

The South Australian Dairymen's...

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JOURNAL

MILK PRODUCTION STILL RISING

Despite The Drought And The Fires

One of the worst droughts in the State's history has not provided dairyfarmers in the Central Region from continuing what is, by now, a 7 year record of increasing autumn production, and present indications are that the disastrous "Ash Wednesday" bushfires have provided only a temporary set-back.

Milk production in January and February, at 19.5 and 15.0 million litres respectively were the highest, for those two months, since 1976 when they reached 19.9 and 16.4 million litres.

The reason is undoubtedly the high level of supplementary feeding, a situation that is always present during a serious drought, or after a widespread bushfire, or, as in this year, when both occur at the same time.

It is not possible to assess, on an overall regional basis, whether such increased Fodder usage is matched by increased profit - the opposite is equally possible, so it is pleasing to note a lift in milk sales, from 7.14 million litres in February 1982 to 7.33 million litres in February 1983, and a sustained increase of nearly 2 per cent, from 90.55 million litres to 92.29 million litres for the 12 months to the end of February.

What is less pleasing to report, and the cause of great concern, is the State Governments delay in ratifying the Metropolitan Milk Board's proposal for higher milk prices, particularly in view of the fact that since the Board's proposals were put to the Government, the Pastoral (S.A.) Award Rates have been raised by 12.7 per cent, effective from 29 November 1982, but gazetted on 20 January 1983, too late for inclusion in the Board's calculations. It is believed that the new prices will become effective early in April.



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN
DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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THE GENERAL PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Greetings,

My sympathy, both personally and on behalf of the Association, goes to all those of our members who have suffered loss in the recent tragic and disastrous bushfires (and equally to those who suffered from the earlier, less publicised Fires in the Mount Barker - Wistow area). Their immediate needs are great, and the industry's gratitude must be expressed to all those instrumentalities and individuals who have acted so promptly and so generously, in meeting those needs, insofar as they can be met by human intervention.

Not least among their future needs is a stable and profitable dairy industry and although the efforts of many of our members have been necessarily diverted to coping with the problems of the moment, our attention cannot for long wander from the urgency of the dairy industry's present position.

I refer to the forthcoming inquiry of the Industries' Assistance Commission into "assistance" to the Australian dairy industry, and the threat to our economic well-being that is implied in the Commission's background paper, which seems to indicate that judgement on the Industry has already been made, and sentenced passed.

All the more important, then, that, regardless of the outcome of the Committee's inquiry. we continue with our own plans for at least an efficient industry by lifting the performance of the nation's dairy herd through the Australian Dairy Herd Improvement Scheme (ADHIS).

This Association, the breed societies, HISCOL and the Department of Agriculture have already played their respective parts in helping to make ADHIS a reality, and are now directing their attention to ensuring that dairy farmers appreciate the full potential of the scheme, and make use of that potential.

Perhaps one of the least appreciated features of ADHIS is that it is being administered by the Australian Dairy Farmers Federation (ADFF), the national body representing all dairy farmers (of which our Association is a constituent member), so that control of the scheme, and its success, are in the hands of the dairy farmers.

Elsewhere in this Journal are details of a series of meetings, convened by the Association to permit members to hear Professor Ted Burnside, a Canadian geneticist, and recognised world authority in the field, who is spending 12 months in Australia to give us the benefit of his tremendous experience with similar schemes in Canada and the United States of America. The opportunity to hear Professor Burnside, and to discuss your problems with him, should not be missed.

Herd recording is, of course, a vital part of herd improvement, and it is appropriate that the launching of ADHIS will be closely followed by the setting-up of a central testing laboratory, after some 18 months of close study into the means of funding the project.

Whilst recognising that the ideal would be to combine the laboratory with HISCOL's integrated administration and semen distribution centre, as proposed by the Grear Committee, the problems of financing the combined operation forced attention to a more realizable alternative.

COASTAL IRRIGATION SERVICES

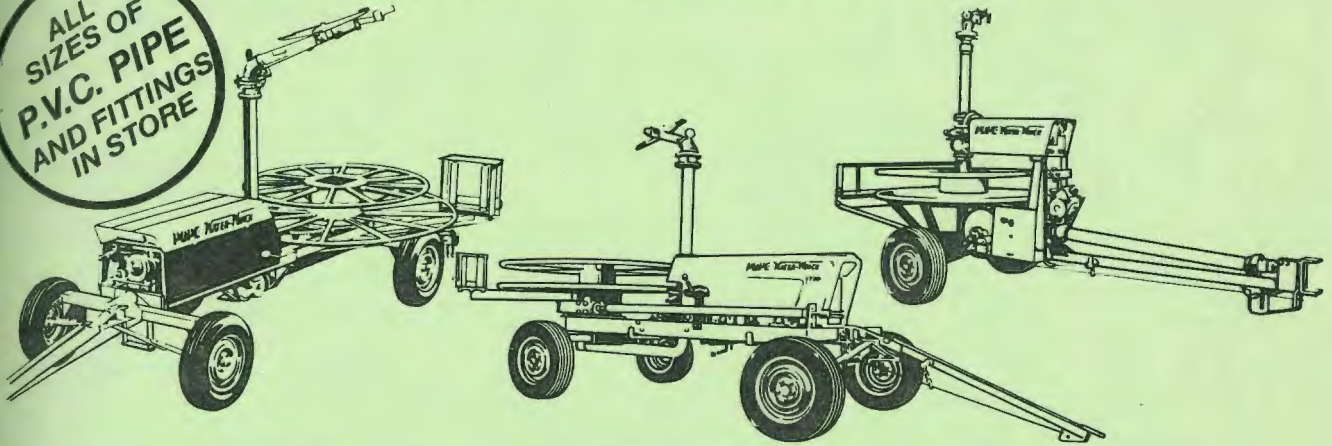
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COASTAL IRRIGATION SERVICES

MYRTLE GROVE ROAD, CURRENCY CREEK. RICHARD HODGE, PH. (085) 55 4031

In the meantime the Association, acting jointly with Herd Improvement Organisation of Victoria (HIOV) had succeeded in obtaining a grant from the Dairy Industry Stabilisation Fund for the purchase of a high capacity computer and associated equipment to service herd recording in both States.

As the ultimate beneficiary of herd improvement is the consumer, who obtains cheaper milk from a more efficient industry, discussions were held with the Metropolitan Milk Board which resulted in a plan whereby the Board would establish and control the laboratory, the cost being absorbed into the milk pricing formula.

A legislative amendment to give the Board power to carry out this project is being drafted, and will be submitted to the Association for endorsement before work begins, and the scheme should then become a reality in the middle of 1983.

Records from past years demonstrate that, of all the management techniques available to the dairy farmer, herd improvement is the most misused, yet, with only a little thought and effort, much can be gained from its application.

But tools such as this are of little value unless there is a profitable market for our output. Whilst the world market for dairy products is perpetually distorted by over production from subsidised dairy industries in the northern hemisphere, it is encouraging to hear of the success of the Australian Dairy Corporation's test marketing project for cheese in Tasmania, and to know that the lessons learned in Tasmania will be used to conduct a nation-wide cheese promotion campaign. Although the funding of the campaign will come from an increase in the promotion levy paid by all dairy farmers, it is perhaps one of the most encouraging enterprises that the industry has yet undertaken.

Sincerely yours

Aub Kretschmer

Dairy farmers will be able to meet, and discuss dairy cow breeding, with the outstanding animal geneticist, Professor Ted Burnside, at a series of Regional Meetings to be held on 13 and 14 April.

Professor Burnside, who is from Guelph University in Canada, is assessing the Australian Dairy Herd Improvement Scheme (ADHIS) for the Australian Dairy Farmers Federation during a twelve month stay in Australia, based at the Animal Genetics and Breeding Unit of the New England University at Armidale.

During the past 15 years Ted Burnside has provided the main drive behind major developments associated with achieving increased productivity from Canadian dairy cattle as well as consulting for a number of international agencies and countries. He is the author of more than 50 research papers and several hundred extension publications, and in 1980 was awarded the Canadian Association of Animal Breeders' medal for distinguished research.

His message to Australian dairy farmers is that "... livestock improvement is one of the most economical methods dairy farmers can use to achieve greater productivity and overcome the ever-increasing costs of production. However, genetic gains require co-operative efforts and hard-nosed decision making on the part of every dairyman".

Mr. John Bennett, president of the Australian Dairy Farmers' Federation, said "Professor Burnside will undoubtedly make a great contribution to the Australian Dairy Industry during his stay in Australia. His knowledge of all aspects of herd improvement and his outstanding ability to communicate complex scientific principles in a simple, clear manner are second to none, and all those who have had the pleasure to meet him are very pleasantly surprised at how simple he makes herd improvement sound.

Productivity through herd improvement is essential for the economic existence of dairy farmers in this country, and Ted Burnside's views will provide an important component, especially in the drought conditions which are affecting us all".

At the Regional Meetings, Professor Burnside will discuss ways and means whereby dairy farmers can achieve greater improvement in productivity, regardless of the breed of cow farmed, and present hard evidence to show that there is plenty of room for the individual dairy farmer to fashion his own breeding programme using AI and herd recording.

The meetings will be held at

SPRINGTON HALL on TUESDAY 12 APRIL From 1.30 to 3.30 p.m.

WOODSIDE INSTITUTE on TUESDAY 12 APRIL From 8.00 to 10.00 p.m.

D.F.E. MURRAY BRIDGE on WEDNESDAY 13 APRIL From 1.00 to 3.00 p.m.

* MOUNT COMPASS HALL on WEDNESDAY 13 APRIL From 8.00 to 10.00 p.m.

* In conjunction with Mt. Compass Artificial Breeding Services Open Night.

DEATH of FORMER VICE-PRESIDENT

We record, with regret, the death in February of Mr. David Turner, of Inman Valley, Vice-President of the Association from 1964 until his retirement from active dairyfarming in 1975.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL LOOK AT

CENTRAL TESTING LABORATORY - Delegates were told, at the meeting on 14 October 1982, that the joint application from the S.A. Dairymen's Association and Herd Improvement Organisation of Victoria (HIOV) for a grant from the Dairy Industry Stabilisation Fund for the purchase of a large capacity computer, to service herd improvement in both States, had been approved and \$360,000 would be available for the computer (which will be located at Kyabram) and for the associated electronic equipment.

The special subcommittee, representing SADA, HISCOL and DAF, had, after a great deal of study, concluded that the most expeditious way to fund the establishing and administering of a central testing laboratory was to make a relatively minor amendment to the Metropolitan Milk Supply Act, enabling the Milk Board to undertake both these functions.

The capital cost of the CTL would be provided from the Board's reserves, and the running costs would be covered by a small increase in the Board's Administration levy.

This method of funding could be regarded as charging the cost of the CTL to the consumer, who was the ultimate beneficiary of the greater efficiency and lower cost achieved through central testing.

ADVANCE BONUS PAYMENT - Although delegates were pleased that the advance bonus payment has been lifted to 9 cents per Kg. fat, being closer to what the Association believed should be the figure, there was some concern that the new rate operated only for 9 months, and had not been made retrospective to the beginning of the season.

Delegates also expressed the view that a more satisfactory name, demonstrating that the payment was really a deferred payment for milk, and not a "bonus", should be discussed with the Merchants.

MILK SAMPLING AND MEASURING - The unsatisfactory milk sampling methods used by some tanker drivers was further discussed, together with some reported differences in readings between dip-stick and milk meter.

A letter received from the Standards Branch claimed that, overall, milk meters were more accurate than dip-sticks.

PAYMENT BY COMPOSITION - Delegates were informed that, despite frequent consideration during the past 15 years, no worthwhile answer had yet been achieved to the question whether direct payment should be made for milk constituents other than butter-fat alone.

Reference was made to the fact that heavy feeding with grain during the drought could cause "low fat syndrome" which meant that fat percentage and actual fat yield could both drop before the cow had reached peak production.

Reference was also made to a research project, carried out at Northfield, into supplementary feeding, comparing molasses and rolled barley, which demonstrated that, at that time, the cost of the supplementary feeding was not covered by the increased fat yield, but might have come to be more nearly covered had payment been on protein as well as fat, as protein yield had risen more than fat yield.

LEPTOSPIROSIS AND WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION - Delegates noted that although there was an apparently high, and possibly increasing incidence of LEPTOSPIROSIS among dairyfarmers and dairyfarm employees, dairyfarm employees who contracted Lepto. were not covered by workers' compensation insurance, although workers handling carcasses and hides were covered.

It was agreed that further investigation be made into the incidence of Lepto. among dairy cattle and dairyfarm employees in S.A. and into the costs, advantages and possible disadvantages of vaccination before seeking to have workers' compensation insurance extended to cover dairyfarm workers.

SOUTH-EAST AUGMENTATION - Delegates were informed that, at the insistence of the Minister of Agriculture (Hon. Ted Chapman), a formal request had now been made for the Metropolitan Milk Supply Act to be amended to permit contributions in connection with South-East augmentation to be deducted from the returns from sales of milk in the metropolitan area.

PRODUCTION CONTROL - Delegates discussed the call by Australian Dairy Farmers association president, John Bennett, for a fully-negotiable two-tier quota scheme to protect the dairyfarming sector against over-production in the face of falling export prices for dairy products, which returned less than cost.



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S.A. PASTORAL AWARD UP 12.7 PER CENT FROM 29 NOVEMBER 1982

ADULT RATES per 40 hour week without keep:-	\$
Station Hand - less than 12 months experience	192.50
Station Hand - more than 12 months experience	194.20
General Station Hand	195.80

JUVENILE RATES per 40 hour week without keep:-					
Age	\$	Age	\$	Age	\$
15	86.60	17	105.90	19	144.40
16	96.30	18	125.10	20	173.30

WITH KEEP:- The above rates less \$40.09 per week for adults and juveniles.

The Australian Dairy Herd Improvement Scheme has released the first Breeding Values for dairy sires, and dairy farmers can now compare bulls proven in different States throughout Australia. Previously bulls could only be compared with other bulls tested in the same State. Victorian bulls with RBV's could not be directly compared with bulls from N.S.W., Queensland, New Zealand, Canada etc., so that it was impossible for dairy farmers to determine, with any real accuracy which might be the best bull for their purpose out of several bulls proved in different States.

To overcome this problem, the ADHIS will produce, each year, proofs of all AB and Natural Sires used in herd recording herds in Australia, in which each bull included in herd recording data is compared to other bulls in the same herd, and indirectly it is also compared to every other bull in every other herd.

What does this mean to the dairy farmer? Simply, he can directly compare bulls proved in different States, and the proofs of the bulls provide a more accurate and reliable assessment of competition between those bulls. In the past, bulls used in low production herds could receive a proof better than their worth, and bulls used in high production herds could receive a proof less than their real worth.

The assessments known as Australian Breeding Values (ABV's) are expressed in units of measurement such as litres of milk, kilogrammes of fat, and kilogrammes of protein. The ABV's are breeding values of a measure of the sires genetic merit, and, therefore, are halved to determine what can be transmitted to his daughters. If a bull has a proof such as:-

Litres of milk - 400

Kilograms of fat - 30

Kilograms of protein - 10

that bull will pass on to his daughters, an average of 200 litres of milk, 15 kgs. of fat, and 5 kgs. of protein more than the average sire used in artificial breeding will pass on to his daughters. But that bull will pass on a much higher production than the average natural sire because the average natural sire's daughters produce about 10% less milk, fat, and protein than the average AB sire's daughters.

For a Friesian or a Jersey bull to be listed in the official ADHIS publication, he must have at least 20 effective daughters over at least 5 herds and have a positive ABV for milk or fat.

For other breeds the bull must have 10 effective daughters over 3 herds so that there will be some bulls from each breed with official ABV's.

Many of the bulls with official ABV's do not have a protein assessment, either because a bull has no tested daughters for protein, or has insufficient daughters tested to meet the required standards.

Some of the bulls in the listings are dead and no semen is available. The ADHIS has included these bulls in this first listing so that dairyfarmers can see how bulls or relatives of bulls they may have used in the past compare with bulls available today.

The ADHIS has produced the Australian Breeding Values to provide dairy farmers with more accurate sire assessments. With increased use of AB, better selection of AB bulls, and with the use of herd recording data, dairy farmers will be well on the road to achieving increased herd improvement and making more money in the process.

To expedite this, it is essential to keep good records so that all possible information can be used to enhance the accuracy of proofs. At present about 50% of available records are not used in BLUP analysis because of poor recording information. A major component of this is the sire of many cows is unknown. With better recording of information, more data will be available for sire assessments and better results will be achieved.

Lists of the top bulls in each breed are available from the Department of Agriculture's regional dairy officers and Herd Improvement Services of S.A. Co-op Ltd., Yankalilla. The Department of Agriculture's Dairy Section at 25 Grenfell Street (14th Floor) has a print-out for all the bulls assessed and dairyfarmers may look through this print-out at that address.

OUR TASMANIAN TOUR IS FILLING UP

We already have enough applicants to begin planning our tour of Tasmania. The 8 day tour will commence about 8 May (flexible a few days either way) and the all-inclusive cost (Adelaide to Adelaide) will be about \$650, depending on the final number participating. For further information telephone the office, (08) 51-3034.

FOR SALE PURE-BRED JERSEY HEIFERS

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CHANGES IN CALF RUN SCHEDULES

Combined Southern Run To Split - But River Run Continues

The present Combined Southern Run will revert to the split schedule from Tuesday, 22 March, with the new Tuesday run starting from Myponga at 9.00 a.m. on that day, the other Southern Run starting from Waitpinga at 9.00 a.m. on Thursday. The River Run will continue on Tuesdays as before.

EASTER HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS

The 2nd Southern Run which normally would take place on Thursday, 31 March (the day before Good Friday) will take place on WEDNESDAY, 30 March.

The Northern Run will take place as usual on EASTER MONDAY.

