEAVE CREDIT is accumulated in the FIRST YEAR of service at the pro rata rate of 10 working days per 12 months service.
4. At the beginning of the SECOND YEAR of service his accumulated sick leave (i.e. days on which, if sick, he is entitled to be paid) is the BALANCE of the 10 days sick leave acquired in the first year (i.e. 10 days entitlement less any sick leave taken) PLUS A FURTHER 10 DAYS immediately.
5. And a FURTHER 10 DAYS is added to the accumulated sick leave credit (i.e. paid sick leave entitlement minus sick leave taken.) at the BEGINNING OF EACH SUBSEQUENT YEAR, (so that the number of paid days sick leave to which an employee who has not taken ANY sick leave since commencing employment is entitled, would be, on the anniversary of the day on which he first began work, 10 TIMES THE NUMBER OF YEARS WORKED PLUS TEN).

Clause 61 BEREAVEMENT LEAVE

1. An employee is entitled to up to 2 days leave without loss of pay, following the death of a spouse, (including de facto but not including separated), father, mother, brother, sister, child or stepchild.

Clause 63 PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

The employer is NOT required to supply the employee with protective clothing.

Clause 65 MEDICAL SUPPLIES

The employer shall provide and maintain an efficient first aid outfit in a reasonably accessible location.

Clause 69 EXHIBITION OF RATES

A copy of the wage rates payable under this award shall be available at the place of employment for perusal by any employee asking for it.

Clause 73 RECORDS

A time book or other suitable record shall be kept, showing, for each employee, name, address, hours worked each day, wages and allowances paid, and deductions, if any, made therefrom.

The South Australian Dairymen's...

IN THIS ISSUE

Milk Prices Increased
A Further Guide To The Pastoral Award
Three Retrospective Payments Due
Retirement Funds
Hammermilling May Depress Fat Production
The Menace of UHT Milk

JOURNAL



MILK PRICES RISE

And Our Share Is A Bit Less

Retail Milk Prices under the control of the Metropolitan Milk Board rose from 54 cents to 57 cents per litre carton, from 20 December 1981.

The farmgate price rose 1.4c (compared with the previous rise of 1.5c in July) from 25.2 cents to 26.6 cents per litre, a rise of 5.6 per cent, thus holding the dairy farmer's share of the total retail price at 46.7 per cent (still far and away the highest percentage share in Australia).

The margin received by treatment plants rose by 0.8 cent (0.75 cent in July) from 15.4 to 16.2 cents, their proportionate share falling from 28.5 to 28.4 per cent.

The retail vendor's margin also rose by 0.8 cent (also 0.75 cent in July) from 13.4 to 14.2 cents, their proportionate share rising from 24.8 to 24.9 per cent.

Before the increase the Adelaide and Hobart prices of 54 cents per litre were the lowest in Australia.

The new price of 57 cents is now higher than Hobart, still at 54 cents but due to rise probably to at least 57 cents, on 1 January 1982, and Canberra, at 56 cents, which is also under review.

The Melbourne price, 57 cents, is expected to be reviewed early in 1982.

Prices in the remaining capital cities have all been increased over the past few months. the current retail prices for a litre carton being 66 cents in Brisbane, 64 cents in Sydney, 63 cents in Perth.

Farmgate prices are highest in Brisbane, at 31.2 cents, Sydney next at 29.35 cents, followed by ADELAIDE IN THIRD POSITION AT 26.6 CENTS, then Perth - 25.88, Hobart - 23.55 and Melbourne - 23.01.

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Greetings,

ARTIFICIAL BREEDING AND HERD IMPROVEMENT

At the "Feeding for Profit" seminars, a comment was made that the most profitable farmers appeared to be those with established herds.

This could suggest they had established good pastures, and through experience, developed a skill in utilizing available fodder to the best advantage.

It was also obvious that each of the speakers at these seminars had given careful consideration to his herd's breeding programme and that the use of proven A.B. bulls played an important part in that programme.

This is confirmed in the recent S.A. Dairy Cattle Production Annual Reports where artificially bred cows have consistently out-produced their naturally-bred contemporaries.

The difference between the average production of the two groups increased from 7kg of milk fat in 1974-75 to 16kg in 1980-81.

This suggests that a farmer with a herd of 70 artificially bred cows would show a profit of \$4 480 per year (based on returns of \$4 per kg Milk Fat) over a herd of the same number of naturally bred cows.

While this may be a simplistic calculation, it does confirm the claims made by people in authority that a farmer not using herd recording but breeding from proven A.B. bulls will gain at least 1% increase in production per year.

The dairy industry is placing great importance on Artificial Breeding programmes; Among other things, it is hoping to unify the method of calculating Breeding Indexes in Australia so that dairy farmers can more easily identify the bulls with the best indexes.

It is confusing when trying to compare bulls from different States within Australia and extremely difficult to compare the performance of Australian bulls with those from overseas; even worse when the figures quoted rarely identify the source from which the index was obtained.

The need is urgent to have more daughters of these bulls tested to give greater reliability to their Relative Breed Value under Australian conditions.

The National Dairy Herd Improvement Scheme, which will be administered in Australia by the Australian Dairy Farmer's Federation; and the proposed central testing laboratory in this State will play important roles in accumulating the information required to ensure higher returns for all dairy farmers

MILK PROMOTION MEANS FUN FOR THE FAMILY

I recommend to members and their families a day of entertainment at the MILK CARTON CRAFT AND RAFT REGATTA at Glenelg on Sunday 28 February 1982, and look forward to seeing you there.

AN END-OF-YEAR WISH

1981 is fast drawing to a close and I personally wish for all members, our staff, and all our families the blessings of Christmas and hope that 1982 will be one of happiness with a share of prosperity.

Sincerely yours,

Aub Kretschmer.

About Prices And Sales And Legislation

BASIC MILK PRICE TOPS \$3 - From January 1982, following a step-up in the interim value of the current cheese pool, the basic price for milk for manufacture will rise to 304.03 cents per kilogram butterfat.