ORBENNIN DRY-COW PRICE RISES

The price negotiated last year between the Association, the manufacturing drug company and the S.A. distributor, for a special price to members for Orbennin Dry-Cow has now been increased to 85 cents per unit.

Conditions of supply are unchanged - a minimum of 100 units, and cash over the counter.

Members who have trouble obtaining Orbennin Dry-Cow from their Veterinary Practitioner for 85 cents under the conditions stated above should contact this office immediately.

CHANGE IN GENERAL PRESIDENT'S TELEPHONE NUMBER

The telephone number of the General President, Mr. Aub Kretschmer, is now (085) 721231.

THE IAC ENQUIRY

It is now 7 years since the Industries Assistance Commission last looked at the Australian dairy industry's marketing arrangements, and proposed a 3 stage scheme which would, eventually, include a fully negotiable farm entitlement scheme and eliminate dairy exports to "non-preferred" countries from the equalisation scheme.

As things turned out, only the first stage, the present stabilisation scheme, was ever introduced. This steady fall in the size of the industry during the 5 years following removed the need to bring in any other measures to curb production.

Now, in its latest inquiry, the IAC is looking at the "assistance" given to the Australian dairy industry, to see whether it is justified, and it can be reduced. But "assistance" in this context does not mean the sort of price-support schemes that are provided by governments to the dairy industries in other countries of the world, and the direct subsidy, which the Australian dairy industry received until 1975; it means any measure which results in the price paid by the consumer being higher than it would be in the absence of such measure.

And that means the present "stabilisation" scheme which sets a domestic wholesale price for some dairy products above the export price for those products, (but which requires no direct financial government input), and it also includes the higher prices received by dairyfarmers for market milk.

The IAC's background paper quotes at length from the report of the recent Balderstone Committee ("Agricultural Policy - issues and options for the 1980's), which states that the production (higher price) for market milk ". . . is excessive and should be gradually reduced to a level comparable with the remainder of the sector", and the IAC goes on to ask witnesses ". . . to consider ways in which the Commonwealth Government could intervene to ensure that the 'excessive protection' is gradually reduced".

The claim that the higher cost of all-year round production and the higher quality standards required for market milk justify a higher price may not convince the IAC that market milk supplies may not be available more cheaply from Victoria, or that the economics and logistics of supply demand that market milk should be drawn from a restricted area.

The Australian Dairy Farmers Federation has looked at 2 proposals intended to convince the IAC that "assistance" of both higher domestic prices for dairy products and premium prices for market milk should be continued, but failure of the Federation's constituent bodies, (of which the SADA is one), to agree has left the ADFF now arguing for little more than the status quo.

The same failure to agree also prevented the ADFF from taking up the entitlement scheme, which had been proposed as Stage II of the 1976 IAC recommendations.

There had, initially, been quite substantial support from the ADFF organisations for a "sleeping" entitlement scheme, in which entitlements would not be invoked unless total Australian dairy output exceeded an agreed "trigger" level, after which restrictive entitlements would be imposed, but only in those States (or that State) which had, by increasing output, caused the national total to exceed the "trigger" level. States which had not exceeded output would continue to receive equalised returns, and would not incur the penalty of receiving actual returns for exports.

An entitlement scheme has some economic logic - it reminds the dairyfarmer of the real worth of the product made from his increased output and sold on the export market, and it equally reminds the newcomer to the industry that his output actually reduces prices received by those already in the industry.

Furthermore, an entitlement scheme is more politically and socially palatable than a proposal to "close" the industry - it does not prevent newcomers entering the industry (but they will receive only export - based prices for their output) and it does not prevent the efficient or progressive dairyfarmer from increasing production, (but again he will receive for this extra production only what it is worth).

But economic logic demands also that farm entitlements be freely negotiable (saleable) between farms and between States. To do otherwise is to impose more distortion, and invite more meddling, than in the schemes which the entitlements are intended to replace.

Negotiability, (and particularly negotiability across State borders) has not been the only factor on which the dairy industry has failed to agree when such a scheme has been discussed previously. There are also the questions of whether there should be a surplus pool of entitlements for distribution to persons who have appealed against unfair allocation for one reason or another, or of whether persons leaving the industry could surrender their entitlements without selling their properties, and similar uncertainty about a variety of problems, which erode the credibility and acceptability of the entitlement concept.

Furthermore, an entitlement scheme which has the effect of supporting an elevated price level and creating an entitlement-holding elite, is, itself, an example of the type of "assistance" that the IAC is questioning. The fact that the IAC itself, in 1976, proposed an entitlement scheme, does not mean that the IAC in 1983 will take the same view.

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Calf run times will be changed on and from Monday 21 MARCH 1983 as under:

MONDAYS - NORTHERN

8.40*	Murdocks HillCnr	11.30	Greenock	2.15	Springton
9.00	Lobethal	12.30	Collingrove	2.45	Birdwood
9.30	Kenton Valley	1.00	Flaxman Vy.	3.15	Mt. Torrens
10.00	Gumeracha	1.15	Eden Vy	3.45	Charleston
10.30	Williamstown			4.15	Woodside

TUESDAYS - SOUTHERN 1

9.00	Myponga	11.30	Second Vy	1.30	Parawa 1
10.30	Wattle Flat	12.00	Delamere	2.00	Parawa 2
11.00	Normanville			2.30	*Torrensvale

TUESDAYS - LOWER MURRAY FLAG RUN

9.00 Leaves Murray Bridge en route to Mannum, Tailem Bend, Wellington, Jervois. Telephone Michael Diener (72 6042) for details.

WEDNESDAY - CENTRAL

8.45	Echunga*	10.45	The Range Hall	1.00	Page's Flat Cnr
9.00	Meadows 1	11.15	Kyeema	1.30	Mt. Compass Fact.
9.30	Meadows 2	11.45	Hope Forest	2.15	Tooperang
10.00	Kangarilla	12.00	Yundi	2.45	Finnis

THURSDAYS - SOUTHERN 2

9.00	Waitpinga	10.45	Inman Valley	1.00	Hindmarsh Vy
9.45	Willow Creek	11.30	Back Valley	1.45	Mt. Jagged

* Truck will stop if hailed.

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The South Australian Dairymen's...

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JOURNAL

MILK PRICES INCREASED

The long awaited increase in milk prices became effective from the 2nd April, 1983 lifting the farm quote price by 2 cents, from 28.2 to 30.2 cents per litre, and the retail price of a litre carton by 4 cents, from 60 to 64 cents.

The 7.1 per cent increase in the farm quote price lifts the farm quote price proportion of the retail price from 47 to 47.5 per cent.

Increases in the treatment plant margin and the retail vendors margin were 6.0 and 6.6 per cent respectively.

TASMANIA AND QUEENSLAND PRICES ALSO RISE

Retail milk prices in Tasmania and Queensland also rose during April, by 4 cents per litre in each case, lifting Tasmanian milk to 65 cents and taking Queensland's already highest price in Australia to 76 cents per litre.

TWO RETROSPECTIVES ON THE WAY

A retrospective payment of 3.11 cents per kg. butterfat for all production from 1st July, 1983 to 31st March, 1983 will be paid early in May, with a corresponding increase in the 1982-83 interim price from 325.75 ¢ to 332.12 ¢ per kg. b.f. A somewhat smaller retrospective payment of 0.92 ¢ per kg. b.f. for all production during 1981-82 will be paid early in June.

SO HOW ABOUT COMING ON OUR TASMANIAN TOUR

Eight days of sightseeing, entertainment and dairy farm visits, in a luxury motor coach, leaving Adelaide on 7th May and returning on 14th May, with all airfares, accommodation and meals provided, for under \$ 650.

Another half-dozen or so members will help to bring the price down even lower.

INTERIM PRICE TOPS FIVE DOLLARS And Basic Milk Price Rises Too

For the first time ever the interim equalised milk price has exceeded five dollars, the rate for March being 500.17 ¢ per kg. fat. A lift of \$25 per tonne in the interim leviable cheese pool value has, as well as bringing a retrospective payment of 3.11 ¢ per kg. for the period 1st July, 1982 to 31st March, 1983 increased the interim Basic Milk Price to 332.12 ¢ per kg. fat.



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THE GENERAL PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Greetings,

AUSTRALIAN BREEDING VALUES - The first release of ABVs ("Australian Breeding Value Sire Assessment for Dairy Sires used in Australia") for bulls is now available to all dairy farmers in Australia, signifying the "coming-of-age" of artificial breeding in this country. No longer is it necessary to guess the breeding values and dairy farmers will be well-advised to purchase the new publication.

With this new listing of plus-rated bulls' ABVs comes a challenge to the artificial breeding centres, which will be increasing their efforts to control the semen of the top-rated bulls, and to the breed societies to breed animals to meet the needs of the commercial dairy farmer. Dairy farmers who do not use the Scheme will find themselves working harder than their neighbours to earn the same income.

The visit of Professor Ted Burnside, of the University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada, to advise dairy farmers how to use the ABVs to maximise the value of artificial breeding was acclaimed by the many dairy farmers who attended the meetings convened by the Association in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture, with the joint meeting, with Bill Nash's organisation, at Mt. Compass providing an appropriate climax, with an unprecedented attendance of some 250 dairy farmers demonstrating the keen interest now being taken in herd improvement.

We regret that the seating arrangements fell short of requirements for this occasion, but feel sure that all who attended will benefit from the opportunity to participate.

Artificial breeding is largely ineffective unless top proven bulls are used to produce young sires from high-rated dams.

Ted Burnside emphasised the importance of identifying stock at birth; the proving of bulls would be much more effective if herd recording included more cows with known parentage. It is to be regretted that less than half the herds in Australia are tested, and that less than half the cows in those herds have meaningful identification, their sires and dams being unknown.

Professor Burnside explained that when type-ratings are available with ABVs corrective mating is made much easier. With wider use of herd recording, more farmers participating in sire-improving schemes, and careful selection of the top index bulls, the Australian dairy herd should greatly improve during the next decade.

The profitable disposal of the output from the extra milk produced may be seen as a challenge to our dairy companies, but I predict that many dairy farmers will not choose to produce more, but prefer to adopt a better life style by producing the same quantity of milk, with a smaller herd and correspondingly less effort.

MARKET MILK PRODUCERS' COUNCIL - The Association is proud to host the Seventh Annual Conference of the Market Milk Producers' Council comprising representatives of market milk producing organisations in each of the six Australian States and New Zealand.

The conference will be held at the Gateway Inn, North Terrace on the 28th and 29th April, and will be preceded by a tour of the dairying regions south of Adelaide, around the Lakes area, and along the Lower Murray, together with visits to milk treatment plants and dairy factories. Time constraints prevent the delegates from travelling wider afield to visit other dairying regions.

FEDERAL MEETINGS - The MMPC Conference will be followed by meetings of the Australian Dairy Farmers Federation, the Australian Dairy Industry Conference, the Australian Dairy Products Manufacturers Association, and the Australian Dairy Corporation, all being held at the Gateway Inn from the 2nd to the 6th May.

South Australia is privileged to be the first State to host the combined meetings of all the Federal dairy organisations in a new schedule in which the organisations will meet during the June quarter in each of the capital cities in rotation, on a 7 year cycle.



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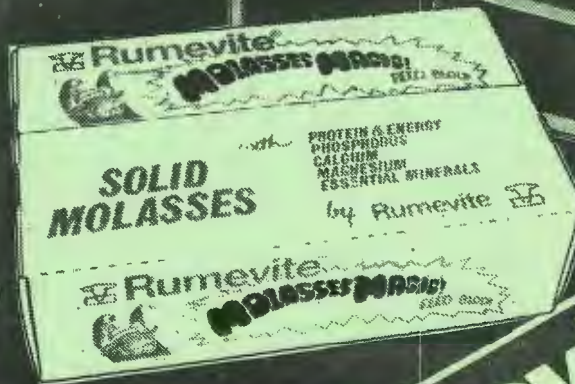
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SAFETY FRAMES FOR OLDER TRACTORS

The Association Organises A Cut-Price Scheme

When Legislation was introduced requiring all new tractors to be fitted with roll-over protection frames, a reprieve was granted to owners of existing tractors, in the form of a "breathing space", which expired on the 1st October, 1982, at the end of which they would be expected to have had their tractors brought into conformity with the regulations.

But, as so often happens, the good intentions of the legislators proved more difficult to put into effect than they had thought at the time. The reason was the difficulty of fitting tractors that were no longer in production with what were virtually custom-built, one-off frames. The problem was not so much in making the frames - that was a job that any competent engineering firm could do - as in making frames that complied with the legislation's requirements that each of the frames, for each model of tractor, "approved".

And getting each frame "approved" was not only a very expensive process - it required the testing to destruction of both the frame and the tractor to which it was fitted.

This was no great problem to a tractor manufacturer; he merely took one tractor of each model off the assembly line, fitted them with frames and sent them off to be tested, writing-off the cost of testing and the destruction of the tractors as an expense to be recouped from the sales of the remaining tractors.

But it was of little help to the owner of a tractor no longer in production. Without a frame he would, after the expiry of the "breathing space", be breaking the law - if he fitted a frame and could afford to have it tested for approval, he would lose his tractor anyway in the testing.

So the legislators have extended the "breathing space" for a further two years, to the 1st October, 1984 and have relaxed the rigid rule about "approved" frames by granting a certificate of approval to an Adelaide Hills engineering firm to fit roll-over protection frames to older model tractors on a "custom built" basis.

The basic frames will comply with the general requirements for approval, but special attention will be given to the fitting of the frames, taking in design, material and workmanship.

The first reaction to the "custom built" concept is that it will be more expensive, but that appears to be not so; the average price will be little different from that of a stock frame for the ordinary run of popular tractors, and, in addition, the Association has negotiated a price reduction, approaching 10 per cent, for what might be paradoxically termed "mass produced custom built".

To do this will require the taking of a census of all those tractors still in operation which must be fitted with frames, from which we will prepare a roster so that all tractors of one model will be equipped over a nominated time span, followed by the next model, and so on. By this means the manufacturer will be able to pre-fabricate the basic frames and fittings, in advance of the arrival of a known number of tractors, of a known model, thereby achieving maximum economies in manufacturing time, fitting time and inventory.

Under this arrangement the cost, to members, of fitting roll-over protection frames to older model tractors will range from \$395 to \$445, depending on the model. A further bonus is a reduction, from 2 days to half a day, in the fitting time, as frames can be partially assembled ahead, in accordance with the roster. It will be the owner's responsibility to deliver the tractor, and take delivery after fitting.

The project requires the full co-operation of all members who have older model tractors, not only for their own sake, but to lift the numbers of tractors in each model category to minimise the cost to their fellow members.

It will take time, and the "breathing space" is rapidly running out. Please advise us, in writing, if you have any tractor which is not fitted with a roll-over protection frame, and which, you expect, will still be operational by October 1984, addressing your replies to the South Australian Dairyfarmers Association Incorporated, 13 Leigh Street, Adelaide, 5000.

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TIME TO APPLY FOR THE 1984 NUFFIELD SCHOLARSHIP

Perhaps it is time for some of the younger generation of dairy farmers to have a crack at a Nuffield Farming Scholarship.

The Scholarships were founded in 1950 for the purpose of promoting a better understanding between the farmers of Australia and Great Britain, and to increase practical farming knowledge in all primary industries. They are of 6 months duration, and a minimum of 4 months study must be undertaken in the United Kingdom.

Applications close on the 28th May, 1983, and final selection will be made in August, with the award winners travelling overseas early in 1984.

Brochures containing further information of the Award are available from the Association's Office, telephone (08) 51 3034.



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telephone (085) 32 3093 or Jim Paton at Rowland Flat, telephone (085) 638 264

NUTRITION NOTES

The rain has come at last and the season is at least off to a good start. The following table will highlight the fact that even though paddock feed was scarce, dairy farmers have produced more milk during the past four months than in the same period in most preceding years, with very little changes in cattle numbers.

LITRES OF MILK PRODUCED

		November	December	January	February
82 - 83	SEASON	23 547 000	22 029 000	19 494 000	15 040 000
81 - 82	SEASON	22 798 000	20 433 000	18 016 000	14 338 000
80 - 81	SEASON	24 760 000	21 717 000	18 439 000	14 774 000
79 - 80	SEASON	24 559 000	21 871 000	18 680 000	14 829 000

I believe that the above table illustrates that feeding good quality feed stuffs results in good yields. In past years the cows were probably getting a full feed on grass but due to the digestibility falling off in these months the cow is unable to get sufficient nutrients to meet its production potential. Those dairy farmers who noticed a production drop would do well to analyse the reason why. It was also reported to me that much of the hay that was purchased was also very low in digestibility.

The hard question to answer is "What is the economic level of supplementary feeding that should be undertaken?" This answer would be different for each farm and is related to pasture management, location, and time of calving. As a rule of thumb it will take approximately 9.5 kg of dairy pellets to produce 1 kg of butterfat.

Even though the season is now off to a good start, and the cows are likely to have sufficient feed after the calve, it is important to note that the cows need to have the correct fat score at calving if they are to perform well on this feed.

When considering the problem of how much concentrate can be fed the following points should be noted.

1. Feed requirements are highest from calving to peak yields and where peak yields are being obtained.
2. The main limiting factor to performance in many cases will be energy supply. This is often so when roughage is heavily fed. The cow has only a certain capacity and cannot meet energy need on low energy roughages.

Fresian daily intake capacity = Approx. 16 kg dry matter.

Jersey daily intake capacity = Approx. 11 kg dry matter.

Because of this it is wise, with high yielding cows, to ration bulky roughages in the first three to four months after calving, to supply no more than maintenance plus four to five litres of milk, bearing in mind that five kilograms minimum each day or "LONG FIBRE" from roughage is necessary to ensure rumen activity and milk fat percentage.

Robin Reed - Manager, Technical Services

For further information contact:-

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36 Franklin Street, Adelaide. S.A. 5000

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IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR COWS TO DROP DEAD

Take Care When Administering Dry Cow Therapy

The loss, last year, by a Hills dairy farmer, of 12 cows, near to or just after calving, has been revealed as yet another case of septicaemia, caused by infection with *Pseudomonas* organisms.

The disease is readily recognisable. Cows in apparently good health, even grazing at the time, stagger, fall over, and die almost immediately with a hyperacute mastitis.

Only in the latest case has the source of infection been positively traced - to a long standing "sore" on the operator's thumb which had never given him trouble or caused any pain.

In other cases it has been suspected that the most likely source of the *Pseudomonas* organism was the water used for udder-washing (which was, of course, not sterile) drops of which were carried into the teat canal on the tip of the dry-cow therapy syringe.

Although correct procedure is tedious it is far less costly than the loss of a cow, or several cows, just before lactation, and less time consuming than disposing of carcasses that, only minutes before, had been valuable milking stock.

To prevent the *Pseudomonas* (and other) organisms from entering into the udder, where they find an excellent environment for rapid multiplication, it is recommended that, before administering the dry-cow therapy (or any udder infusion, in fact), the teat be washed with soap and water, then dried with a clean cloth or papertowel, and the end of the teat swabbed with methylated spirits.

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THE CENTRAL COUNCIL LOOKS AT

Changing The Association's Name, And The IAC Inquiry

NAME CHANGE - The Central Council, at its meeting on the 29th March, 1983 resolved that the name of the Association be changed to the South Australian Dairyfarmers Association Incorporated, in line with the trend of the times, and in recognition of the part played by wives and daughters in the running of the family farm.

IAC INQUIRY - STABILISATION - Delegates decided in favor of the continuation of the existing product pool stabilisation scheme, with increased flexibility of operation, a reduction in the part played by the Federal Government, and a corresponding increase in the part played by the dairy industry in administering the scheme. Price setting by formula, to eliminate the delays that now result from the need for a Federal Minister to approve new domestic wholesale prices, was also supported as part of the proposed greater flexibility.

IAC INQUIRY - MARKET MILK "ASSISTANCE" - The Council had no hesitation in rejecting the concept, put forward in the IAC's Background Paper, that the higher price for market milk above that for milk for manufacture was a form of "assistance". Although it was recognised that there was now very little difference in the quality standards for market milk and manufacture milk, as market milk was required to be produced throughout the year, particularly during the "lean" period when manufacture milk availability was at a minimum, it was seen as virtually a different commodity, the price for which should be based on the actual cost of production, not on the return for manufacture milk.

IAC INQUIRY - PRODUCTION CONTROL - Whilst delegates agreed that increased milk production would result in lower unit returns, as the extra output would go into products sold on the export market, they were very much aware of the problems that would accompany any proposal for a production control scheme, particularly an "entitlement" scheme, which, in the form proposed by the IAC in 1976, would be negotiable (saleable) across State borders. Eventually delegates supported the proposal that an, at present, unspecified form of production control be considered in the event of an increase in the proportion of dairy produce exported, but expressed no preference for either an entitlement scheme or the "freezing" of dairy licences.

(A submission embodying the Council's decisions has since been presented to the IAC, and will be considered by the Commission on the 21st April, 1983.)

CENTRAL TESTING LABORATORY - Because the Executive Committee wished to be reassured that progress towards establishing a Central Testing Laboratory, under the control of the Milk Board, was progressing satisfactorily, HISCOL was asked to present a progress report. The report indicated that due care was being taken in selecting the best available equipment, and ensuring that the procedures to be followed would most effectively utilise the current technology, and the link-up with the large capacity computer of Kyabram.

LEPTOSPIROSIS - Dr. Ron Newlands, of the Department of Agriculture, addressed the Council on the incidence of leptospirosis in dairy cattle and in dairy farm workers in South Australia, in connection with the Council's study of whether to have leptospirosis made a compensatable disease under the Workman's Compensation Act. Dr. Newlands referred to the problem that might arise, in the event of such action, because of the difficulty of positively diagnosing leptospirosis, the symptom of which, without a blood test, resembled those of influenza and other more common complaints. The resemblance in symptoms could, unless care was exercised, result in cases of influenza or similar being diagnosed as leptospirosis, and compensation being paid where it was not justified.

The Council agreed that further study be made into the prevalence of leptospirosis in dairy farm workers, and the amount of the increase in workers compensation premiums that would result from making leptospirosis a compensatable disease.

COW SIZE & MILK PRODUCTION - Delegates discussed a question, put to the Association by the Dairy Research Advisory Committee, whether research should be undertaken in South Australia into the relationship between cow size and milk production. Doubts were expressed by some delegates about the need for research, as they believed such a fundamental question would surely have been researched elsewhere.

Because the matter is one of importance in the light of the general trend towards larger cows, further consideration was deferred to the next Council meeting.

MARCH MILK PRODUCTION CONTINUES SEVEN YEAR HIGH

Milk production in the Central Region during March 1983 totalled 15.4 million litres, the highest March production since 1976 and 11 per cent up on March 1982.

As stated in the previous issue of this Journal, production in January and February this year was also the highest since the corresponding months in 1976, and now, at the end of the third quarter of the current fiscal year, total production on a 12 month basis is also higher than in any year since 1976.

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SENIOR STAFF CHANGES AT FEDERATION INSURANCE LIMITED

Tim Carr Becomes State Manager

The General Manager of Federation Insurance, Mr. E. Miller has announced the appointment of Mr. Cedric Lewis (currently Manager for South Australia), as Manager for New South Wales following the retirement of Mr. W. Bell. He will leave South Australia in mid-May to take up his new position.

Mr. Tim Carr has been appointed Manager for South Australia effective 16 May, 1983. Mr. Carr, who is currently Assistant Branch Manager for South Australia, joined Federation in Launceston, Tasmania in December 1961 and has gained experience in several roles both in Tasmania and Victoria before transferring to South Australia in 1978.

Tim, who is married with two sons, is well known to many of the Associations' members, and hopes, in his new position, to be able to increase this acquaintance.

COMPARISON OF HOLSTEIN-FRIESIAN BULLS FROM TEN COUNTRIES

With semen and bulls from many countries being exported around the world, the question arises - How do the sires of one country compare genetically with those of another? Countries have different environmental factors and comparing the average production does not give an indication of how the animals may compare for genetic merit. A country importing semen or bulls needs to know whether the average genetic merit of the bulls is in the importing country.

In order to obtain this information a large trial comparing Holstein-Friesians from ten countries was started in Poland in 1974. The trial aims to provide information on the relative genetic merit for production traits of the main strains of Holstein-Friesians in the world. It will also enable a comparison of sire evaluation methodology between the countries in the trial, and Australia will benefit from this evaluation through its links with some of the countries. Each of the ten co-operating countries shown in the tables has provided semen from about 40 young unproven bulls selected at random from those bulls entering A.I. service in their home country. The semen has been used on Polish Holstein-Friesian cows and the first cross progeny will be mated to bulls from the countries where their sires came from.

The first-cross progeny from the sires were split into two groups. The largest group were milked under Polish field conditions. The smaller group, which were selected at random from the total group, were put under intensive feeding conditions where feeding was adjusted each week according to production. The results of the two groups are listed in Tables 1 and 2.

TABLE 1. Comparison of production results under Polish farm conditions for different strains of Holstein-Friesian heifers.

Country/Strain	Milk (l)	Fat (kg)	Fat % (Avge)	Protein (kg)	Protein % (Avge)
USA	3847	156	3.94	127	3.21
Poland	3085	129	4.04	103	3.25
Canada	3719	153	3.98	123	3.22
Denmark	3360	141	4.04	112	3.24
UK	3466	144	4.02	116	3.25
Sweden	3489	145	4.01	117	3.26
Germany	3384	140	4.00	113	3.24
Netherlands	3301	139	4.08	111	3.26
Israel	3760	154	3.96	125	3.22
New Zealand	3684	156	4.13	124	3.25

TABLE 2. Comparison of production results under intensive feeding for different strains of Holstein-Friesian heifers

Country/Strain	Milk (l)	Fat (kg)	Fat % (Avge)	Protein (kg)	Protein % (Avge)
USA	5245	197	3.69	183	3.40
Poland	4269	177	4.06	157	3.59
Canada	5073	205	3.94	179	3.47
Denmark	4569	188	3.99	169	3.59
UK	4917	201	3.98	178	3.53
Sweden	4766	194	3.97	175	3.57
Germany	4789	193	3.93	173	3.55
Netherlands	4698	199	4.14	175	3.62
Israel	5070	198	3.83	182	3.49
New Zealand	4850	206	4.14	180	3.59

While Australia is not a participant in the Trial, bulls from a number of countries in the project have been used here, as well as in the country concerned. Such usage establishes connecting links and it is anticipated the Australian Dairy Herd Improvement Scheme will be able to calculate Australian Breeding Values from assessments calculated in countries with which there are connecting links.

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



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FRENCH REMOVE DYE-MARKERS FROM ANTI-BIOTICS

In 1971 French regulations compelled the use of dye-markers (green or blue) in products containing penicillin used for the treatment of bovine mastitis, as the first step towards compelling the addition of dye-marker to all anti-biotics used for this purpose.

But because manufacturers found it difficult to devise products in which the dye and the anti-biotic were eliminated simultaneously during milkings following the infusion, further legislation applying to anti-biotics other than penicillin was left in abeyance.

The consequence has been the progressive disappearance from the market of products containing penicillin, leaving only those containing other anti-biotics, and hence without dye-marker.

In the face of this unsatisfactory decision, the 1971 regulations have been rescinded, and it is no longer compulsory to add dye-marker to penicillin or any other anti-biotic mastitis treatment.

And The Association Opposes Dye-Marker In Dry-Cow

The Association is very conscious of the effects that anti-biotics in milk have on dairy product quality, and may have on public health, and recognises that the compulsory addition of blue dye-marker to anti-biotic mastitis treatments for lactating cows is one way of minimising (but not eliminating) this potentially dangerous, and damaging form of adulteration.

It is a different case with anti-biotics in dry-cow therapy treatments. In these cases the length of time the product is in the udder during the drying-off period, and the holding back of colostrum for the first few days milking are arguments against the need for dye-marker in dry-cow.

But, more important, some cases have been reported where the dye-marker appears to have dried out, in the udder, into a small hard concretion which blocks the flow of milk and has led to the need for veterinary treatment.

The Association is, consequently, seeking to remove the compulsory addition of dye-marker to dry-cow therapy products.

The South Australian Dairymen's...

IN THIS ISSUE

New Plate Count Procedures
Free Hot Water For The Dairy
Why Use Young Bulls?
More About Tractor Safety Frames
Bill Pyle Debunks Over-Production

JOURNAL



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"AS MILK PRODUCTION RISES, RETURNS MUST FALL"

In an industry where short-term seasonal fluctuations cannot be controlled, the truth of the statement is inescapable, for, in local terms, increased production means more milk used for manufacturing, in national terms, more product sold overseas at the lower end of an export market that is generally declining, anyway. And, there is no doubt that, currently, we are in an overproduction situation that is probably unprecedented.

Despite one of the worst droughts and the worst bushfires in the State's recorded history, milk production is at a very high level. Production in the Central Region in January, February and March, was the highest for each of those months since 1976, whilst production in April and May was the highest ever recorded for each of those two months.

The result of this higher production has been a rise in the annual production to 240 million litres, the highest since 1974-75, when the total milk output was 249 million litres.

The fact that combined yearly milk and cream sales, now totalling 105 million litres, are substantially higher than the 99 million litres recorded in 1974-75, has at least held the annual ratio at 43.9 per cent, instead of the disastrously low 41.6 per cent in that year, is the one redeeming feature of the present situation, when it is realised that each 1 per cent increase in milk production reduces the equalised return by around 1.5 cents per kilogram butterfat (the present 10.3 per cent increase over last year reducing the price by 15.7cents).

It can generally be assumed that the major part of the current lift in production has come from established dairy farmers as a result of the favourable opening to the season, but some of the increase at least will have been contributed by newcomers to the industry, most of whom are operating on a larger scale than the current average.

When it is considered that the total of 37 new milk producers licences issued since 1 July 1982 is the largest since 1968, and that a further 60 exploratory enquiries for milk producers licences have been receiving the same period, the action taken by the Metropolitan Milk Board 1983, to curb the issuing of additional licences is to be applauded.

Greetings,

- I have always been an advocate for change provided that it is for the better and not just for the sake of change.

Reflecting back to the post-war era in the days of my youth and shortly after, I remember how many people, when purchasing goods, looked for the "Made in Australia" label. There was a distinct pride in owning "Australian made" goods, and goods made in certain other countries tended to be rejected because of reputed poorer quality, or just for a feeling of loyalty to Australia and our fellow countrymen.

After reading the submission presented by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics to the Industries Assistance Commission's inquiry into the Australian dairy industry, one cannot be blamed for wondering how much of the cause for this change stems from the attitude and policy of the bureaucracy.

Incredible though it may seem, the BAE's submission proposed first, that liquid milk (market milk) prices should be gradually moved into line with manufacturing milk prices, and eventually (within 5 years) manufacturing milk prices should be reduced down to import parity prices.

Such a proposal be acceptable if it applied to all Australian industries, and consequently to the prices of our farm imports, but as things are, it is difficult to see how even the Victorian and Tasmanian dairy industries could survive at those levels of return.

- With world dairy markets threatened with over-supply from the subsidised dairy industries in the Northern Hemisphere, export prices are falling, and the returns from dairy produce not sold on the domestic market will eventually reflect that trend, even in our traditional outlets such as Japan.

Under these circumstances the Metropolitan Milk Board is to be congratulated for its decision to cease issuing milk producers licences to new applications, at least for the time being. This gives us the opportunity to find new markets, and develop existing local markets, for the increased production from established licensed producers.

The national milk promotion campaign "LIVE ON MILK", launched this month, which demonstrates to consumers how exciting milk can be as a beverage, will, we are confident, be a step in this direction.

- It is a great relief to learn that the threatened "destocking" of the herd of one of our exact cause of the reactions. The Association is grateful for the responsible attitude demonstrated by both the member and the Department of Agriculture. But, whatever the outcome of this case, there will, inevitably, be a case, the first of many, when a dairy farmer is required to destroy the whole of his herd because of an outbreak of brucellosis.

Imagine the situation if you are that dairyfarmer. Compensation at present is based on market value of a carcass, to a maximum of \$400, far short of the price you would have to pay to replace each of the slaughtered animals.

At today's prices a dairyfarmer with a 100 cow herd would face an immediate loss of least \$40 000 for a 100 cow herd (probably closer to \$50 000 when heifers are taken into account), and a further loss of income during the 3 months or thereabouts that the property is under quarantine, and during the additional time it will take to acquire a replacement herd.

Experience in overseas countries indicates that up to 2 per cent of properties will be destock during the next 3 to 4 years because of outbreaks of brucellosis. So, whilst the Association is considering a scheme for compensation additional to the present carcass-value based scheme, dairy farmers are warned to exercise greater care when purchasing stock, either privately or at a sale, to ensure that such incoming stock are not a source of infection. I strongly urge that, in this respect, the recommendations of the Department of Agriculture are followed explicitly.

Sincerely Yours

AUB KRETSCHMER

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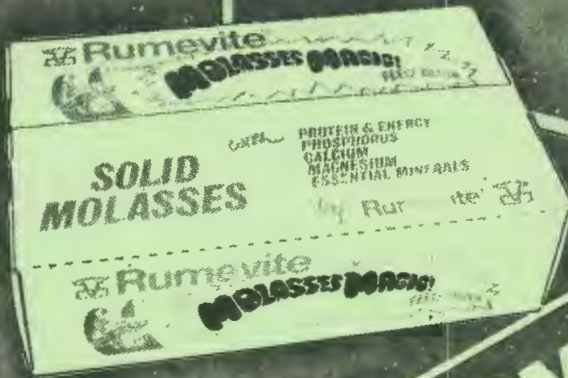
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SOUTHERN CALF RUNS COMBINE ON 4 AUGUST

The last Southern No. 1 run will be on Tuesday 26 July. In the following week the two Southern runs will combine on THURSDAY 4 AUGUST, as follows:-

9.15 Myponga, 10.30 Wattle Flat, 11.00 Normanville, 11.30 Torrens Vale Corner, 12.00 Inman Valley, 12.30 Back Valley, 1.30 Victor Harbor, 2.00 Hindmarsh Valley, 2.30 Mt. Jagged.

In this issue I would like to discuss the use of a material called Sodium Bentonite. It has been reported that Sodium Bentonite alters rumen fermentation and this helps to maintain milk butterfat test.

A number of factors influence milk butterfat test, apart from the cow's genetic capabilities, and the following factors have an effect:

- stage of lactation;
- certain diseases - any ailment that affects food intake will affect butterfat levels as well as total milk yield;
- high temperatures - food intake reduced;
- availability of fresh clean water - again affects food intake and effectiveness of the rumen;
- proportion of roughage in the diet and in what form this roughage is presented.

From experimental results it has been suggested that the minimum fibre requirements for the total ration may be as low as 13 per cent or as high as 26 per cent, depending on the texture and types of ingredients being fed.

To ensure proper balanced rumenal function, it has been reported that, on a ration of less than 10 per cent fibre (75 per cent concentrate and 25 per cent lucerne hay) cows produced milk with a test less than 2 per cent butterfat. The addition of 500 gms of Sodium Bentonite to the cows daily diet resulted in a return to 80-90 per cent of the original butterfat level.

The above trial was designed to challenge the cow to a severe rumen imbalance; in a normal grazing situation the challenge should not be so severe. As weather conditions, social stress and feed changes (e.g. from pasture to oats) can all affect feed intake and rumen activity, then some form of buffering may be warranted.

Sodium Bicarbonate is another product that can be used to give similar results. It acts in a different manner and, at present, is a more expensive alternative.