THREE RETROSPECTIVE PAYMENTS - taken in order of payment they are - first, in the January 1982 cheque, 1.1 cent per kg butterfat for all production during 1980-81 - then, in the February cheque, around 7 cents per kg butterfat for all production from 1 July 1981 to 31 December 1981 - finally, in the March cheque, 0.7 cent per kg butterfat for all production during 1979-80.

MARKET MILK SALES EXCEED 100 MILLION LITRES - Total sales of market milk from the Central Region, on a yearly basis, exceeded 100 million litres for the first time in 8 years, in the 12 months ended, 31 October 1981.

Milk sales reached their highest-ever yearly level, 101 789 000 litres, during the twelve months to 31 January 1973, but the termination of the free milk scheme for schools, and the adoption, by local milk vendors, of a six-day week, brought sales down, in the following year, to 98 million litres and in the following 6 years total yearly sales fluctuated between 96 and 98 million litres.

The total of 100 231 000 litres sold in the twelve months to 31.10.81 is nearly 3 million litres above the level of the year before.

Half the increase was in sales in the metropolitan area, now up to 90.7 million litres, also for the first time since 1974 an increase of 1.6 per cent over the previous year. (The highest ever metropolitan sales total was 94.7 million litres in 1973).

The remaining increase was in sales outside the metropolitan area, the 1.5 million litre increase being 18.8 per cent higher than the previous year.

IMPOUNDING ACT TO BE REVIEWED - Perhaps it is because of the noise that the Association has been making during the past year, that has led the Department of Local Government to undertake a review of the Impounding Act with the intention of making substantial improvements. The Association has been asked to make a submission setting out the changes we would like to see made.

This submission will follow very closely the case already presented to the Attorney-General in connexion with his proposal to reform the law relating to animals, as many of the principles are the same in each case.

Now For The Bad News

MILK PRODUCTION DOWN - Milk production in the Central Region during the 12 months ended 31 October 1981, at 222 062 000 litres, was a modest though disappointing, 3.5 per cent down compared with the previous year, though it was, in fact somewhat better than the 1978 total of 218 131 000 litres.

Butterfat production for the 12 months, down 4.6 per cent on the previous year, was slightly worse.

But most disappointing of all was the October production itself. the peak month of the year produced 24 903 467 litres, down 5.0 per cent on October 1981, and the lowest, in litres, since 1976, whilst butterfat, at 1 028 949 kg, was the lowest October production since 1963, and down 8.3 per cent on October 1980.

NO RISE IN TABLE CREAM PRICES YET - The forecast rise in the interim basic price to 304 cent kg butterfat means that, from January 1982, licensed producers will be losing well over the 34 cents per kg difference between the new basic price and the 270 cents per kg butterfat farmgate price for cream, as later retrospectives will lift the final basic price near to 320c.

Milk Boards and Dairy Authorities in all States are trying to achieve a degree of uniformity in farmgate prices for table cream, aiming at 55 per cent of the equivalent price for market milk.

In States where cream prices are fixed on butterfat this is not a simple calculation, but the use of the 55 per cent rule in this State would require a cream price of around 355 cents.

PASTORAL (S.A.) AWARD

More About Sick Leave - And A Guide To Daily Hiring

Since the publication, in the previous issue of the Journal, of the Working Guide to the Pastoral Award, several queries have been received, first asking whether, at the conclusion of employment, an employee is entitled to be paid for accrued sick leave not taken, and, second, concerning the provisions for annual leave and sick leave for employees who are regularly hired by the day.

NO PAYMENT FOR ACCRUED SICK LEAVE.

The answer to the first question is clearly "No". If, at the expiry of his term of employment, or at any other time an employee has unused sick leave credit, he is not entitled to be paid for the sick leave not taken, nor is he entitled to take time off to use up the accrued sick leave unless he is genuinely unable to attend work (and, if so required by the employer, can produce a medical certificate or other reasonable evidence).

DAILY HIRING - ANNUAL LEAVE

Obviously no provision is required for casual labour hired by the day, but the position is different for regular employees who are hired by the day, even if the employees work differing days, or a differing number of days, each week.

These regular employees are entitled to 4 weeks annual leave at the expiry of each 12 months service. Before taking such leave (which may, by agreement, be taken in two, but not more than two, separate periods) the employee is to be paid, at the rate of pay ruling at the time, for one-twelfth of the total number of days worked during the preceding twelve months, plus 17.5 per cent loading. (In the case of the second and subsequent years, one-twelfth of the total of the days worked in the preceding eleven months plus the days paid for during the four weeks leave taken at the beginning of the year).

DAILY HIRING - SICK LEAVE

An employee hired by the day is not entitled to payment for any day on which he has been engaged to work and fails to attend for work on account of sickness. If he is unable to complete a full day's work because of sickness, he is entitled to be paid for the full 8 hours.

CASUAL WORK - LESS THAN 8 HOURS

The Award makes no provision for casual work for a shorter period than a full day of 8 hours, and any person engaged to work for less than 8 hours must be paid as though he worked 8 hours.

MASTITIS DETECTORS

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"RIVER LEVELS ARE BEING CLOSELY MONITORED"

Peter Arnold Gives His Assurance

A recent report that the level of the River Murray at Mildura had fallen by 4 metres was followed by a spate of calls from members expressing their concern that "it might happen here".

The callers all expressed the same fear - that the E & W.S. Department might, once again, react too slowly to the falling river, and fail to raise the barrages in sufficient time to maintain a satisfactory level in the Lake and, consequently, in the level of the river below Mannum.

The Association made immediate contact with the Minister of Water Resources (Hon. Peter Arnold), requesting a report on the position in South Australia and immediate action to ensure that the river level was maintained.

Later that day we received a briefing from the Department which, we believe, indicates that the portion is being closely monitored, and the necessary action taken as circumstances dictate.

As far as the dramatic loss of level at Mildura is concerned, we learned that this was caused by the lock jamming when being repositioned, after having been removed, during the high river, to avoid restricting the flow.