American data indicated that the difference was not large, and statistically did not prove that milk production was increased with the use of Sodium Bentonite. Without creating a song and dance, it may be worthwhile considering the use of some form of buffer, at least in the early stages of lactation when intake is at its highest and needs to be given every chance of being digested properly.

The level of addition of Sodium Bentonite to pelleted rations would be 2 - 4 per cent; therefore, when only 1 kg of concentrate is being fed daily little benefit will be gained. The feeding of quantities of concentrate of 2 - 3 kg or greater will lead to some protection of the rumen flora.

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Calf prices are improving in Victoria, with Gilbertsons, Greenhams and Tancred all paying better than 90 cents per kg liveweight for 50 kg calves, and 80 cents for 40 kg calves, whilst, at the other end, 25 kg calves are bringing 50 cents or better.

No changes have yet been announced for local calf run prices, which dropped to 60 cents for 40 kg calves late last year, and have not been at the 80 cent level since 1980, but it is understood that prices actually being paid for good quality calves are substantially above the published minimum figures.

Members must, however, realise that the prices paid for their calves are at least partly in their own hands. Remember that you have every right to haggle over prices, and to take your calf off the truck if you are not satisfied with the price offered. Remember, too, that you also have a right to be offered a price for each calf submitted, rather than a total for the batch.

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The work is hard, and the hours can be long, but it is really good fun, well paid, and you get a free ticket to the Show.

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Ari Mulders at Moonta, telephone (088) 25 2806

INSURING AGAINST ANTIBIOTICS ACCIDENTS

English Dairy Farmers Can, And Also Test Milk On The Farm

The earlier report that all dye-markers had been removed from antibiotics in France does not mean that European dairyfarmers are treated lightly, and in Britain, at any rate, since October 1982, all supplies are tested at least once every week.

The report goes on to state that penalties are approximately one-third of the value of the milk (about the same as in S.A.'s Central Region, where the loss of the City Milk Bonus represents about an equal penalty), but, in addition, a dairyfarmer may also be liable for the total value of the milk in the tanker or the silo into which his milk has been transferred.

On the brighter side (and we are working on it here, also), since January 1982 the English Milk Marketing Board, in conjunction with the British National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society, has developed an insurance scheme to cover the producer who realises that he has accidentally allowed contaminated milk to get into his bulk tank.

Subject to certain conditions, the insurance scheme will indemnify the producer, on one occasion in any 12 month period, who reports accidental contamination before his supply is collected.

A supplier realising that his supply may be contaminated contacts the MMB Regional Office. The milk is not collected but is sampled. Depending on the test result, the supplier is told either to dispose of the milk or to hold it for collection.

To qualify for an insurance payment the contaminated milk must pass all the other quality and hygiene tests.

The stringency of penalties has led to the development of an on-farm test kit for inhibitory substances, which, priced at around \$400, allows farmers to test the milk from suspect cows before that milk is put into the bulk tank.

NEW PENALTY PROCEDURES FOR PLATE-COUNT FAILURES

Future Suspension To Be Based On Past Performance

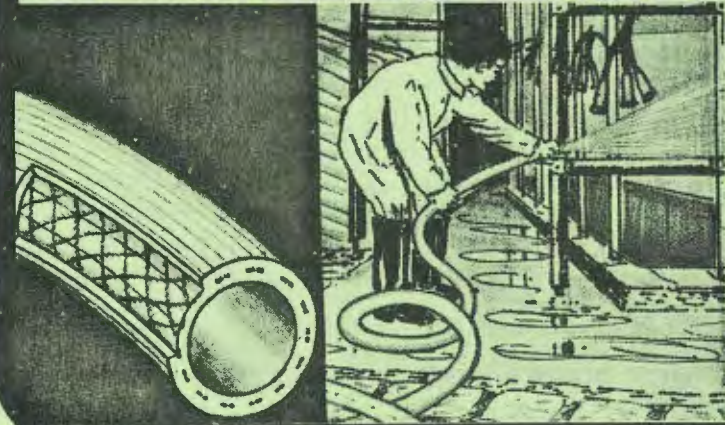
The Metropolitan Milk Board has modified the procedures relating to plate count failures by basing licence suspension and reinstatement on producers' previous records.

The new procedures, from 1 July 1983, will be as follows:-

- A producer who, during the previous 12 months, has on 3 occasions, had a loop failure, followed immediately by a standard plate count failure, will receive a warning letter informing him that his licence may be suspended at the next standard plate count failure.
- A producer whose licence is suspended because of a standard plate count failure will, if his licence has already been suspended during the previous 12 months, require two consecutive satisfactory standard plate count results before his licence is reinstated.

In both the above clauses the "previous 12 months" period will be any 12 months after 1 July 1983; that is to say, a producer's past record up to the introduction of the new procedure will not be taken into account.

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NOTES ON THE NATIONAL DAIRY SCENE

- **STAYPUT ON DOMESTIC WHOLESALE PRICES** - Federal Primary Industry Minister John Kerin, has refused the industry's request for a 5 per cent increase in the domestic wholesale price of butter, cheese and milk powders, on the grounds that, with production increasing and export prices falling, dairy farmers should be exposed to market signals. The good news is his promise that he will review the need for a price increase in November.
- **MILK PRODUCTION RISE TIPPED TO CONTINUE** - National milk production is expected to reach 5 350 million litres for 1982-83, 3 per cent up on 5 199 million litres last year, with 1983-84 expected to increase marginally at a slightly lower rate to just under 5 500 million litres.
- **ACTION ON CHEESE AT LAST** - The Bureau of Customs has taken the preliminary step of requiring importers of European edam, gouda and blue-vein cheese to lodge cash securities (around \$1 000 per tonne) as a first step towards imposing counter-vailing duties - the action that we have been seeking for the past 20 years.

• NATIONAL MILK PROMOTION CAMPAIGN - Members will have already seen the first showings of the national "LIVE ON MILK" campaign, promoting milk as "the right drink for the Eighties".

• NATIONAL CHEESE PROMOTION ALSO UNDER WAY - The success of the Tasmanian test marketing project has resulted in its expansion into a national campaign aimed at increasing cheese consumption per head from 6.8 to 8.4 kilograms over 3 years at a rate of 6.6 per cent annually.

To finance this ambitious project the promotional levy on milk will be doubled, from 12 cents to 24 cents per 100 litres. Cheese manufacturers and marketers have assured the Australian Dairy Corporation of additional support through their own efforts and finance.

• IMPORTED CHEESE QUALITY - ARE WE GETTING THE RUN-AROUND? - Clear evidence has been provided by Chief Dairy Officers in each State that most imported cheese does not comply with Australian compositional standards, particularly with regard to additives, and it was expected that recent amendments to the Quarantine Act would be used to check the inflow of sub-standard cheese.

Federal Quarantine Minister, Neil Blewett, has now explained that the amendments are only intended to enable Quarantine Officers to detain imported food suspected of harboring diseases, and apparently not to ensure that imported food meets Australian quality standards.

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Savings of this magnitude can be made in any situation where large capacity refrigeration is used, such as hotels, hospitals, supermarkets and similar, but the big advantage of the system in a dairy application is that the water is hottest immediately after milking, at the time it is most needed, because the refrigerating unit has been operating continuously throughout the milking period, and will continue to operate until the milk in the vat is down to temperature, and there is, consequently, no need to use the booster element on full tariff, as is the case with a storage water heater.

The unit is designed to run off existing compressors, and 80 per cent of the heat generated by the compressor is utilised for water heating, thereby permitting compressors to run more efficiently, with consequent longer life.

The unit, which is made in South Australia, was designed by Mr. Glenn Pleass, of Adelaide, who saw the need for such a development during his 34 years involvement in commercial refrigeration in this State.

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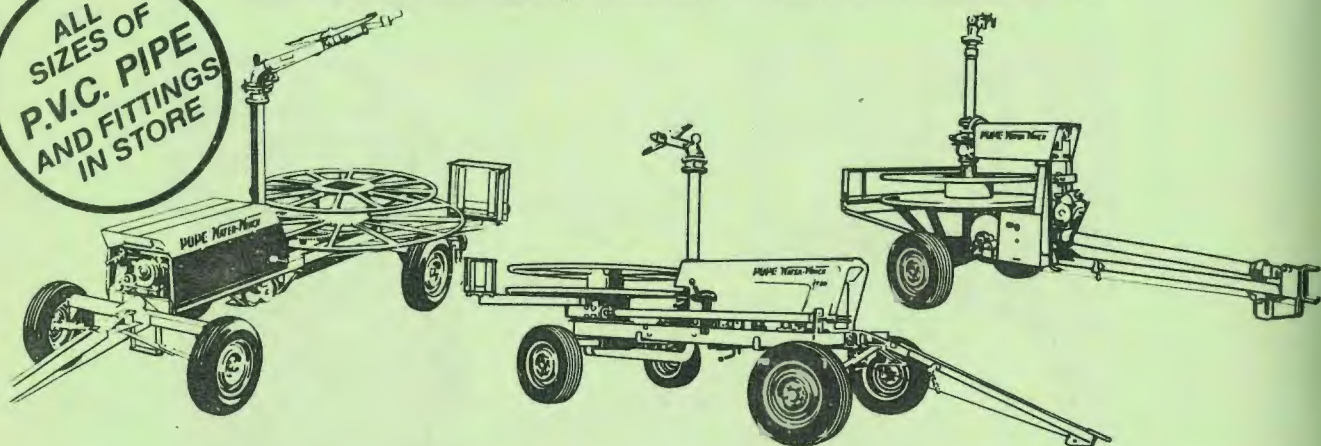
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WHY USE YOUNG BULLS? - A SAGRIC VIEW

In his series of talks to South Australian dairy farmers in April, Professor Ted Burnside, of the University of Guelph, Canada, stressed that more use should be made of young bulls in South Australian herds. By young bulls we are talking about those bulls, selected on the basis of their parents' and grandparents' performances, which are undergoing testing to prove their own genetic merit.

What are the advantages of using young bulls and why should you use them?

The rate of genetic improvement per year is a function of:-

- the generation interval;
- the accuracy with which we can identify superior animals;
- the intensity with which we can select those superior animals;
- the genetic variation in the population.

The longer the time interval between generations the slower is the rate of genetic improvement. When genetic progress is being made in a population, use of younger stock means use of genetically superior stock.

To get an accurate estimate of the genetic merit of a bull, we need to look at the production of his daughters, i.e. we need to conduct progeny testing. This is done through artificial breeding by mating the bull at random to large numbers of cows over a wide range of herds, and collecting the information of the production of the daughters when they come into milk.

A greater number of herds involved in progeny testing means greater accuracy in the estimates of breeding value of young bulls. It also means more young bulls can be tested. The testing of more young bulls means that selection of proven bulls for widespread use can be more intense.

This combination of greater accuracy and higher intensity of selection enhances the rate of genetic improvement. Those herds using young bulls by participating in progeny testing are assisting in the genetic improvement of the Australian dairy cattle population. South Australian dairy farmers cannot expect other States to do bull-proving for them.

What are the advantages to the individual dairyfarmer who uses young bulls in this way. In theory, in a properly designed genetic improvement program, the average genetic merit of the young bulls will be higher than the average genetic merit of the current crop of proven bulls.

Professor Burnside used results from Canada to demonstrate that this theory also works in practice. Provided you use a range of young bulls in your herd, you should suffer no disadvantage and are likely to gain an advantage from the early use of genetically superior stock.

GOLDA L. MUNRO

Golda Munro is a Senior Research Officer with the Northfield Dairy Research Centre of the Department of Agriculture, and may be contacted by telephone at (08) 266 0911.

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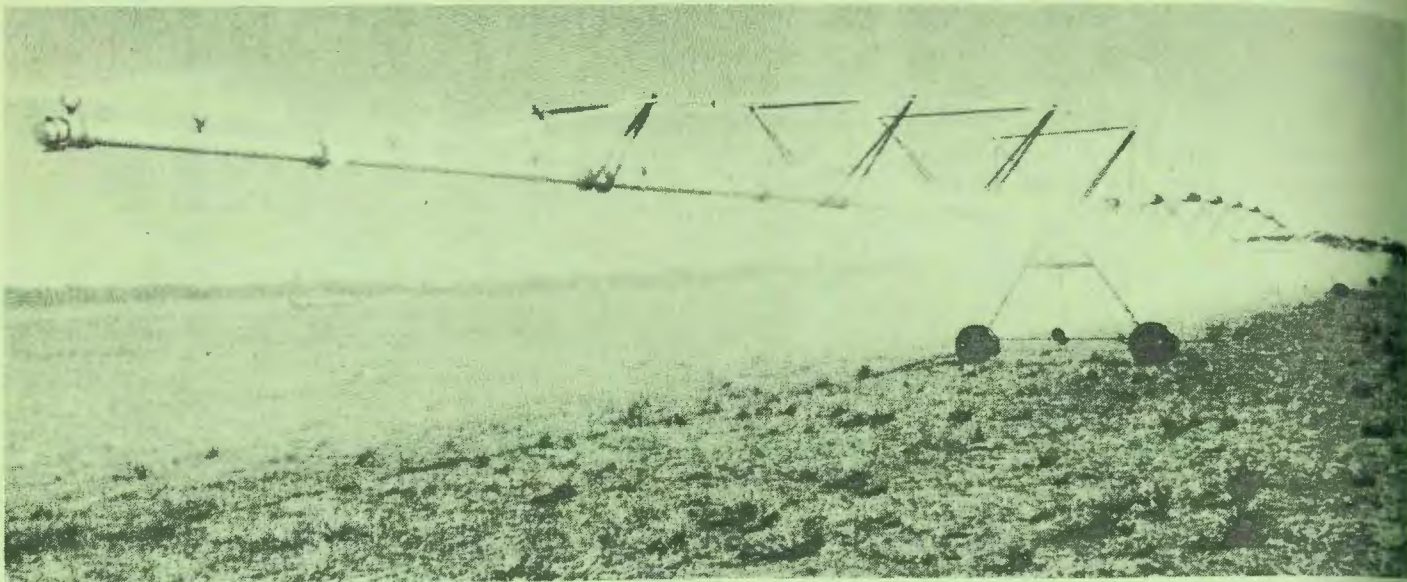


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MILK PRODUCTION & SALES STATISTICS

	For month		Change %	12 mths cumulative		Change %
	1982	1983		1982	1983	
MILK PRODUCTION (000 litres) - METROPLITAN PRODUCING DISTRICT						
Jan	18 016	19 494	+ 8.2	218 392	230 150	+ 5.4
Feb	14 358	15 060	+ 4.9	217 956	230 852	+ 5.9
Mar	13 789	15 366	+11.4	216 538	232 429	+ 7.3
Apl	14 137	17 126	+21.1	215 641	235 418	+ 9.2
May	16 764	20 633	+23.1	216 940	239 287	+10.3
MILK SALES (000 litres) - METROPOLITAN AREA						
Jan	7 465	7 550	+ 1.1	90 506	92 106	+ 1.8
Feb	7 144	7 331	+ 2.6	90 549	92 293	+ 1.9
Mar	8 126	8 279	+ 1.9	91 057	92 446	+ 1.5
Apl	7 625	7 669	+ 0.6	91 173	92 490	+ 1.4
May	7 784	7 683	- 1.3	91 312	92 389	+ 1.2

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MORE ABOUT TRACTOR SAFETY FRAMES

Two Universal Frames Now Available

The article in the previous issue of this Journal, under the heading "Safety Frames For Older Tractors", stated that older tractors, for which stock safety frames were not available, could be fitted with a "custom built" frame made by Chris Grow Engineering, of Uraidla, under the terms of a special approval granted by the Department of Labor and Industry.

The prices for safety frame supplied and fitted (fitting by Chris Grow Engineering is a condition of the approval) would range from \$395 to \$445, depending on the model of tractor, with fitting taking two days, and requiring the owner to arrange transport to and from Uraidla.

The price quoted in the article was, however, for a "rostered" tractor - one of a batch of the same make and model for which the firm had tooled-up to fit during a nominated period.

Replies so far received cast doubts on the possibility of the Association's being able to arrange such a roster. Frames fitted on a "one-off" basis would cost \$40 above the previously quoted price.

We have now been informed of an approved universal safety-frame which will fit almost 100 models, and which is supplied in kit form for assembly by the purchaser. The retail price for the basic kit, which fits most tractors, is \$462, but special accessory kits are required for several tractors, priced from \$45 (International 434) to \$120 (Nuffield/Leyland and John Deere 710). Discounts are available for orders placed through the Association.

Although assembly on the farm is permitted, the approval is void if the frame is modified in any way by the purchaser, such as by oxy-cutting or grinding away any portion of the frame.

Apart from the assembly procedure (workshop fitted versus "do-it-yourself") the fundamental difference between the two frames is in their basic design. The CGE Frame is a "four-poster" with a square reinforcing frame linking the tops of the four vertical members, whilst the other model is a "two-poster", the two vertical members being hinged half-way up their height, enabling the upper portion to be lowered out of the way for orchard or similar work, or for garaging.

A canopy, costing \$230, is also available for the two-poster model; the CGE model, having a square upper frame can also be fitted with some inexpensive type of shade.

Members should be aware that, although the fitting of a safety frame is mandatory only for a tractor that is driven by an employee, relief milkers and casual labor are classed as employees, and the penalty for an accident involving a relief milker driving a tractor not fitted with a safety frame will be just as severe as for an accident which involved a full-time employee.

BILL PYLE PUTS OVER-PRODUCTION SCARE INTO PERSPECTIVE!

United Dairyfarmers of Victoria's President, Bill Pyle, Australia's most widely publicised dairy politician, warned UDV members about taking too seriously the predictions of disaster resulting from increased production, in these words:-

"Some concern has been expressed about the possibility of rising milk production in Australia and the marketing problems that this may bring, particularly in regard to manufactured products, and specifically to exports.

Let's put this potential for increased production in perspective. We are not talking about massive increases, and the development of burdensome surpluses such as existed in the late 60's and mid-70's.

We are talking about a small rise from 5.2 thousand million litres last year, to perhaps 5.4 thousand million litres this year, and the same for next year. PERHAPS!! Hardly the kind of rise to force us to consider quotas, licence cancellations and punitive pricing policies....

So my message to anyone worried about production levels is that if you're efficient and supply an efficient factory, you have nothing to fear from earning your living from the market place!"

HAVING TROUBLE WITH FARM EQUIPMENT

State Government Sets Up A Trouble-Shooting Committee

The State Government has created the SOUTH AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT LIAISON COMMITTEE to provide a means for mediation between primary producers who are experiencing problems with farm machinery or equipment purchased by them and the manufacturers or dealers who supplied the unsatisfactory items.

These problems are set out in the Committee's terms of reference as being particularly;

- quality of product;
- ability of the product to perform its function;
- after-sales service, including warranty;
- availability of spare parts;

but involvement in problems outside this admittedly wide range is not excluded.

The Committee's scope does not include agricultural machinery or equipment with a retail value of less than \$2 000, second-hand items (unless still under warranty), tractors under 15kW, and motor vehicles.

Initial contact with the Committee in connection with any problem or complaint is by lodging an Equipment Complaint Form, available from this office.

The South Australian Dairymen's...

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Identifying Sources of Contamination
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JOURNAL

THAT IAC REPORT

Major Changes Proposed, But No Entitlement Scheme

The Draft Report of the Industries Assistance Commission's Inquiry into the Dairy Industry, released late in August, has attracted considerable media attention, much of it echoing the Commission's criticisms of the industry.

The national daily "The Australian" was particularly abrasive, from its front page headline "6c a litre milk 'tax' costing \$90m says IAC" to its leader article "Dairying must be more efficient".

Yet, basically, the IAC itself did not accuse the Australian dairy industry of being inefficient; its criticism was aimed at the legislative measures which, in the case of market milk, it claims, prevent the operation of "market forces" in ensuring that prices for market milk are set by competition instead of by regulation, and, in the case of manufactured products, do not ensure that the product mix choices made by dairy companies yield the greatest benefit to the industry (and to the economy).

To understand this, or any other, report of the IAC it must be realised that the IAC has a legislatively-created obligation to look at, and to keep under periodical review, any industry which receives Government "assistance", either financially, by subsidies, grants, or concessions, or legislatively, through tariff protection, import quotas or, as in the case of the dairy industry, the statutory ability to set domestic prices higher than they would otherwise be.

The Draft Report is not an instance of the IAC "having a go" at the dairy industry; it is the result of applying to a very complex industry, operating in the Australian economic environment, some elementary economic theory.

The adverse publicity has not helped our industry, which, for reasons that have long disappeared into the past, is still very vulnerable to ill-informed judgements and malicious criticism; but the matter is still far from concluded.

The dairy industry and other interested parties have until early October to consider the Draft Report, and then to present comment and further submissions to the Commission prior to its final report being written.

(continued on next page)



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The ultimate decision does not rest with the Commission; it rests directly with the Federal Government, and less directly with the Federal Parliament and the Australian Agricultural Council. It is to those bodies, rather than to the IAC, which has already revealed its attitude, that our case must be presented most forcibly, and we can take heart from the strong criticism recently expressed by John Kerin, the Federal Minister for Primary Industry, of the IAC's draft report on the sugar industry, the tone of which closely matched that of the draft report on the dairy industry.

A conference of all dairy companies, dairy farmer organisations, and government instrumentalities has been convened by the Association to consider the Commission's draft report, and to prepare, if possible, a unified case on behalf of the dairy industry in this State, for presentation to the Honorable Frank Blevins, the Minister of Agriculture and a member of the Australian Agricultural Council.

A meeting of the Association's Central Council will be held in the following week to allow delegates to debate both the draft submission and the unified case.

The following review of the Commission's draft report has been adapted from the August 1983 issue of the Newsletter of the Australian Dairy Farmers Federation.

MARKET MILK - The Report is very critical of the various State market milk pricing arrangements and claims that the current price levels for market milk cannot be justified. The Commission also questions the need for State Governments, through the various State dairy marketing authorities, to fix stable year-round prices for market milk.

The Draft Report is strongly critical of legislation at State and Federal level which inhibits interstate trade in market milk. At the Commonwealth level the legislation involved is a series of Acts passed in 1977, but not yet proclaimed, which enable the Commonwealth to place a levy on the sales of market milk.

If the legislation was proclaimed, and Victorian milk sold in New South Wales, a levy would be paid by Victorian processors, but the proceeds from the levy would be paid to NSW dairy farmers via a direct Commonwealth grant to NSW. The effect is to discourage interstate trade in market milk. The IAC has recommended the proclamation of this legislation and the introduction of a levy on market milk of 6c per litre as from 1 July 1984. This levy would be reduced to 4c per litre in July 1985, and to 2c in July 1986. In 1987 the legislation would be repealed.

The intended effect is to encourage progressive introduction of interstate trade in market milk. However, if the intention of the recommendations was fulfilled, reasonable fluctuation and possible lower market milk prices would result in all States. The effect of this would be a serious erosion of incomes for dairy farmers, particularly in NSW but to a lesser extent in Queensland and South Australia. There could be some advantage to Victorian and Tasmanian dairy farmers but it is likely that most, if not all, of the possible benefits they would receive from increased sales of market milk (as a percentage of their total milk supply) would be offset by a reduction in market milk prices in their home States as well as interstate, as well as by the very high cost of refrigerated transport.

It would seem very unlikely that the Commission's recommendations in respect of market milk would be acceptable to State Governments. The NSW Government has recently received a report recommending maintenance of the status quo as far as market milk is concerned, and dismissing the threat of Victorian penetration of the NSW market milk industry. The NSW report has been adopted by the NSW Dairy Industry and it is believed its adoption by the NSW Government is imminent.

It is unrealistic to expect there will be no accommodation of the reasonable demands of Victorian and Tasmanian farmers for greater access to the liquid milk markets in other States but it is hoped that a way can be found to do this which will enable the current price structure to be maintained.

MANUFACTURING MILK - The Draft Report is also critical of the present manufactured milk marketing arrangements. The Commission has recommended the present stabilisation system based on separate product pools, be terminated. In its place the Commission has recommended a system whereby all exports of dairy products are subsidised to a uniform extent from a fund generated by a uniform levy on all milk.

The next best thing to mum.



It's as good as Mother's milk for your calves.
New Dairy Vale Calf Milk Replacer in 20kg bags.

It is 82% pure milk product and 18% added
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It contains no antibiotics. **Dairy Vale**

This system is, in principle, very similar to one developed by the executive of the ADFP last year, but subsequently rejected by the Federation's Council. It also closely resembles the export levy transfer scheme recommended to the Commission in a submission by the Dairy Council of the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers' Association.

The IAC's recommendation differs from these earlier proposals in the way in which the export subsidies on each product are calculated. The IAC has proposed that export subsidies on each product be set at 18 per cent of the f.o.b. value of exports. In the original ADFP proposal, export subsidies were set so that they would increase the farm gate return for each export product by a uniform amount. The ADFP staff suspect that the method of paying export subsidies in the IAC Draft Report will create more anomalies than it will solve. Further calculations are being carried out on this aspect. As it stands however, the Commission's recommendation will involve a levy on all milk of about 0.8c per litre.

In respect of underwriting, the Commission has recommended the underwriting of existing prescribed products at 85 per cent of the average export return over the preceding 3 years.

The Commission's package of recommendations on market milk would result in much greater year-to-year fluctuations in the price of manufactured dairy products, and, in turn, manufacturing milk.

One clear omission from the Commission's draft recommendation is any reference to market share entitlements, or similar restrictions on production. Bearing in mind the Australian Dairy Industry's capacity to greatly expand milk production this is a serious omission.

AND FRANK BLEVINS KNOCKS THE KNOCKERS

South Australian Member of Agriculture Frank Blevins was quick to defend primary producers in answering questions asked by Legislative Council member Robert Lucas, concerning a Bureau of Agricultural Economics report on the egg industry and the Industries Assistance Commissioner's draft report on the dairy industry.

Mr. Lucas asked whether the Minister agreed with the reports, which indicated that consumers were being overcharged up to 40 cents per dozen for eggs and 6 cents per litre for milk, and whether the Minister intended to introduce legislation in relation to the marketing policies of the egg and milk industries.

Answering the question, the Minister said that the prices stated needed to be taken in context. In the case of milk, the price of which was alleged to contain a subsidy from the consumer to the industry, if the figure was considered in the context of the subsidy paid by consumers, and more particularly by rural industry, to secondary industry, then the subsidy might be small change indeed.

Mr. Blevins then went on to say that one could easily study these reports, say "Fine" and then move to deregulate everything. However, the benefits to be gained from deregulation could be illusory, because it could result in destabilisation of those industries, which could then get into trouble in much the same way as other industries already in trouble, and the taxpayer might be left to pick up the bill anyway.

The Minister concluded by saying that the reports gave only one side of the story, and he would wait until he heard the industry's side of the story before he may any specific comment on the reports.

POSITIONS WANTED-----

We have on our books several applicants for permanent, or at least long-term temporary, employment on dairy farms. These include:

Female, will be 16 years old in October, still at school but would leave to take permanent employment. Brief work experience on dairyfarm, but employer can recommend her for keenness and aptitude. (Ref GA)

Male, aged 23, 8 years full time experience on large dairyfarms. (Ref VG).

Male, single, will be 20 in October, some experience on dairyfarm in Victoria. (Ref OG).

Male, single, mid 50's, 30 years dairying experience, including stud properties, as owner-operator, and as share farmer. (Ref IG).

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THE CENTRAL COUNCIL HOLDS ITS ANNUAL MEETING -

Elects Office Bearers And Looks At Industry Matters

ELECTIONS held at the Central Council's Annual Meeting on 30 June brought little change to the composition of the Association's Executive Committee for 1983-84.

Mr. Aub Kretschmer, of Jervois, was returned as General President, and Messrs. Allan Manning, of Birdwood, and Michael Diener, of The Point, were reappointed as Vice-Presidents, with other members of the Executive Committee being Messrs. Roger Basham, (Mount Compass), Frank Beauchamp, (Mypolonga), Graham Camac, (Meningie), Andrew McEwin, (Inman Valley), Ken Turvey, (Milang) and Don Zweck, (Blyth).

Mr. Ken Turvey, whose term of office as a Director of the Board of MMEC expired after three years, was reappointed to the position.

MR. NORMAN GREEN - The Chairman (Aub Kretschmer) presented Mr. Norman Green with a gold watch and a sterling silver pen in recognition of his services to the Association as a Central Council delegate, member of the Executive Committee, Vice-President, and General President.

SAVE THE MURRAY CAMPAIGN - The Council decided to continue the Association's part in fighting to protect the State's interest in the River Murray by applying for membership of the Murray Valley League, following the placing in recess of the Save The Murray Campaign.

WATER ALLOTMENT POLICY - Delegates resolved that the concern of the Association at the implications of the new Water Allotment Transfer Policy be communicated to the Minister of Water Resources, with a request that the Policy be reviewed.

COW SIZE RESEARCH PROJECT - Considerable debate took place on this very contentious subject, resulting in a decision that the proposed research project into the relationship between cow size within breeds, and productivity, be referred back to the Districts for consideration. (An article explaining the reason for the research project, and the procedure to be used will appear in the next issue of the Journal).

FARM VAT SIZES - Delegates were informed that increasing herd sizes, together with favorable seasonal conditions, had resulted in a need for milk from a number of farms to be picked up twice daily, thereby incurring extra cartage costs which were borne by the industry, not by the individuals who created the problem.

Among possible options would be the insistence by the dairy companies that larger vats, or additional vats, be installed, or imposing a charge for the second pick-up (or for daily pick-up during the skip-a-day period).

Delegates were not prepared to commit themselves to a decision at this stage, because of other considerations, and it was decided to leave the matter in the hands of the Executive Committee, whilst, at the same time, examining the possibility of an integrated pick-up system jointly operated by the two dairy companies.

CENTRAL TESTING LABORATORY - The setting-up and equipping of the Central Testing Laboratory in the Milk Board's premises appear to be on schedule, but delegates were not satisfied with the proposal for cell-counting milk from individual cows only every two months, which could mean that a cow might be tested as little as three times during a lactation. It was decided to urge the Milk Board to provide for routine monthly somatic cell counting.

LEPTOSPIROSIS & WORKERS COMPENSATION - It was decided to defer action on the making of leptospirosis a disease compensatable under the Workers Compensation Act until regulations, now being undertaken by the Department of Agriculture, revealed the extent of infection in dairy farm workers, and until more was known about the effect of such action on premiums for Workers Compensation insurance.

INTENSIVE ANIMAL REARING, VICTOR HARBOR - It was decided to investigate the report that the restrictions on intensive animal rearing in the Victor Harbor Development Plan was more severe than the guidelines issued by the State Planning Authority, and whether it was true that intensive calf rearing in the area was totally prohibitive.

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It is increasingly important that this Association, and the Australian Dairy Farmers Federation, spare no effort with public relations. The critics of our industry are mostly poorly informed, and it is ridiculous for government instrumentalities to advocate "freeing up the market", when our competitors do not follow such a policy. While we can do little to stop them from demolishing our export trading opportunities, we must not allow them to do the same to the domestic market through the dumping of highly subsidised imports.

The recommendations of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, to bring dairy prices within Australia to import parity, would, if adopted, see the complete demolition of the Australian industry.

The Animal Liberation Movement is gaining momentum and it is important that members of this organisation, and the general public, be kept informed of our methods of animal husbandry and the reasons for them. I am sure that our animals are better cared for than if they were in their natural state in the wild, and certainly they do not find themselves in more over-crowded conditions than we human beings place ourselves in. One only has to witness the crowded scenes at football games, peak-hour public transport, departmental store sales and rock concerts to name just a few of the cruelties that we inflict on ourselves.

The need to keep our legislators fully informed is increasing in importance, and, in offering our congratulations and good wishes to the newly-appointed Member of Agriculture, the Honorable Frank Blenks, M.L.C., we undertake to ensure that he receives our full co-operation in all matters affecting our industry and the welfare of the rural community.

In conclusion, it will be essential for the dairy industry to be united, to concentrate on public relations, promotion and the sensible marketing of its quality products, if it is to maintain its viability over the next three or four years, a goal that will require new disciplines at national level, and a responsible approach to the issues involved to ensure the maximum return to all dairy farmers.

AUB KRETSCHMER
General President

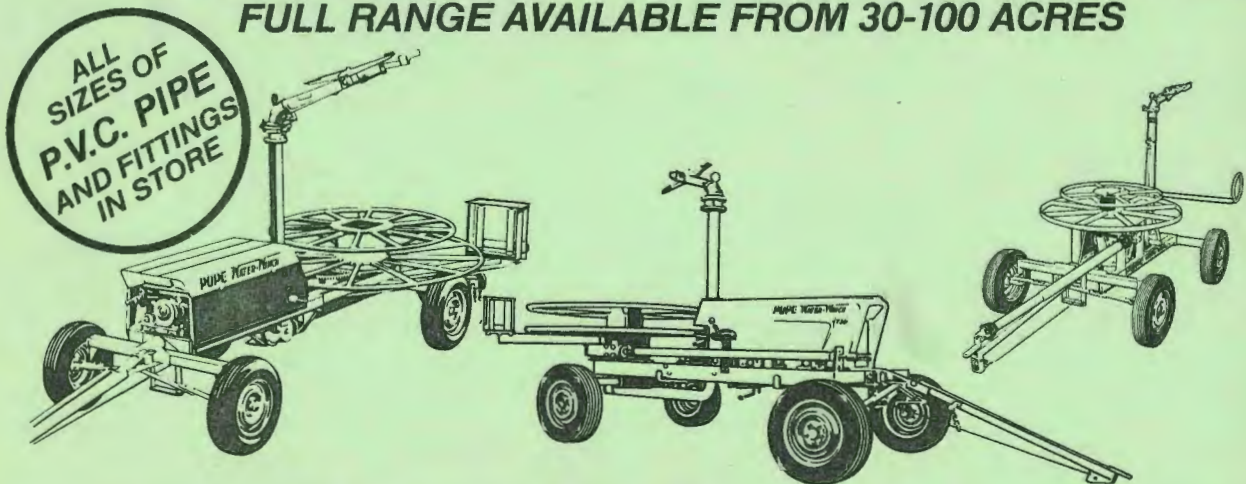
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In this issue of Nutrition Notes I would like to make a few short comments on Bloat, a problem that is likely to be encountered more frequently than usual with the abundance of pastures.

BLOAT - Shortly after the opening rains I had several enquiries as to feed additives to control Bloat.

Normally, the eructation (belching) process allows for the expulsion of gases that are produced in the rumen. In cases of Bloat, frothing (the trapping of gas in the ingesta) prevents this process and intraruminal pressure builds, thereupon distending the left side of the abdomen until the animal is thrown off its feed and goes down due to pain and the build up of toxic metabolites. If not treated, this condition leads to rapid death.

There are many theories to the causes of Bloat, but it is generally regarded that young, high clover/medic pastures, are more prone to cause the problem.

Several cases reported in the autumn may mean that we can expect to see many outbreaks in the spring. The best cure for Bloat is to be prepared. Strip Grazing is recommended as this ensures that the animal is getting a good fibre intake that helps in rumination.

It is possible for feed manufacturers to add Bloat Retardants to prepared feed at a cost of between 15-20 cents per head per day. I believe that this is not the best means to control Bloat as not all animals in the herd will eat the supplement, consequently, not all animals are protected. In my mind, Strip Grazing combined with spraying the pasture is the most effective means of Bloat control.

If it is not possible to spray the pasture, then, depending on the severity of the Bloat problem, you can either drench each animal daily or, if the risk is low, then placing Bloat Retardant on the flanks of each animal will give you a measure of protection.