As the locks on the South Australia section of the river are of a totally different design, the restoration of the lock system in step with the reducing rate of flow, is, we are informed, proceeding smoothly and to schedule.

The Lake level is under control; there is still a very substantial flow in the river, and raising the barrage at this stage would be premature, but past experience has taught the need to maintain a close watch, and we have the assurance that, this time, "everything is under control".

RETIREMENT FUNDS AND LIFE ASSURANCE

New Tax Deductions Make Them More Attractive

In the past, dairy farmers, like other primary producers, have not concerned themselves much with the subject of superannuation or similar retirement provisions because, being self-employed, they saw little gain from schemes which received no support beyond their own contributions, particularly when those contributions could be put to better use in their own enterprises.

But this situation was changed by the Federal Budget of August 1980, which granted, to self-employed persons, substantial taxation concessions on contributions paid into approved retirement funds, and so made investment in such funds more attractive to primary producers than previously. The Association has, consequently, collaborated with AML Assurance Limited to provide a range of superannuation policies for those of its members who wish to take advantage of the taxation benefits now available, and at the same time gain the security provided by a capital-guaranteed retirement fund and supplementary life assurance.

AML Assurance Limited, which is a 100 per cent Australian-owned company was, until recently, known as FML (Federation Manufacturers Life) Assurance Limited, and the agreement now formulated between the Association and AML is, in effect, a continuation of the mutually beneficial relationship which has existed between the Association and Federation Insurance for many years.

The agreement with AML has been endorsed by the Association's Central Council and the AML representative servicing the Association's membership has been given approval to call on members to discuss, without obligation, their retirement and life assurance needs in the light of the new arrangements.



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THE CENTRAL COUNCIL LOOKS AT -

Central Testing, Augmentation, Drug Prices, And Salvation Jane

AUGMENTATION : At its meeting on 15 October 1981, the Central Council spent much time debating a request from the South Eastern Dairymen's Association that the names of 11 Victorian dairyfarmers (10 supplying milk to the Kraft factory at MilLel and 1 supplying milk to the Mount Gambier Co-operative) be included in the augmentation scheme.

During the original negotiations in late 1977 and 1978 it was known that some 40, or thereabouts, suppliers to the South East factories were actually located in Victoria, and no attempt was made, in those early days, to treat them any differently from South Australian suppliers. But as the details of the augmentation scheme were hammered out in the following 2 years, it became obvious that dairyfarmers in the Central Region who were supporting the augmentation scheme only because it was less harmful than any options that could be imposed by the Government at the time, were opposed to any of the funds going to Victorian dairyfarmers, and the scheme was, consequently, limited to dairyfarmers "licensed under the Dairy Industry Act", that is to say, South Australian dairyfarmers.

By this time the majority of the Victorian suppliers to the South East factories had come under the control of the Victorian Dairy Industry Authority (even though their milk still finished up in the Kraft factory at MilLel) leaving a handful who were neither included in the VDIA scheme nor eligible for augmentation payments, and it was this group who were the subject of the request from the SEDA.

Opinion as to whether the request should be granted was divided, the argument in favor being that the S.E. producers would be the ones who were making the sacrifice as their inclusion would not increase the size of the augmentation contributions.

The arguments against granting the request were first that the augmentation scheme was a negotiated alternative to the previous Government's proposal to give the South East access to the Adelaide milk market, which if it had been applied would not have included Victorian suppliers and second, that sharing the augmentation contributions with Victorian suppliers might lead the South Australian suppliers to the South East to press for larger contributions to make up for the share paid to the Victorians.

A vote on a motion to refuse the request for the inclusion of the names of the 11 Victorian suppliers was deferred to the next meeting of the Central Council.

CENTRAL TESTING LABORATORY : Delegates discussed alternative methods of funding of the Central Testing Laboratory proposed by HISCOL.

The question being considered was whether it would be better for the industry to finance the proposed laboratory, than to pay both the interest and the principal on a loan, as it could be argued that in the long run, the results would be the same.

It was decided that a subcommittee representing both the Association and HISCOL would first look at all other aspects of the proposal including the range of services that could be made available by a central testing laboratory, the ways in which the laboratory would rationalise and speed up herd recording and allied services, and the extent to which the project would benefit those who were not herd-recording.

The subcommittee would then look at possible sources of funding, taking into account at one extreme, the probably massive exit from herd recording if the whole of the cost were to be borne by persons using the service, and at the other extreme, the questions of ownership and management of the facility if it were to be funded by the Industry either voluntarily or through a charge imposed by statute.

Finally the subcommittee would prepare a case for the information of the Association's membership with the intention of promoting discussion at District meetings prior to consideration by the Central Council.

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DRUG PRICES: Strong dissatisfaction was expressed in a motion from the Southern Hills District, at the high prices charged by veterinary surgeons in this State for prescribed drugs, in comparison with the lower prices charged for the same drugs by dairy factories in Victoria, where administration of the drugs by dairyfarmers is not prohibited by regulation.

Various instances of high drug prices were cited, and the General Secretary was instructed to contact Beecham's Veterinary regarding the apparently excessive mark up charged in South Australia on the price of Orbennin Dry Cow compared with the price available from Victorian dairy factories.

SALVATION JANE : The Central Council was informed that the Executive Committee had conferred with the Chairman and the Secretary of the Pest Plants Commission concerning the possibility of an early decision on the biological control of salvation jane.

Following an injunction issued by beekeepers in this State, release of the biological control vectors had been stopped, and the hearing of a case by the High Court had been considerably delayed by subsequent action by the beekeepers.

It seemed now that the only way to convince the High Court in favor of biological control was to present a case, based on economic grounds, showing that the loss to the grazing industries exceeded the loss that the beekeepers claimed they would suffer from biological control.

The Association was now preparing a case on the cost of salvation jane to the dairy industry, which would eventually form part of the overall case to be presented to the High Court by Dr Cullen, the CSIRO entomologist.