Regardless of the severity of the Bloat problem or the type of control used, the best system to avoid deaths and/or problems is to regularly monitor the animals, especially immediately the animal goes out to graze in the morning.

I know of one incident last year in Victoria where one farmer lost forty cows in one day. I hope that we do not see any major incidence of Bloat this year, but it costs little to be prepared.

ROBIN REID - MANAGER, TECHNICAL SERVICES



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MILK PRODUCTION & SALES STATISTICS

	For Month		Change %	12 mths cumulative		Change %
	1982	1983		1982	1983	
MILK PRODUCTION (000 litres) - METROPOLITAN PRODUCING DISTRICT						
Jun	16 953	21 779	+28.5	218 8000	244 113	+11.6
Jul	18 318	23 343	+27.4	220 717	249 138	+12.9
Aug	20 923	25 455	+21.7	223 143	253 670	+13.7
MILK SALES (000 litres) - METROPOLITAN AREA						
Jun	7 735	7 823	+ 1.1	91 357	92 477	+ 1.2
Jul	8 203	7 992	- 2.6	91 648	92 266	+ 0.7
Aug	7 591	7 947	+ 4.7	91 418	92 622	+ 1.3

SLIGHT CHANGE TO PLATE-COUNT FAILURE PROCEDURE

That Fourth Failure Now Means Suspension

Since details were published in the previous issue of this Journal, the Metropolitan Milk Board has made a small change to the wording of the procedure which removes an uncertainty, and makes a large change in the effect of the procedure.

As published, the procedure was that a producer who, during the past 12 months, had on 3 occasions had a loop failure followed immediately by a standard plate count failure, would receive a warning that his licence might be suspended following the next standard plate count failure.

The revised procedure clarifies the fact that, for the Board to act, the "next standard plate count failure" must be within 12 months of the first of the series of 4 paired failures. It reads as follows:

"A producer, who, during the previous 12 months, has, on 4 occasions, had a loop failure followed immediately by a standard plate count failure, will have his Milk Producer's Licence suspended. A warning letter will be sent by the Board to the producer following the third failure".



SUMMER FODDER

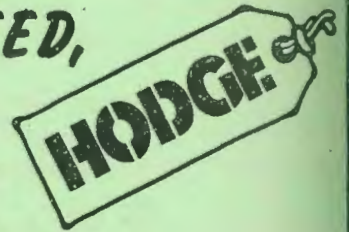
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SPRING SOWN PASTURES & CROPS _____ From Jamie Shephard

For those in very Winter wet areas with or without irrigation, Spring is an ideal time to sow down perennial grasses, lucerne, special irrigation mixtures and summer fodder crops.

A weed free, well consolidated seed bed is essential following good seed bed preparation for all of these herbage seeds - early preparation under dry land conditions allows retention of sub-surface moisture.

PERENNIAL GRASSES suitable for the dairying industry:

NZ Nui perennial ryegrass	Vic perennial ryegrass	U.K. Saborto cocksfoot
NZ Ruanui " "	Prairie grass (biennial)	Currie cocksfoot
Grimalda " "	Demeter tall fescue	Porto cocksfoot
NZ Italian ryegrass (biennial)	Epic tall fescue	

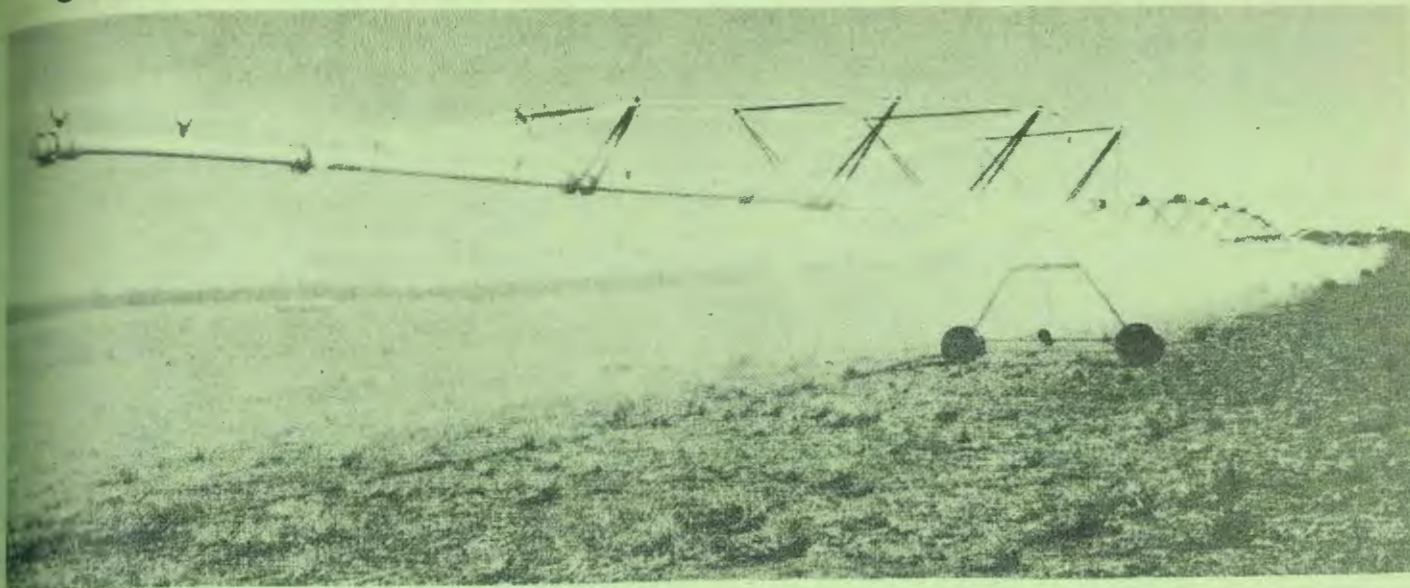
PERENNIAL CLOVERS that may be sown in irrigation mixtures:

NZ Huia white clover	Maral shaftal clover	NZ Turoa red clover
Haifa white clover	Palestine strawberry clover	

Combinations of these varieties can be used or pre-packed irrigation mixtures sown. Sowing rates can vary with climatic and soil conditions - dry land - 10 to 16 Kg per hectare; irrigation - 20 to 25 Kg per hectare.

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IDENTIFYING THE CAUSE OF HIGH BACTERIAL COUNTS - A SAGRIC VIEW

The quality of milk in South Australia is measured by the total plate count (standard plate count) test for bacteria which is carried out by dairy companies. Milk which has a total plate count of 50 000 bacteria or less per millilitre meets the standards for city milk in the metropolitan milk production area and for choice grade milk in the rest of the State.

This test for bacteria should not be confused with the cell count test carried out by the Northfield Dairy Research Centre. The monthly cell count is used to monitor mastitis levels in dairy herds. Cell count results are recorded on a yellow slip and sent from the Department of Agriculture to the dairy companies, who forward them to the farmer.

A number of cases of high total plate counts have been experienced where the cause of the problem was difficult to find. Researchers at Northfield have been developing a project to identify those bacteria responsible for causing high total plate counts on some farms. Identifying the main types of bacteria present in milk with a high total plate count helps in locating where they are coming from on the farm.

The total plate count test at the dairy factory estimates how many bacteria are present in milk. Individual bacteria with different properties are then identified at Northfield. Bacterial types can be associated with the milking machine, bulk milk vat, operators, cows, air, soil or water.

To produce milk with a low total plate count, cows must have clean and healthy udders and teats. Equipment must be adequately cleaned and disinfected and the milk cooled to 5 degrees C or less.

Testing for different types of bacteria at Northfield is allowing likely sources of contamination in the dairy to be pin-pointed. The identification of the bacteria will help to solve both high plate count and high cell count problems.

When the project is completed, the technique can be used by dairy companies to assist dairy farmers with high total plate count problems.

The following major types of bacteria can be identified and then related to specific problem areas in the dairy.

BACTERIA IDENTIFIED	POSSIBLE SOURCE	FARMER ACTION
pseudomonas coliforms	water supply	check water quality and treat if necessary.
bacillus coliforms	milking machine cleaning & sanitation procedures - milkstone - rubberware	check cleaning procedure check hot water supply. replace deteriorated rubberware.
bacillus staphylococci streptococci coliforms	cow - dirty udder - mastitis operator - dirty hands - sores	clean udders. treat mastitis. ensure operator's hands are clean, and sores covered.
pseudomonas corynebacteria	soil, dust, flies, feed dust	minimise dust & fly contamination of milk in the milk room.
psychrotrophs e.g. pseudomonas	bulk milk tanks	ensure refrigeration unit cools milk & holds at 5°C or less; clean bulk tank correctly.

S.J. RICE - SENIOR DAIRY ADVISER, ADELAIDE, and
C.G. BECK - DAIRY TECHNICAL OFFICER, NORTHFIELD.

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UPDATE ON PERSONAL SUPERANNUATION

As there were no direct Budget references to the taxation of superannuation funds, it must be assumed, for the present at least, that the Treasurer's press release of 7 August still conveys the Government's intentions on this subject, which is summarised as follows:

- the proposed legislation will take effect on from 30 June 1983.
- the \$1 200 deduction from taxable income will continue to apply, as will the present maximum allowance construction. i.e. age 55 and over \$4 800 per annum; age 40 and 54 \$3 400 per annum; age under 40 \$2 100.
- lump sum benefits arising from membership prior to 30 June '83 will continue to be taxed at the old basis, i.e. 95% will be tax free.
- lump sum benefits from membership after 30th June '83 until retirement will be taxed on the new basis, i.e. 15% on the first \$50 000 and 30% on the remainder, EXCEPT THAT any lump sum benefit from membership after 30 June '83 will be exempt from tax if converted to an annuity within a specified time, normally 90 days, but, until the legislative changes are made, at least six months. (The annuity payments will be taxable as income).
- after 30 June '83 any member contributing more than the tax deductible \$1 200 (up to the allowable maximum) will, on retirement, be eligible to receive the total amount of contributions in excess of \$1 200 per annum as a tax-free lump sum.

Importantly, the situation regarding death benefits has now been clarified, and death benefits will not be taxable in the hands of the recipient. On the other hand, disability benefits will be taxable, the tax being calculated on a sliding scale related to the number of years remaining to normal retirement age at the time of disability.

FOR CLARIFICATION OF ANY OF THE MATTERS ABOVE OR FOR REASSURANCE THAT

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The proclamation of the new Planning Act late last year saw the old Planning Authority replaced by a Planning Commission with a full-time Chairman and 2 part-time Commissioners. The Commission will be advised by the Advisory Committee on planning, with members drawn from a wide spectrum of the community. The Primary Producers Committee is an advisory body to that Committee, members being drawn from many rural organisations.

The now defunct SPA had overseen the Supplementary Development Plans for most rural councils in our area. The previous Primary Producers Committee had input into many of these Development Plans, and it is of concern that some councils, now given the power under the new Act, to develop their own rural plans, are openly flouting land subdivision and building regulations which they so recently approved. If we are to protect our areas from indiscriminate subdivision and poorly sited buildings degrading these areas, rural councillors must be made aware of their responsibilities.

Intensive animal keeping has been widely discussed, and a set of guide lines issued to local councils.

Land clearing has generated much controversy recently. The Heritage Agreement and Vegetation Retention Schemes have been used by many landowners, aware of the need to retain some native vegetation, to finance fencing and to reduce rates for those areas, and over 170 applications, comprising more than 15 000ha, have been approved under the Heritage Agreement.

On 12 May 1983 the Minister of Environment gazetted regulations to prohibit the clearing of native vegetation, except in certain circumstances. The regulations have received much publicity, often with an emotional content, but, in most cases, they will impose few restrictions on dairy farmers, as they are not intended to obstruct the normal operation of a primary producer engaged in the sensible husbandry of the land he occupies.

The regulations can work, if interpreted with commonsense; the clearing of larger areas means permission from the Department of Environment, with application first being made to the local council. The Minister has expressed his willingness to consider changes should this need be made.



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DAIRY RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Report presented to Central Council Annual Meeting by Allan Manning.

The creation of this Committee was a welcome step towards directly involving the dairy farming and dairy manufacturing sectors in research planning. The Committee's two aims are, FIRST, to identify the dairy industry's research needs, and to recommend priorities in the developing of research programs (whilst taking account of the research being done, or already done, in other centres in Australia, or overseas), and to quantify the likely commercial benefits; SECOND, to determine the extent to which SAGRIC is meeting these research needs and extending the results and recommendations of the research findings on to the dairy industry.

The purpose of the Committee's final meeting for the 1982-83 year was the ranking of the identified research needs of the dairy manufacturing sector in this State, with special reference to the resources at Northfield.

The priorities determined by the Committee included:

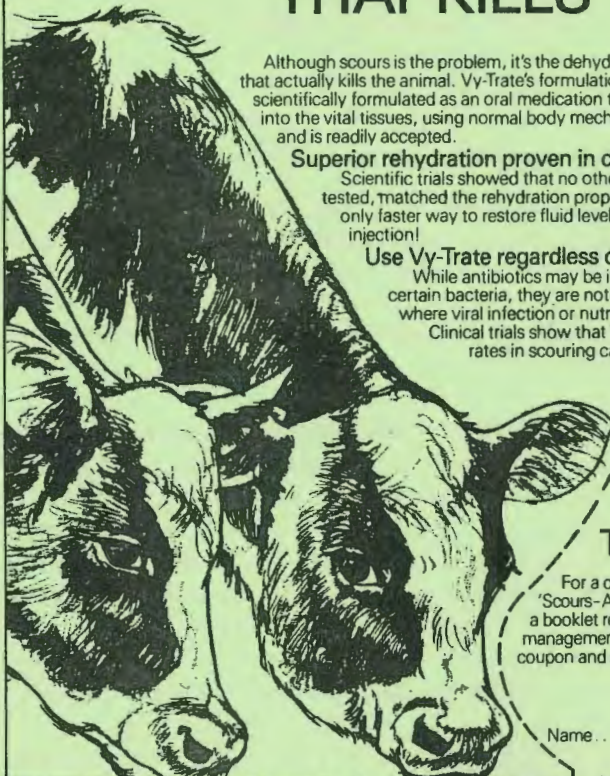
- increasing cheese yield by improving the cheesemaking properties of milk, a project that is linked with current research into the breeding and selecting of bulls with genes for protein types favorable for cheesemaking. Research into this genetic variance, which has been conducted for several years, is now drawing to a conclusion, and, as in all research, the time is now approaching when the results must be subjected to the test of practical application;
- predicting the shelf life of products, and improving quality control by developing rapid chemical and microbiological tests;
- improving the "stand-up" properties of whipped cream.

A further research project, not even a high priority at this stage, was the quality of cheese made from recombined milk, a practice that may have some implication in maintaining a continuous supply of "young cheese, but which, at present, appears to be expensive, as well as producing cheese of unsatisfactory quality. (From the producers' point of view the economic merit of this practice could be measured against the cost of a higher autumn calving interval).

The first meeting in the coming year will establish priorities in the areas of milk production and farm management.

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 While antibiotics may be indicated in scours caused by certain bacteria, they are not likely to be effective in cases where viral infection or nutritional problems exist. Clinical trials show that Vy-Trate can reduce mortality rates in scouring calves by up to 70% without the need for antibiotics.

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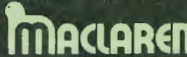
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ANIMAL INDUSTRY DIVISION RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Report presented to the Central Council Annual Meeting by Allan Manning.

The prime purpose for the Association's involvement in this Committee is to bridge the gap between research and the practical dairyfarmer, an involvement which begins with ensuring that research project pre-schedules are structured as closely as possible to the conditions that would apply in a commercial situation, and then ensures that the results of the research are made available to dairyfarmers in a manner which can be clearly understood, and with all contingencies and special conditions clearly outlined.

The main project to which the Northfield Research Farm is committed this year is the Dairy Heifer Growth and Mammary Gland Development experiment which will examine the effects of nutrition on the growth and development of the mammary glands of friesan heifers, by identifying those periods of growth during which nutrition may permanently affect the lactational performance of heifers during the critical periods of growth.

Early records indicate that heifers fed at the lower rate of nutrition are, in fact, producing more per day in early lactation than those fed at the higher rate, although, as might be expected, the experiment appears to highlight the genetic potential of some heifers to out-produce their herd mates.

From a quite astonishingly large number of research projects that have either been initiated recently, or have continued for some time, the following are of particular interest or significance. Further trials in the use of the Fluorescent Microscope for bacteria count; the affect of somatic cell levels on the quality of dairy products; the productivity of late flowering forage sorghum hybrids; a comparison between whole and rolled lupins in dairy rations; heat detection in dairy cows; improving the efficiency of fodder conservation systems; bacterial group identification to predict specific causes of high bacterial count; further investigation into dairy cow nutrition; and ration formulation.

BRUCELLOSIS AND TUBERCULOSIS INDUSTRY LIAISON COMMITTEE

Report presented to the Central Council Annual Meeting by Allan Manning.

Despite problems in eradicating both diseases in the Pastoral North, enormous progress has been achieved with many properties concluding their clean-up with a shoot-out. Two properties have, until now, failed to co-operate, but following extremely good rains in the past two months, both property owners have now given oral agreements, which will shortly be confirmed in writing to totally destock by the end of September 1983. The Department will ensure that the commitment is fulfilled by December 1983.

With the cessation of vaccination with Strain 19, we, as herdsmen, have an increased responsibility to protect our herds from infection. We must enquire from the Department of Agriculture the history and status of any herd from which we might consider purchasing, leasing or agisting animals.

Our unvaccinated herds will, in the future, be more vulnerable to any leak of infection, hence the method of control will be immediate partial or complete destocking. A dairy farm without a herd naturally has no income. For this reason we must look closely at the financial stress afflicted on the destocked farm, keeping in mind that the stock were removed for the sake of protecting the herds on adjoining properties, and ultimately in the whole of the State and the Commonwealth.