*** FUEL DRUMS ***

The Association wants to buy up to 80 , 44 gallon drums for molasses. Please advise condition, quantity and price (08) 51 3034.

At the "Feeding for Profit" seminar at Clare the Department of Agriculture's Senior Dairy Research Officer (Mr Brian Bartsch) made a passing reference in commenting on his circulated paper, to the doubtful benefits of hammermilling or chaffing hay as both practices are fairly common in the Mid North Region.

But Mr Bartsch did not, on that occasion, emphasize the reasons why such importance is placed on straw length in dairying countries in the Northern Hemisphere, when a close relationship is recognised between relatively long stalk length and butterfat production.

Mr Bartsch has since prepared the following comment on hammermilling and chaffing, with the intention of causing dairyfarmers to question whether the convenience gained is worth the butterfat lost.

The Doubtful Benefits Of Hammermilling and Chaffing Hay

Hay, like many other dairy feeds, provides energy, protein and minerals to cattle but also has the additional role of being a major source of fibre in the diet.

A lack of fibre in dairy rations can result in low fat content in milk. Fibre stimulates the cow to chew, which encourages the production of saliva necessary for keeping conditions in the rumen of the cow suitable for maintaining milk fat production.

A drop in the fat content of milk occurs most commonly when cows graze in lush young pastures or crops, or when large amounts of concentrates are fed. The feeding of long hay can overcome this problem by stimulating the cow to chew and produce saliva.

Hammermilled or chaffed hay does not perform the same function as long hay in relation to the fat content in milk because it does not stimulate the cow to chew and produce saliva. Chaffing or milling of hay allows the hay to pass through the cow more quickly and therefore may allow the cow to eat more hay and possibly produce more milk.

But this benefit from chaffing or milling is only likely to occur when the cow is eating large quantities of hay and, generally, the poorer the hay, the greater the benefit. Chaffing or hammermilling is likely to be of no benefit with good quality, early cut hay.

Why, then, is hay chaffed or hammermilled for feeding to dairy cattle, especially when processing makes it more bulky and dusty?

In the days of sheaved hay, chaffing was a method of ensuring that cows ate all the sheaved cereal hay, and not only the heads.

For chaffing to significantly improve intake, and consequently milk production, with poor quality hays, a large proportion of the ration needs to be chaffed.

The major reason for hammermilling or chaffing hay in these days is one of convenience. Chopped or milled hay mixes readily with concentrates and is in a convenient form for feeding in the dairy. It is also cheap bail feed if it is considered necessary to feed during milking. The quantity of processed hay eaten by the cow in the dairy is usually only a small proportion of its daily feed requirements and therefore unlikely to have any major influence on milk production.

Hammermilling or chaffing of hay for bail feeding is a practice likely to be of little nutritional benefit, any benefit being only in terms of convenience of feeding. The milling or chaffing of hay may result in a drop in the fat content of milk if cows are grazing pasture early in the season or are receiving large amounts of concentrates.

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THE MENACE OF U.H.T. MILK

It seems as though every time the dairy industry settles down to an ordered existence, with the chance to look at making further improvements, some disruptive force changes all our plans. This time it is UHT, or ultra high temperature long-life milk.

The stuff has long been around, in one form or another, in the small quantities needed to serve the requirements of campers, and people in the outback, who found the convenience of not having to refrigerate the product outweighed its occasionally burnt flavor.

But in the last couple of years, ambitious dairy companies trying to keep up with the Joneses, have equipped Australia with enough UHT processing capacity to fill the nation's normal needs for the stuff 10 times over.

And this means that they will be looking for markets to justify the mammoth expenditures they have incurred in putting up their very expensive treatment plants, and where better to look than in neighbouring States. and where better to look than in neighbouring States. So we should not take too lightly the rumours that we may see UHT milk in this State in substantial quantities.

Now there would be no cause for concern if the stuff was brought in to fill a need, and there is a need, as I have said, - anywhere where refrigeration is a problem - even though this need has, I believe, been amply met in the past by the traditional supplies of the product. The cause for concern is the possibility of a price war which could destroy the market milk industry.

Remember two things - first, the product does not require refrigerated warehousing- it does not require refrigerated transport- and it does not require refrigerated sales cabinets - second, its use-by expiry date is up to six months after processing.

Now, as to the first - the quality of the raw milk off the farm must be very high - no room for any deviation from standard, or the product will just not be saleable - the costs of processing, including the use of special aluminium lined cartons, are higher than for ordinary milk - and, last even though refrigerated transport is not needed, the cost of unrefrigerated transport from one State to another is still considerable, compared with the relatively short distances involved in the local milk industry.

On the face of it, the price for UHT milk should be, and is, as gazetted in those States where it is produced, actually higher than the price for ordinary milk.

But ordinary milk is bought, by vendors and supermarkets alike, on a day to day basis- surplus stocks today mean less ordered tomorrow. Not so with UHT. There must be a strong temptation - as we know from overseas experience - to cut the price of the stuff as it comes near to (and even more so when it passes) its use-by date.

Now lets get this straight. UHT milk does not suddenly mean cheaper milk for the consumer. The costs associated with its production are actually higher than those for ordinary milk, and even if it were not, it would be a logistic impossibility to supply the whole of a major capital city's supply from another State, first, because the sheer quantities involved would make it a transport impossibility (economically anyway, even if not practically) and second, because of the inadequacy of milk production in other States during the critical winter months .

The belief that, because of its long life, UHT milk could be processed and packaged during the flush period, and stored until the winter is wrong - there is a gradual deterioration in quality right from the day of packaging and even if the product did last that long, the warehouse for a capital city supply would need to be about the size of Football Park.

So the only cheap milk would be "old" milk - milk coming to the end of, and passing, its acceptable life, but even so, the presence of cheap milk of any sort would, at the time, undercut the price of local milk and make the continued preservation of its pricing structure difficult, if not impossible.

(From a talk by the General Secretary, broadcast on the ABC Country Hour).

The South
Australian
Dairymen's...

IN THIS ISSUE

Legal Advice For Members
Reports From The Central Council Pastoral
Award Rates Up
Is Udder Washing Obsolete?
Milk Prices Anf Inflation - A Comparison
Vitamin And Mineral Needs Of Dairy Cows

JOURNAL

THE GENERAL PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Greetings,

It is good to be able to examine the performance of an industry . and then to project future trends in that industry. Looking back over production figures in the city milk producing district of South Australia over the last 5 years, one can be mildly satisfied that total butterfat production has been relatively stable despite the dramatic decline in the number of producers.

The apparent lack of improvement in production per cow however, is disappointing and one wonders at first "why is it so?". In the early seventies it seemed to me . that too much emphasis was placed on production per cow. This seemed to be the basis upon which the dairyfarmer gained, or lost, the respect of his fellow dairyfarmers.

Production per acre was another yard stick that was often quoted with pride. Profitability of each individual farm must obviously be the main motivating force for most dairyfarmers today, but many are also placing more empasis on minimising the use of labor in an effort to allow the family more leisure time to participate in some of the social activities available to the general community.

Greater emphasis is also being placed on herd testing, with cows not able to breed at regular 12 monthly intervals losing their place in the herd, despite their apparent high lactation proportion. On closer examination many of these cows show less profit per year than their obviousy lower producing contemporaries.

Mastitic cows are generally not tolerated as long now as they were five years ago. Trends in feeding have varied considerably over the period, with the emphasis moving from the more expensive feeing of concentrates to the growing of better pastures and fodder crops, to increase profitability rather than just production.

The ever increasing swing to herringbone dairies is leading to a greater demand on temperament, with many high producing cows losing their place in the herd because of either bad temperament or slow milking time.



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All these changes in attitudes make comparisons of figures rather futile without knowing other relevant management details.

What of the future? Many existing dairy farms do not have the opportunity to expand, and obviously the emphasis will be for greater utilisation of available land. Emphasis will be placed on pasture improvement, fodder crops, with the use of fertilizers requiring closer attention. Breeding will demand more careful planning and the time must come when only top proven sires and sires in progeny testing schemes will be used. Research is now directed towards practical and economic targets with the Department of Agriculture more conscious of the needs to keep the industry informed on developments.

Our Association is represented on the advisory committees for research by our General Secretary, David Higbed, and our Senior Vice-President, Alan Manning. If you have ideas for research, please discuss them with either of these two people. (Alan Manning's telephone number is (085) 68 5268).

In 1976, 1 245 dairy farmers, in the metropolitan milk producing district, received an average gross income of approximately \$19,000 per farm, while in 1981, 985 dairy farmers producing, on average, approximately 17 per cent more than 5 years before, received an average gross income of \$41 250, a 2.25 fold increase.

We must, I think, endorse the claim that these 985 dairy farmers are "survivors - sound business people using a business approach to their dairy farming!". and on that assessment I predict that, in the coming years, all sectors of the industry will work much closer together, with a greater understanding of each others needs; Dairy farmers will share knowledge as never before with discussion groups playing a vital part in the future prosperity of the dairy farming sector and the survival of the industry which will succeed by its own efforts, with little more than encouragement coming from the Government.

Sincerely Yours,

Aub Kretschmer

ASK FIRST AND ACT AFTERWARDS

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Most people try to restrict their use of the services of the legal profession to the unavoidable cases of making wills or buying property.

But with each year the passing of more Acts and the making of more judicial determinations increase the ordinary persons' chance of becoming involved in a situation which may have unforeseen legal consequences.

Therefore, if you have any doubts concerning your legal position in respect to some action you may intend to take, or which may be taken against you, it pays, nowadays, to reverse the old saying and "ask first and act afterwards".

And for members of the Association, that means merely making a telephone call, which will result in an almost immediate response from the Association's solicitors, as to where you stand, in relation to the law, and what action you can, or should take.

Only if the Association's solicitors subsequently become directly involved with the member, on a lawyer-client basis, is any cost involved.

This does not mean that the member is bound to deal with the Association's solicitors, he is free to go to his usual lawyer for whatever legal work needs to be done. But the Association has been using the services of the same eminent legal firm for 20 years, during which time, as the result of the many enquiries referred on behalf of our members, the firm has gained a first-hand knowledge of the type of problems that dairy farmers encounter.

They are, consequently, able to give not only an immediate reply to a telephoned question, but to act directly for members in areas with which they are now expertly acquainted.

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mastitis treatment

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL LOOKS AT -

Victorian Suppliers, Extension of Producing District, Central Testing Laboratory, Retirement Funds, Veterinary Medicines and Dog Registration.

INCLUSION OF VICTORIAN SUPPLIERS IN AUGMENTATION

The Central Council delegates . at their meeting on 15 December 1981, resumed the deferred debate on whether 11 Victorian dairyfarmers supplying milk to factories in the South East should share in the augmentation payments.

The argument put forward by the South Eastern Dairyfarmer's Association, which made the request, was that these dairyfarmers had supplied the S.A. factories for many years, and did not want to become attached to the Victorian Dairy Industry Authority.

The repeated argument against this attitude was that Central Region dairyfarmers accepted the augmentation scheme only because it was less damaging than alternative schemes which the previous Government might have adopted, which would not have included Victorian suppliers.

But the two arguments in favor of granting the SEDA request were, first, that allowing the Victorians to participate only reduced the share received by S.E. dairyfarmers, it would not increase the amount of the contribution . and, second, as the time was approaching when , unless there was a legislative change, contribution payable to the South East would be less than the agreed amount, which would bring about the termination of the S.E. equalisation scheme and, with it, the termination of the augmentation scheme, it was politically desirable for the Central Region not to "throw a spanner in the works".

The delegates finally agreed to allow the names of 10 Victorian suppliers to be added to the "letter of intent". without any provision for adding to or changing any of the names.