I believe the Association members should, at this time of high cattle prices, make a formal request to the Minister for Agriculture for an increase in the level of compensation per head of cattle slaughtered. The current maximum compensation level is \$400 per head, based on market value.

At present there are 113 herds under quarantine for brucellosis in this State, 18 of which are dairy herds. For tuberculosis 78 herds are quarantined, 3 being dairy herds.

We must continue striving to achieve provisional freedom by 1984, i.e. brucellosis less than 0.2 per cent, and tuberculosis less than 0.1 per cent.

SAVE THE MURRAY CAMPAIGN

Report presented to the Central Council Annual Meeting by Graham Camac.

Following the decision of the "Save The Murray Campaign" Council's decision, of 13 May 1983, to place the "Campaign" into recess, and to review its future prospects at the end of the year, the Association must now determine two issues, first, an evaluation of its involvement with the SMC, and second, continuing involvement in matters protecting the River Murray, and whether this involvement should be passive or dynamic.

The aims of the SMC were far reaching and ambitious, and although its aims were not achieved, because the necessary funds were not available, the SMC did provide a single, direct, representative voice for the variety of water-user groups in this State, a role which the Murray Valley League was then unwilling and unable to adopt.

The problems of the River, and those associated with the River, have been exacerbated by the parochialism and self interest that exists in the various water-user, environmental, conservationist, and recreation groups who share an interest in the Murray, but there is now a growing awareness, in the total community, of this State's unique dependence on the River for domestic and industrial use, contrasted with its use mainly for irrigation in other States.

SA's River Murray water allocation is static for the foreseeable future, whilst domestic and industrial demand is growing. Future decisions affecting water quality and resource allocation will possibly disadvantage a passive irrigation industry, and it is vital that our views be developed and represented. I am satisfied that the Murray Valley League now has aims and strategies that will enable it, eventually, to fulfil the role which the SMC sought to play, as well as its own wider role.

RIVER MURRAY MATTERS

Report presented to the Central Council Annual Meeting by Ken Turvey

In the year just past, the River Murray played a big part in maintaining dairy production during one of the driest seasons on record, with a result that the water in the lower Murray and Lakes was kept at a level which was satisfactory for all but a few irrigators.

The most important happening during the year was the change in policy regarding water allotment transfers, as a result of which an irrigator can sell all or part of his allotment to any other person occupying land suitable for irrigation along the River Murray, subject to the condition that transfers shall not be permitted from land above Wellington to land below that point, or from land abutting Lake Alexandrina to land abutting Lake Albert, which appears to discriminate irrigators around the Lakes.

Whilst still in the first month of winter, the Lakes are back to normal pool level, and on 14 May the level at Goolwa was .71m, whilst the level at Blanchtown was .55m, which implies that the river is flowing upstream, and the Lakes are acting as a supply reservoir. It is hoped that this additional proof of the short supply of water in the Lakes will encourage a review of the policy which prevents transfer of allotments to the Lakes from the river above Wellington. Irrigators should keep a close watch on the effects of the policy, and protest if a large quantity of water is transferred from agriculture to hobby farms along the river.

Although water was of a better quality last year than in the previous drought year of 1967, salinity conditions are of concern, with 1100 ECU at Morgan in March, compared to 900 ECU in March 1968. The Noora evaporative basin came into operation in October and should reduce salt inflow into the river.

The problem of salinity in Lake Albert has not been solved, and the construction of a channel from the Lake to the Coorong still seems to be the best option. Because of the recent flooding of the Darling, SA irrigators seem assured of an adequate supply of good quality water during the coming season.

ARTIFICIAL BREEDING BOARD

Report presented to the Central Council Annual Meeting by Board Member Michael Diener

The Board has not met during the year, and, as the regulations requiring registration with the Department of Agriculture of all semen for sale in SA appear to have been set aside, there is, at present, little for the Board to do.

The South
Australian
Dairymen's...

IN THIS ISSUE

IAC Up-date
Frank Blevins Defends SA Dairyfarmers
Early Pregnancy Diagnosis
Liability for Straying Stock
On-Farm Training For Young Dairyfarmers

JOURNAL

IMPORTED CHEESE - SANITY AT LAST!

And A Very Sensible Arrangement

The Australian dairy industry has, for many years, been seeking from successive Federal Governments protection against the growing volume of European cheese, most of it sold at subsidised ("dumped") prices.

Progress during the past 20 years has been practically nil until recently, when protection was obtained through the imposition of countervailing duties, and a requirement for substantial cash deposits on some varieties of cheese, particularly blue vein. The closing of Downs Co-Op.'s "Unity" brand blue-vein cheese operation in Queensland was a major factor in gaining acceptance of the industry's case.

The intention was then to take a step-by-step approach until most cheese types were similarly protected, but negotiations between the Australian Government and the EC have now brought a far more comprehensive, and more satisfactory arrangement, which avoids the long delay, and the cost to the dairy industry, that would be required by step-by-step applications for countervailing duties.

The arrangements involve the European Community reducing the export subsidy on a wide range of cheeses **INCLUDING CHEDDAR AND CHEDDAR-TYPE CHEESES**, which for some time have been a very real threat to Australian cheddar cheeses, as imports, by supermarket chains and others, from the United Kingdom have undercut local prices by up to \$300 per tonne.

The Chairman of the Australian Dairy Industry Conference, Mr. John Bennett, expressed his personal satisfaction at the successful negotiation of the Agreement with the EC.

Mr. Bennett praised the efforts of the Australian Government in assisting the Industry to reach this Agreement. "The Departments of Primary Industry, Trade and Resources, and the Bureau of Customs collectively worked very hard to secure the best possible deal for the Australian dairy industry," Mr. Bennett said.



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THE GENERAL PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Greetings,

The recent flurry of activity throughout the dairy industry to prepare submissions to the Industries Assistance Commission (IAC), and to respond to the Commission's draft report has concluded, at least for the time, and we now await the impact of the final report which is expected to be released later this year. Whether it will be in time for consideration by the Australian Agricultural Council, at its meeting in early February, is not, at this stage, predictable, but unless the evidence given to the IAC at its final hearing has been able to change the Commissioners' minds, we can only hope that it is rejected by the Council in its entirety.

Nevertheless, the inquiry has caused the industry to examine where it stands at present, and where it is, or should be heading.

The policy of this Association has always supported minimum governmental intervention, consistent with the need for protection against imported dairy products from highly subsidised industries overseas, and the orderly marketing of our own output, a combination that has frequently imposed restraints on the prices that we can charge on our domestic market.

International Dairy Federation statistics (shown elsewhere in this Journal) clearly demonstrate that consumers in Australia pay less for dairy products than do consumers in the dairying countries in the northern hemisphere, which is the source of our problems.

Unfortunately, attempts by individual units within the various sectors of the industry to pursue their own advantage during the earlier stages of the inquiry gave the IAC the opportunity to produce a draft report that brought no benefit to any group, and it was obvious, towards the close of the inquiry, that much rethinking was being done in the hope that the industry could meet on common ground.

The counter-proposals put forward by the United Dairyfarmers of Victoria, which had originally substantially supported the "freeing-up" of the industry advocated by the IAC, though they obviously need refining, have enough merit to warrant further consideration by the State organisations of the Australian Dairy Farmers Federation.

The UDV proposal for the control and pricing of market milk traded interstate will be supported by the other State organisations, provided they are satisfied that freight costs will not be taken out of the dairyfarmers' returns. There is likely to be less support for the proposal for exports to be subsidised by a levy on all milk, without some mechanism to confine the subsidy only to the total volume of exports considered necessary to maintain a "safety margin" against a seasonal shortfall below home market needs.

It was to overcome that objection that the Victorians included an entitlement scheme in their proposal; their previous policy on production control has been not unlike that of South Australia's, but the freedom to produce unlimited quantities of milk can no longer be taken for granted. No industry, if it is to avoid bankruptcy, can produce without due consideration for market capacity.

There is no doubt that restricting entry into the industry, as has been done in this State, is far more acceptable to dairyfarmers, and, whilst requiring far less administration, avoids the complexities and iniquities of an entitlement scheme.

John Bennett, President of the Australian Dairy Farmers Federation, has, since August 1982, warned of the dangers of increasing production, claiming that wide-spread adoption of available technology could bring about a 20 per cent lift in milk output within a very short time. (By contrast, across the Tasman, a task force established in Taranaki is seeking to raise dairy output by 10 million kilograms of milkfat during the next 5 years).

If it could be shown, without doubt, that increased spending on promotion guarantees profitable sales we would, no doubt, agree to double promotional expenditure, but we must first carefully monitor the results of the recent steep increase in the promotional levy. You will have already seen the first of the new cheese advertisements featuring Peter Russell-Clarke; perhaps we can hope that the success of this campaign will equal (or better) the now famous "mechanical cow" commercial.

And, talking about promotion, reports are already being received of public recognition of the "LIVE ON MILK" campaign, the television commercials of which are already being supported by billboards, bus signs and bumper-stickers. Now the move is into personal promotion, as you will see from the enclosed "GET ON MILK" brochure and order form. Perhaps you could help to spread the personal message by considering some of the items offered as Christmas gifts for your friends and relatives in the city, though you will need to order quickly to be sure of delivery in time (delivery may take 28 days). Obviously these promotion aids are of most value in those areas where our processed milk is sold.

Sincerely yours,
AUB KRETSCHMER



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Brian Rainey at Murray Bridge, telephone (085) 32 3093

Jim Paton at Nuriootpa, telephone (085) 62 1752

Ari Mulders at Moonta, telephone (088) 25 2806

MILK PRODUCTION & SALES STATISTICS

	For Month		Change	12 mths cumulative		Change
	1982	1983	%	1982	1983	%

MILK PRODUCTION - METROPOLITAN PRODUCING DISTRICT

Sep (000 litres)	23 791	27 324	+14.9	225 162	257 203	+14.2
(000 kg bf)	986	1 190	+20.6	9 545	11 135	+16.7

MILK SALES - METROPOLITAN AREA

Sep (000 litres)	7 538	7 645	+ 1.4	91 758	92 769	+ 1.1
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THE IAC'S RECIPE FOR DISASTER

And The UDV Turn-Around

As explained in the previous issue of this Journal and at the Regional Meetings at Hindmarsh Valley, Mount Barker and Murray Bridge, the Industries Assistance Commission, in its draft report of its inquiry into the dairy industry, claimed, first, that the present marketing arrangements for manufactured dairy products failed to allow "market signals" to reach either dairyfarmers or dairy companies, and, second, that consumers were being charged 6 cents per litre (totalling \$90 million per year), too much for market milk.

When criticising the present marketing ("stabilisation") scheme, the IAC stated that it had existed only for 6 years, having been introduced in 1977 in accordance with the recommendations of the previous (1976) IAC inquiry. In fact the present scheme is a direct continuation of earlier schemes that have existed, in an unbroken succession, since 1926, the essential principle of each being the protection of the domestic price for dairy products against price cutting.

The IAC proposed the abolition of the stabilisation scheme, which protects the domestic prices of "leviable" products (butter, butter-oil, cheddar and edam cheese, skim-milk and whole-milk powder, and casein) against price cutting by a compulsory levy system, with a scheme that imposed a uniform levy on all milk, including market milk, and the payment of a subsidy on exports at a flat percentage of the FOB value of each exported product (in fact, of each exported consignment).

It is generally believed within the industry that the IAC's proposal would cause a collapse of domestic prices down to the level of the lowest export price plus the export subsidy (which the IAC proposed should be 18 per cent).

In the case of market milk, the IAC expressed the opinion that retail prices should be set by competition, by encouraging interstate trade, although it is obvious that the volume of interstate trade would be greatest during (or perhaps even confined to) the Spring flush, and the price similarly set by the marginal value of surplus milk at that time.

Both recommendations of the IAC are potentially disastrous to the dairy industry in each State, and the United Dairyfarmers of Victoria have made two counter proposals, the first of which, concerning market milk, is that interstate trade in market milk should be administered by the respective State dairy authorities or milk boards, observing the gazetted farm gate price in the State of origin and the gazetted retail price in the State of sale.

The second proposal, concerning milk for manufacture, is for a levy on all milk of 2 cents per litre, to be paid as a uniform subsidy on all exports, and a nationally negotiable "entitlement" ("two-price quota") scheme based on average production during the past 3 years.

The essential weakness in the Victorian proposals is that the first, concerning market milk, is intended to preserve the very features of the market milk industry that the IAC criticises, namely unduly high, artificially maintained prices, and excessive legislative intervention by State statutory authorities.

The second proposal, again, is intended to magnify, in a politically and internationally dangerous manner, the level of "assistance" (i.e. the difference between recognised domestic prices and the returns received from exports) which is the target of the IAC's attack on the present stabilisation scheme.

Representatives of every unit of the South Australian dairy industry, including producer, processor and vendor organisations, dairy companies, and statutory and other instrumentalities, have made a joint submission to the Minister of Agriculture (the Honorable Frank Blevins MLC) asking that the IAC's proposals be rejected by the Australian Agricultural Council, of which the Minister is a member.

The Minister has, again, emphasised his view that the IAC's proposals are "only one opinion", and his belief, as an avowed protectionist, that the yardstick for commodity prices in Australia should not be set by the "dumped" surplus of subsidised industries in the Northern Hemisphere.

FRANK BLEVINS DEFENDS THE DAIRY INDUSTRY

"IAC Report Is Only One Side Of The Question"

"It is not just the farmers who are worried about the publicity over the IAC's Report; consumer groups too, are agonising over it.

I've already made the statement that the Report is only somebody's opinion; it may be a well-informed opinion, but it is only one opinion and I am sure there are other opinions around.

I have no pre-conceived ideas on the dairy industry at all, but I'm not just going to listen to one side of the question, which, as far as I am concerned, is what the IAC Report is.

Until I've heard from the industry, and the Department, who have done some work on this also, I certainly won't be committing our Government to any particular response.

The IAC Report made quite flattering comments about South Australia's dairy industry. It said we were a model, an example of what the industry could be throughout Australia. In SA we have the second lowest priced milk (since 1 October, the lowest priced - Ed.) delivered to the consumer in Australia, and while it is held up by the IAC as a model for the other States of Australia as a whole, I am inclined to suggest that the problems are in NSW and Queensland, particularly, and that attention should be directed to those States.

I am not prepared to support any move which puts another rural industry in difficulty; we already have enough sections of rural industry in difficulty at present, I don't think dairyfarmers in this State are becoming millionaires, we are not having the problems with them that we are having in some other areas, given that we have the second lowest priced milk in Australia.

As far as the dairy industry in South Australia is concerned, I haven't been convinced, to date, that we have a major problem. I don't want any more of the lame-duck industries that come through my door daily so, when we talk about regulation, and protection, and the consumer paying too much for milk, I doubt if that's the case; I'm not convinced that is the case, but if it is the case that they are paying to have a stable industry, then it seems to me that the degree of protection involved in the transfer from the consumer to the producer is not so very great when you consider the enormous transfer from rural industry to manufacturing industry because of the tariff barriers that we have.

I support that - I'm a high protectionist - I don't run away from that, but there is a quid pro quo; if people engaged in secondary industry want tariff barriers at a cost to rural industry, then I'm not too upset if there is a slight transfer in some areas, in the interests of stability."

(Answer given to a question at a recent meeting of the Rural Media Group).

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THE CENTRAL COUNCIL LOOKS AT

The IAC Report, A.B. Regulations, Milk Transport, And Milk Quality Problems

THE IAC REPORT - Central Council delegates had the advantage of hearing Mr. Clay Manners, the Executive Director of the Australian Dairy Farmers' Federation, explain some of the problems that would follow the adoption of the IAC's proposal for the funding of an export subsidy of 18 per cent FOB by a levy on all milk, of 0.8 cent per litre.

Mr. Manners said that the IAC's proposals would have the effect of lowering the domestic market price of any dairy product to a level just 18 per cent above the lowest returning export market, serviced by the weakest seller.

Mr. Manners also disputed the IAC's claim about the ability of Victoria to supply market milk to other States throughout the year. He said that although Victoria had 50 per cent surplus milk during winter, much of this was of unsatisfactory quality, as well as presenting freight problems, as the supplies were scattered throughout dairying regions in relatively small quantities, much of which was needed, anyway, for short shelf life products. The danger was that it needed only a token delivery, at any time of the year, to collapse the market milk system in any State to which it was dispatched.

Delegates strongly attacked the IAC's claim that any difference between domestic prices for dairy products and the returns received for exports were to be regarded as "assistance", and considered that the only fair basis for pricing was one related to economic and social costs in the Australian environment.

ARTIFICIAL BREEDING REGULATIONS - Delegates opposed restrictions limiting to four the number of participants in the syndicated collection of semen from a single bull, and the qualifying time of three months before collection could take place, and proposed that the number of participants in a syndicate should be a maximum of 10, and that the qualifying time should be shortened to one month.

It was agreed, in support of the motion, that joint purchasers of a high-priced bull would wish to see an early return on their investment.

MILK TRANSPORT COSTS - Delegates discussed the problem of freight costs that were being incurred by companies having to pick up milk twice daily from farms with inadequate vats.

It was generally agreed that milk transport costs should be kept to a minimum but it was also accepted that it would be unreasonable to insist that a dairyfarmer buy a larger vat, or an additional vat merely because, for a short period in the flush, twice-a-day pick-up was necessary, particularly having regard to the very high price, and scarcity, of large vats.

Reference was also made to the fact that the actual cost per litre of picking up milk twice a day from a large supplier was probably less than the cost per litre of picking up milk from a small supplier daily, or even skip-a-day.

It was eventually agreed that the Association should support a policy of charging a supplier the additional cost of picking up milk more than once daily, but that action to implement that policy should be deferred until a full review had been undertaken.

MILK QUALITY PROBLEMS - The Council supported a motion from the Spring Valley District that financial loss suffered by a supplier through down-grading of his milk due to poor bacterial quality be made good by the dairy company concerned if it was shown that the failure to achieve quality standard was caused by the negligence of the tanker driver in the method of carrying the milk sample from the farm to the factory.