CENTRAL TESTING LABORATORY

The joint SADA-HISCOL sub-committee has met on 2 occasions so far, and found that, unless there was a continuation of substantial Government financial support including the monetary value of the present computer service, the resultant level of fee would probably result in a considerable fall in support for herd recording.

On the other hand, the time was rapidly approaching when the present Babcock equipment would become unserviceable, and it would be necessary . anyway, to purchase some sort of more expensive, but probably no more satisfactory, electronic equipment.

If it was agreed that a central testing laboratory should be set up, with the latest equipment directly coupled to a computer, plus a service facility for cell-counting individual cows, the key decision would be whether to borrow the money commercially, or to provide a grant from the industry.

The delegates agreed that a case should be prepared, setting out the proposal for a central testing laboratory in full detail, and explaining the features of each of the financing options, which would then be submitted to the Central Council for approval, before being sent out to members for discussion and decision at District Meetings.

SALVATION JANE

Delegates were informed of progress being made in obtaining information from all District Presidents and Secretaries, and from interested local government councils, on the extent of infestation, costs of attempted control and eradication, and losses from diminished grazing and stock deaths.

It was agreed that evidence should be obtained supporting the claim that the effectiveness of biological control was diminished in lower rainfall areas, which was where the apiarists were most concerned, as they did not rely on salvation jane in higher rainfall country.

EXTENSION OF METROPOLITAN PRODUCING DISTRICT

Although, as the result of opposition from the Association, the Milk Board had earlier refused an application for a milk producers licence from an applicant outside the recognised production area (see article in May-June 1981 issue of this Journal - "No Extension to Milk Board Area"). continued lobbying, and the possibility of an appeal to the Supreme Court or to the Ombudsmen, had caused the Board to ask the Association to re-examine its attitude.

One of the problems surrounding the subject was the fact that, although the application had been rejected on the grounds as provided in the Metropolitan Milk Supply Act, that the property was "outside the metropolitan producing district", urban growth and development in country areas in the past 30 years meant that a number of existing licensed farms were also outside the "metropolitan producing district" which had not been redefined since 1953.

Delegates argued strongly that the claimed reduction in milk supply in the past year, which had been put forward as a reason for granting the application, was only seasonal, and, furthermore, present milk production, even though down on last year, was still above that of the previous three years. In any case the Milk Board had no grounds to concern itself with milk production trends whilst total supply was well over twice the needs of market milk, which was the limit of the Board's authority.

There was also support for the view that, rather than considering whether it would agree to a licence being granted to a property outside the recognised production area (as opposed to the legally defined "metropolitan producing district") delegates should be pressing for the Milk Board to be given the power, which it did not have now, to refuse licence applications from within the producing district in the event of any increase in production which would reduce the equalised price for milk.

A motion that the Council should agree to redefining the metropolitan producing district on a rational and economic basis, and to ensure protection from applications from outside the redrawn boundaries was not supported by the delegates.

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RETIREMENT FUNDS

Delegates were informed that the 1980 Federal budget had contained provision for taxation deductions which made subscribing to retirement and superannuation funds more attractive to self-employed persons than had been the position previously.

As the result of this change, the Association had received a number of submissions from insurance companies and retirement funds for an Association-endorsed scheme for our members. As well the Association had asked for a proposal from AML Assurance Limited, which had, until recently, been known as FML, (for Federation Manufacturers Life).

All the proposals had been carefully studied, and the AML proposal had been judged to be the most appropriate for the Association's membership. first, because it was "capital guaranteed" rather than "equity linked", second, because it would not bring the risk of another company offering general insurance to our members in opposition to Federation.

As well, the United Farmers and Stockowners, having gone through a similar exercise, had decided to adopt the AML proposal.

Delegates then agreed that the Association formally accept the AML proposal for retirement and lifeassurance provision for its members, and that the Association's membership roll be made available to AML.

VETERINARY MEDICINES

Further examples were cited of stock medicines being restricted to sale on prescription by veterinary surgeons, the latest example being "ZincoOpticure".

The General Secretary was instructed to discuss with the Chief Veterinary Officer, the whole subject of restriction on stock medicine sales, including the contrast between the position in S.A. and in other States, and the possibility of reclassifying some of the regulated medicines.

BRUCELLOSIS COMPENSATION

It was reported that compensation for cows slaughtered in connexion with brucellosis eradication would shortly be raised to a maximum of \$400 per beast.

DOG REGISTRATIONS

Delegates supported a motion from the Onkaparinga District that the Dog Control Act be amended to require that a District Council shall send to each owner of a registered working dog a reminder notice, in the month following, if the owner has failed to reregister the dog within the time allowed.

S.A. PASTORAL AWARD RATES INCREASED

Brought Up To Federal Award Level From 2.11.81

ADULT RATES per 40 hour week without keep :-		\$
Station Hand - less than 12 months experience		170.50
Station Hand - more than 12 months experience		172.20
General Station Hand*		173.80

JUVENILE RATES per 40 hour week without keep :-

Age	\$	Age	\$	Age	\$
15	76.70	17	93.80	19	127.90
16	85.30	18	110.80	20	153.50

WITH KEEP :- The above rates less \$35.69 per week for adults and juveniles.

BUFFERS IN DAIRY COW RATIONS

Not Applicable To Grazing Cattle

Because publicity is being given to the use of "buffers" (not the large cast-iron reels on the ends of railway trucks but acid-neutralising chemicals such as sodium bi-carbonate) in rations for ruminant animals, including dairy cows, we asked Northfield Dairy Research Centre for an informed opinion on the value of an additive of this type for South Australian dairy herds.

A technical bulletin published by I.C.I. Australia in April 1981 stated that "...acidity caused by grain feed interferes with the conversion of nutrients into milk. Sodium bi-carbonate is a mild anti-acid which acts as a buffer to react with acid and maintain a consistent pH. The result is better butterfat levels...".

The statement is correct, as we would expect from a firm such as I.C.I., but it is not directly applicable to grazing cattle.

Butterfat production, is directly (and inversely) associated with the level of acidity in the rumen, and it is because cud-chewing tends to create an optimum environment in the rumen that long-stalked hay plays an important part in dairy cow rations under some circumstances (as explained in the article in the previous issue of this Journal).

On the other hand, heavy grain or concentrate feeding, which leads to high acidity in the rumen, by inhibiting the part that the rumen plays in digestion, tends to depress butterfat production.

Further research is being undertaken into the use of buffers, but, for the present, Northfield research scientist Michael Round sums up the position by stating that "...it would seem that buffers have no place in rations for dairy herds in the State, since high grain rations are not normally fed here".

"In the grazing situation on winter pastures, a small daily feed of hay, as is the current practice, is likely to have a more stabilizing effect on the rumen, compared with buffers, and, as well, have the advantage of providing fibre and energy !".

NATIONAL DAIRY HERD IMPROVEMENT SCHEME IS 'WORLD CLASS'

Australian Dairy Farmers Federation To Take Over Control

Australia will soon have one of the most advanced systems in the world for genetic evaluation of bulls and cows, based on first-lactation production records, the president of the Australian Dairy Farmers' Federation, Mr John Bennett, claimed in Melbourne recently.

Addressing the annual meeting of the ADFF, Mr Bennett said the Federation would take over the responsibility for the future management and administration of the Australian Dairy Herd Improvement Scheme after June 1982.

Agreement had been reached in principle to finance the initial development of the Scheme from Australian Dairy Research Committee funds.

Mr Bennett said it was important that the industry achieved gene flows within the dairy cattle population which would result in optimum genetic gains.

He said there was little point in developing efficient cow and bull indexes unless they were used effectively by dairy farmers and in breeding subsequent generations of bulls.

Mr Bennett said that in the longer term the Scheme should be self-financing by charging users for the information and services which it would provide.

IS MILK TOO DEAR?

A Comparison Of Retail (And Farmgate) Prices With Inflation

In the course of a market survey carried out last year, in connexion with a new milk promotion program, a frequent complaint from the persons interviewed was that milk was "getting too dear", a response that indicates that, somehow, price of milk was galloping ahead of price increases for other commodities.

True or false? Ironically, Adelaide's prices, with Melbourne's, are actually the lowest in any Australian capital city. and when, as is expected, the Melbourne prices rise in early February, the Adelaide litre carton, at 57 cents, will again be the lowest.

But to come back to the consumers' complaint - one aspect of milk pricing that has received criticism is the frequency of increases.

During the past 6 years the price of milk has risen, on average, every 7 months, 10 times since 1975, compared with every 2 years, 20 years ago.

This does not, however, mean that the price is now rising faster. At current price levels a single coin increase, say from the present 33 cents a bottle to 34 cents, would be a rise of just 3 per cent.

Twenty years ago a rise from 8 pence, as it was then, to 9 pence, was a rise of 12.5 per cent, and 30 years ago, when the Board was first established, even the pretence that a farthing was Australian currency permitted a minimum price rise of not less than 6 per cent.

The real test of the complaint is "How do rises in the price of milk compare with the Consumer Price Index?". The answer is - "Rather less!".

The first retail price set by the newly formed Metropolitan Milk Board in October 1947 for home-delivered milk was 4.25 pence per pint bottle if "booked-up". (and, oddly enough, at that time, there was, for a brief period, a delivery charge, as the retail price in shops was only 4 pence per pint).

That first price cannot, however, be used as the basis for any accurate comparison with present day prices, as the Consumer Price Index did not commence until the following year, by which time the retail price, for both shop sales and home deliveries, had increased to 5 pence per pint, or, in today's terms, 4.4 cents per 600 ml bottle.

Applying the CPI Index to that price gives an equivalent price, at the end of January 1981, of 31.85 cents per 600 ml bottle. The actual price, following the increases gazetted on 25 July 1981 was 31.0 cents.

And, by the same measure, the retail price in the following month should have been 33.50 cents. In fact the price was raised to 33 cents five months later, on 20 December 1981.

What about the farm-gate price? Has the dairy farmer's own return kept abreast of the CPI?

Here the difference is rather greater. The CPI adjusted producer price at the end of July 1981, based on the 1948 price, came to 26.9 cents per litre. The actual price faced by the Milk Board on 25 July was 25.2 cents, third highest in Australia, and by far the highest of any State in terms of ratio to the retail price, but trailing some 6% behind inflation. The rise, in December, to 26.6 cents did not close the gap, which had again been widened by another 5 months inflation.

So far it can, perhaps, be claimed, that the differences are not all that great, even though they are both negative. In the case of table cream the differences are massive and still negative.

The retail price for table cream in 1948 was 1/9d per half-pound of "loose" (i.e. not in a carton or a bottle) cream, containing a minimum of 40% butterfat, equivalent to 23.5 cents per 300 ml

Adjustment by the CPI would bring that figure to a retail price, today, of \$1.66c per 300 ml carton. The actual price, effective from 15 June 1981 for rich (48%) cream is 77 cents per carton. For standard (35%) cream the price is 66 cents.

The producer price is even worse. In 1948 there was no specific price for cream; the farm-gate price for milk applied both to market milk and table cream.

Today the farm-gate price for milk is 26.6 cents per litre, equivalent to \$6.46 per kg butterfat. The farmgate price for cream, at \$2.70 per kg is just 42 per cent of that figure, and 41 per cent of the adjusted 1948 figure.

(Adapted from a talk given by the General Secretary on the ABC Country Hour.)

UDDER PREPARATION METHODS UNDER TRIAL

In the whole field of dairy husbandry there is probably no wider gap than that between the "udder stimulation" practised by disciples of Dr Whittlestone and the "zero washing" now being widely adopted when sediment standards are not strictly enforced.

The two techniques are based on equally widely differing theories - udder stimulation, using warm or cold water, is intended to induce milk "let down" and a considerable period devoted to stimulation is part of the procedure.

Zero washing, on the other hand, pays no attention to "let down" or to any time for psychological or physiological response, and is based on the belief that wet, dilated teat orifices and the droplets of more or less dirty water that gather at the teat orifices, are prime causes of mastitis.

A trial is now under way, with the co-operation of 36 dairyfarmers (supplying Kraft at Simpson; N.E. Dairy Co-op at Kiewa and Nestle's at Maffra) to examine udder preparation methods and their effects on milk quality.

Part of the experiment will examine "strategic washing" - washing only dirty udders and its effect on milk quality, sediment, cow behaviour, teat condition and the milking routine (and, we hope, cell count - Ed.)

EVEN YOU MAY BE TOO ILL TO WORK

And Need To Employ A Substitute

Dairy farmers don't get paid sick-leave, so they tend to regard a common illness as something that may slow them down, but doesn't actually stop them from milking and the other jobs that have to be done everyday.

But not always so - a tractor accident or other injuries involving hospitalisation will obviously not allow you to milk or do any other of the routine farm work, and it is hardly likely that, in such a case, you would feel like working anyway.

As well, there is the possibility that you may contract a notifiable disease which will prevent you from milking, even if you do feel capable, as the law will not allow persons with certain notifiable diseases to engage in any work where food handling is involved.

It is, therefore, essential that your personal sickness and accident insurance cover is high enough to cover not only the incidental expenses attached to illness, but the full costs of employing replacement labor, on a 7 day per week basis, whilst you are unable to work.

Your local Federation inspector will be able to increase your sickness and accident cover immediately if you are not adequately covered.



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CALF-RUN TIME TABLE (unchanged from 7.9.81)

NORTHERN - MONDAYS

9.	Lobethal	11.15	Angaston	2	Birdwood
9.30	Kenton Valley	11.45	Flaxman Valley	2.30	Mt. Torrens
10	Gumeracha	12.30	Eden Valley	3	Charleston
10.30	Williamstown	1.30	Springton	3.30	Woodside

CENTRAL - WEDNESDAYS

9.	Meadows 1	10.45	Kuitpo	1.15	Mt. Compass
9.30	Meadows 2	11.15	Kyeema	2.	Tooperang
10.	Kangarilla	11.45	Hope Forest	2.30	Finnis
		12.15	Yundi		

SOUTHERN COMBINED - THURSDAYS

9.	Page's Flat	11.15	Normanville	12.30	Back Valley
10.30	Myponga	11.30	Torrens Vale	1.45	Hindmarsh Valley
10.45	Wattle Flat	12.	Inman Valley	2.15	Mt Jagged

MOLASSES NOW TO BE SUPPLIED IN DRUMS

A study of the requirements of our members, the economics of the two systems, and the problems that have been encountered with the bulk supply has led us to revert to supply in drums instead of in bulk. Supply will be on "exchange drum" basis, but if a member does not have sufficient drums to exchange, a charge of \$6 will be made for each drum.

Apart from that, there will be no change in the conditions of supply or the price, which is on a sliding scale depending on quantity.

Reversion to drum supply means that there will no longer be problems with short-filled drums, over-flowing drums, or short supply if the tanker empties too soon.

VITAMINS AND TRACE MINERALS FOR DAIRY COWS

A fodder additive recently advertised in this Journal is claimed, by its manufacturer to be a balanced vitamin and trace mineral blend which supplies such essential nutrients as Vitamin A, Vitamin D3, manganese, zinc, magnesium, iron, copper, cobalt and iodine.

The following is a technical summary prepared by the manufacturer of the formulation, to explain just why these nutrients are needed by milking cows.

VITAMIN A

Vitamin A is present in green forage and yellow vegetables in the form of carotene which, when ingested, is converted into vitamin A in the cow. Unfortunately, carotene can be easily destroyed in the feed by oxidation through excessive heat and sunlight, and because of this one can never be sure that an animal is receiving sufficient quantities of vitamin A.

If an adult or growing dairy cow does not receive sufficient vitamin A, the mucosa of such tissues as the respiratory tract, reproductive organs, mouth, eyes, intestinal tract, and kidneys may degenerate. After tissue degeneration, such tissues are highly susceptible to infection and consequently pneumonia, diarrhoea and loss of appetite are commonly observed at the beginning of any vitamin A deficiency. With a vitamin A deficiency, cows may fail to come into heat and, if they do conceive, there is an increased tendency for calves to be born dead, blind or unco-ordinated. If the deficiency of vitamin A continues, the animal may suffer night blindness and finally go blind.

VITAMIN D

Vitamin D is essential, together with calcium and phosphorus, for strong healthy bones in cows of all ages. All cattle have the ability to produce some vitamin D in their skin under the action of sunlight; however, in growing calves and heavily milking cows the amount of vitamin D produced from sunlight may not be sufficient to meet daily bodily requirements. This is particularly so if animals are housed indoors or during periods of overcast weather when they are not receiving any direct sunlight.

The principal manifestation of a vitamin D deficiency is rickets, with bones swelling and becoming demineralised. In severe cases the forelegs may bend forward or sideways and bones tend to break easily.

In New Zealand and southern Australia, young sheep have been retarded during the winter months and they have responded to vitamin D administration. This would also apply to dairy cows grazing on similar pastures.

Vitamin D should be given as a daily supplement to growing calves, milking stock and any cow undergoing stress.

TRACE MINERALS

Trace minerals are required in very small amounts, but are essential for optimum health and productivity. Common deficiencies are iron, manganese, copper, cobalt, magnesium, zinc, and iodine.

IRON

Where cows are not grazed but are housed indoors, or on concrete or wooden floors away from contact with soil, an iron deficiency may develop. An iron deficiency will produce anaemia in cows and such a severe deficiency is best treated by an iron injection. Prevention is easily achievable by the regular supplementation of iron in the feed.

MANGANESE

The total requirement for manganese is low, but all cows require a very small trace in their diet. When dairy cows are fed a diet deficient in manganese, they show increased abortions, reduced birth weights and increased mortality of calves. It is wise insurance to add manganese in the form of a trace mineral supplement. (To be continued)