INTENSIVE ANIMAL KEEPING - It was reported that the alleged prohibition of intensive animal keeping in the Victor Harbor Development Plan did not exist other than in respect to establishing, or increasing stock numbers in, an intensive animal keeping operation in a watershed zone under the control of the E & W S Department.

TRACTOR SAFETY FRAMES - The General Secretary announced that very little response had been received from members concerning the setting-up of a roster for fitting approved roll-over frames to older tractors, although some interest had been shown in the universal frame.

PROTECTING YOUR STOCK, AND YOURSELF, ON ROADS

Warning Signs Are Now Approved - They May Become Compulsory

The protection so far given (and for how much longer?) to livestock owners, by the Searle versus Wallbank rule, from liability for loss or damage caused by STRAYING livestock does not extend to cases where livestock are under the "control" of a person, when being moved onto, across, or along a road (and even being moved off a road, thereby imposing a liability, which did not exist whilst the animals were only straying, before being driven off the road).

But liability in the case of livestock intentionally being moved across or along a road is not absolute; the car driver who comes over a rise at 110 kph and collides with a herd of cattle may be guilty of contributory negligence, depending, of course, on the facts of the case.

And the presence 10 km down the road, of a standard "Stock Crossing" sign may not be enough to establish contributory negligence. We all know of dozens of roads where "Stock Crossing" signs are installed, yet, where in 9 cases out of 10, no livestock are ever seen by the occasional traveller.

The Highways Department and District Councils have now approved the use of portable "STOCK ON ROAD" signs, intended to inform other road users that livestock are actually on the road in the vicinity of the signs, (and not, like the permanent "Stock Crossing" signs, that there is a chance that stock may be crossing, at some time of the day, at an unspecified distance down the road).

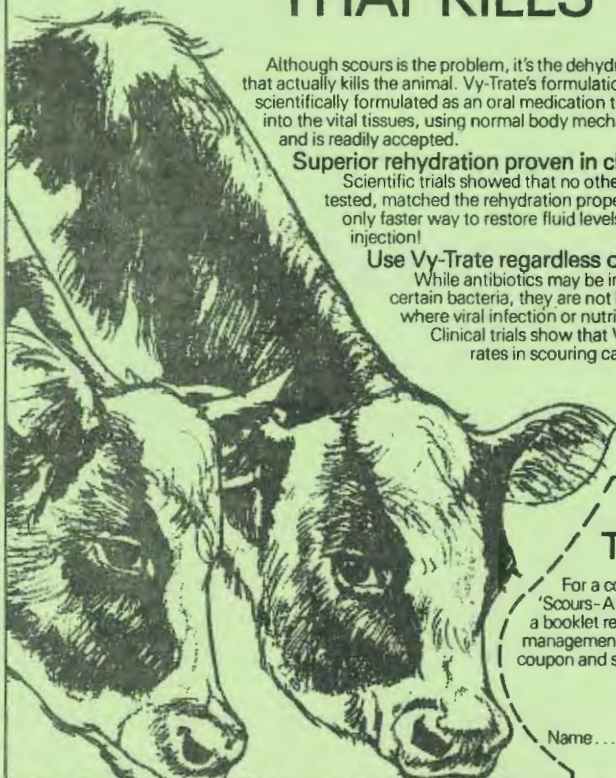
The signs, which must conform to a design approved by the Highways Department, should be placed on the shoulder of the road in a position where they can be visible to an approaching vehicle driver for a minimum distance of 120 metres in advance of the crossing area. If stock are being moved along a road, the signs should be shifted from time to time so that they are never more than 5 km from the stock.

Although the signs offer no legal protection, it almost goes without saying that responsibility in the case of an accident involving a motor vehicle and a herd of cattle would be more readily assessed if it could be shown that "Stock On Road" signs were in use than if they had not been used.

The Association has obtained a number of quotations for the supply of these signs, of the approved (easel-type) design, the best price being just under \$60 per pair, in baked enamel finish, though the price comes down to around \$40 per pair for quantities. Members interested in purchasing "Stock On Road" signs should contact this office. Telephone (08) 51 30 34.

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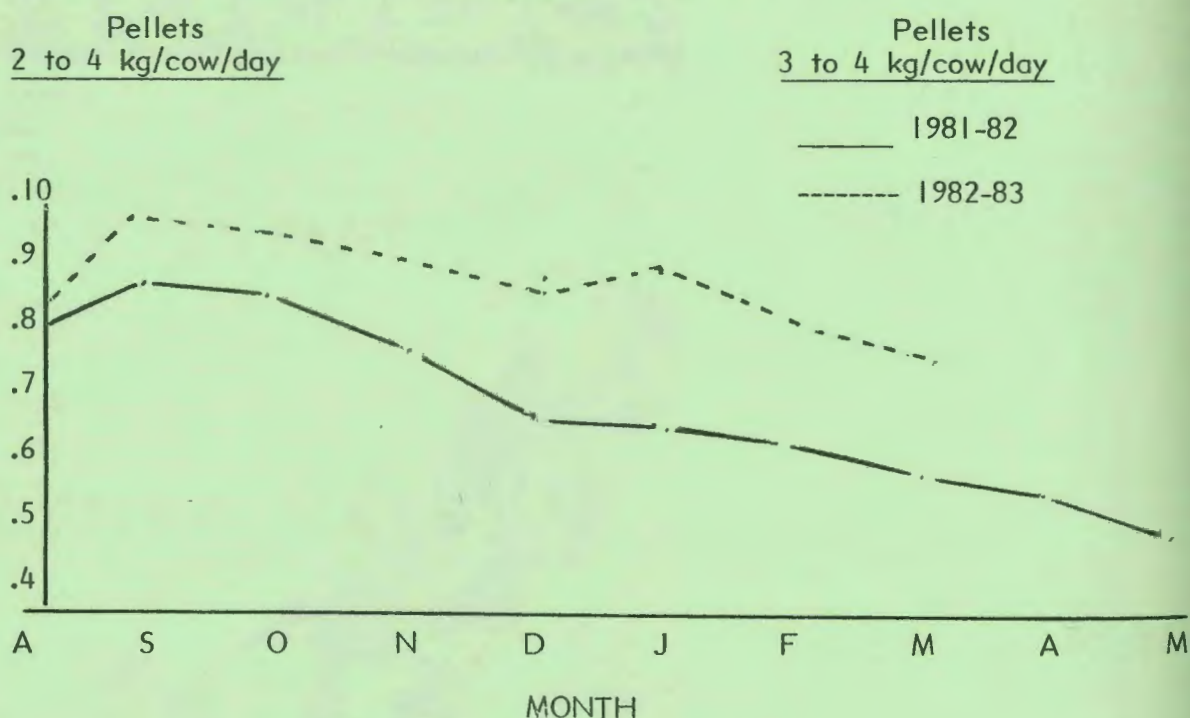
In this issue I would like to summarise a report, presented, at a recent seminar in northern Victoria, by David Earle, Assistant Principal Officer of Dairy Industry Services with the Victorian Department of Agriculture. The report, entitled "Case Study of Supplementary Feeding" related to the project "Operation Milk Yield", now being conducted in Victoria to assess the role of grain-based supplements on commercial dairyfarms.

The farms involved in the project had already achieved high butterfat production levels from pastures alone, and during the three years duration of the project, concentrates will be strategically fed to the herds to measure effect on total farm production, management and profitability.

David Earle presented the following details of one of the farms in the project:
 1981-82: 27 hectares of permanent pasture plus 9 hectares of annual pasture. A total of 17 480 kilograms of butterfat produced from 95 cows (184 kg/cow). Calving started on 21 July, 500 bales were fed in spring, plus 1 000 bales in autumn.

1982-83: Production to 20 March was 17 541 kilograms of butterfat from 92 cows. Total production for the season is predicted to reach 21 000 kilograms (228 kg/cow) despite the low allocation of irrigation water which reduced the pasture area to 20 hectares.

Figure 1 : Average daily butterfat production per cow on case study farm during 1981-82 (no concentrates) and 1982-83 (with concentrates).



Estimated Return from Concentrate Feeding

(I) EXTRA INCOME AND DECREASED COSTS:

Extra butterfat produced = 3 500 kg @ \$4.00 per kg	14,000
Hay savings 1 000 bales @ \$3.00	3,000
Value of extra cow condition (1/2 score) at drying off	<u>2,000</u>
TOTAL:	\$19,000

(2)	EXTRA COSTS:	
	Concentrates 70 tonnes @ \$200	14,000
	Depreciation of feeding systems (\$4 000 x 10%)	400
	Interest on cost of feeding system (\$4 000 @ 12%)	<u>480</u>
	TOTAL:	\$14,880
	Extra Profit:	\$4 120

The preliminary assessment above suggests that concentrate feeding on this farm is profitable; however, the direct production response is only a breakeven proposition when butterfat returns \$4.00 per kilogram and pellets cost \$200 per tonne.

The points that are worth considering from the report are that:

1. the farm required less hay;
2. the irrigated area was decreased by approximately 25 per cent due to the drought;
3. the animals were in better condition at drying off;
4. at \$4.00 per kilogram for butterfat a return of 27 per cent was achieved; with South Australian prices this return should be higher;
5. in an average year the above farm would be able to run more cows and therefore reduce fixed overheads.

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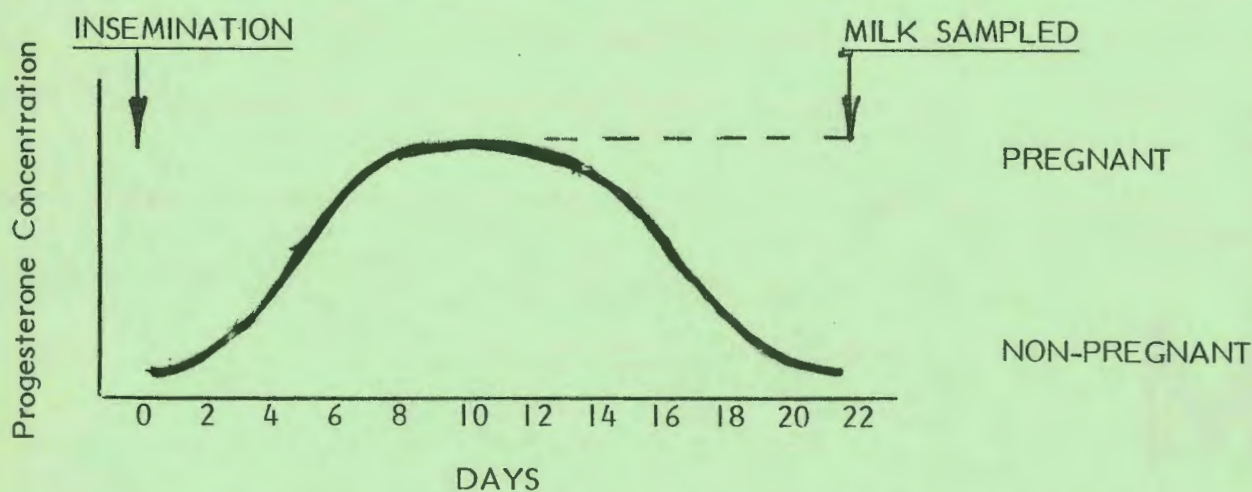
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E.P.D. (Early Pregnancy Diagnosis) is used to determine the reproductive state of cows 22 days after insemination. It is used extensively in Europe, the UK and America, where it has been found to be a highly accurate system for pregnancy diagnosis. HAWKESBURY DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES is now offering this system to dairyfarmers in Australia.

The usual method for detecting non-pregnant cows, by observing if the cows return to "heat", is inefficient as 30 per cent or more of "heats" may be missed or cows may have silent "heats". The alternative, rectal palpation, provides a more effective method, but seven weeks must elapse after insemination before an accurate diagnosis can be made. Thus, in non-pregnant animals, where signs of "heat" do not occur or are not observed, two opportunities to breed are lost.

HOW IS THE PREGNANCY DIAGNOSED? The EPD system uses the milk progesterone concentration 22 days after insemination (natural or artificial) to diagnose pregnancy. Following ovulation, the concentration of progesterone rises, but if the cow does not then conceive the progesterone concentration decreases before the next ovulation. In the cow that does conceive, the progesterone concentration remains elevated, and it is this difference in progesterone concentration that enables pregnancy to be determined 22 days after insemination.



IS THE SYSTEM ACCURATE? The EPD system has been tested under Australian conditions by Hawkesbury Diagnostic Services and has proved to be an accurate method for determining the reproductive status of cows. Of all cows diagnosed as pregnant, 100 per cent of the determinations were correct. However, it should be understood that normally 4 - 10 per cent of all cows can experience an early abortion, without showing signs of this. Of cows diagnosed as non-pregnant, 90 per cent of the determinations were correct, with a 10 per cent error occurring due to cows having abnormally low progesterone concentrations even though they are pregnant.

WHY USE THE EPD SYSTEM? In Australia, the calving interval is 50-80 days longer than the suggested interval for optimum milk production (365 days or less), due to delays in getting cows into calf. For every cycle (21 days) a cow is not in calf, the dairyfarmer loses milk production (the difference between peak and end lactation yield) and incurs increased costs in dry cow maintenance and replacement of cows calving out of season. The use of EPD can assist in reducing the calving interval and so increase milk production and financial return per cow.

HOW DOES THE SYSTEM WORK? The EPD system involves taking a milk sample on the 22nd day after insemination, the sample then being posted to a central testing laboratory, where the progesterone concentration is determined and a pregnancy diagnosis is made. The results are promptly returned, stating the identification of the animal sampled and the diagnosis made - pregnant or non-pregnant.

HOW MUCH WILL THE EPD SYSTEM COST? The EPD system initially costs \$30 to join. The dairyfarmer then purchases a sample kit (20 samples) at \$150 (\$7.50 per sample), which includes the equipment for sampling and sending the milk samples, diagnosis and the results returned by post. An optional 'phone service' with postal follow-up, is offered for an additional charge.

For further information please contact: HAWKESBURY DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES
P.O. Box 148, North Richmond, N.S.W. 2754 Telephone (045) 72 2632

HAY AND SILAGE MAKING

A Timely Bulletin That Says It All Again

Martin Cochrane and Steve Valetine have produced a bulletin on hay and silage making (Bulletin 3/83 published by the Department of Agriculture, price \$1.50) which, even if it goes over all the ground again, does it comprehensively in a way that continually emphasises the importance of total nutrients rather than total tonnage.

The bulletin provides basic information on stock feed requirements and the place of hay and silage from various crops in meeting those requirements, followed by step-by-step instructions on the making of silage and hay to ensure maximum retention of nutrients.

Additionally the bulletin provides information on the costs of fodder conservation machinery as a guide to those thinking of re-equipping or changing their present program.

At \$1.50 the bulletin is excellent value, even if it only reminds you of some of the things you already knew but may have overlooked, but unfortunately it is too dear to enclose a copy for every member in the Journal.

EARLY PREGNANCY DIAGNOSIS

22 DAYS AFTER A.I. OR MATING

- FROM A MILK OR BLOOD SAMPLE
- USED BY DAIRYMEN WORLDWIDE
- JOIN OUR E.P.D. PROGRAM

NOW! AVAILABLE IN AUSTRALIA

THROUGH

HAWKESBURY DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES

PO BOX 148 Nth RICHMOND 2754

PHONE: (045) 72-2632

NO CHANGE IN AWARD YET

The anticipated changes in the Pastoral (S.A.) Award rates, arising from the 4.3 per cent national wage case increase have not yet been gazetted, and current rates of pay are consequently unchanged.

END-OF-YEAR CALF RUN

Calf pick-up arrangements during the Christmas - New Year period are given below, as the last issue of the Journal for 1983 may not reach all members before Christmas Eve.

THE LAST CALF RUN FOR 1983 will be the normal combined SOUTHERN run on THURSDAY 22 December, but calves will be accepted at the factory door on FRIDAY 23 December.

There will be no pick-up during the week following Christmas day, and the service will resume with the LOWER MURRAY run on TUESDAY 3 January 1984.

There will be NO NORTHERN RUN on Monday 2 January 1984 but calves will be accepted at the factory door on TUESDAY 3 January.

ON-FARM TRAINING FOR YOUNG DAIRYFARMERS

An on-farm training scheme for young dairyfarmers in the Fleurieu Peninsula for early 1984 has already received strong support from intending students and participants, and the extent of interest in the Murraylands Region is currently being assessed.

The on-farm training program concentrates on practical training, and allows trainees to remain on the one farm for most of the two years of the scheme.

Intending trainees should have a good pass at Year 10 or Year 11 level, and preferably have some experience in farm work - normally one full year, but selection of applicants is still very much dependent on overall individual qualifications.

There is no age limit, and participation by both sexes is encouraged. Other requirements are that a trainee should already be working on a suitable farm, and that a practising farmer, who may be the father or the employer of the trainee, should be willing to instruct and supervise the trainee in routine farm operations.

The importance of a firm commitment to the scheme by both trainer and trainee cannot be over-emphasised; experience has shown that the demands of the scheme can place additional strain on both parties.

Off-farm training sessions are held during the year, preferably during "slack" periods in the farming season. (but with practical adjustment to suit the special demands of dairy farming), for practical and theoretical training in subjects that are better handled in a group environment.

Trainees spend part of the year attending field days, and special demonstrations, and are encouraged to become active in local farmer groups.

Assignments and projects are also required to be undertaken and submitted for assessment. Subjects may range from special projects on the farm to reports on field days.

The costs of running the courses are met by the South Australian Government, but trainer farmers, who receive the benefits of the labor and skills of the trainees, need to outlay about \$500 per year, or \$1 000 for the full course, on materials and accommodation and meals.

Enquiries about on-farm training and short courses in rural studies for intending participants in the Southern Region can be directed to John Skull, at Noarlunga College of TAFE, telephone (08) 384 0511, or (08) 79 7311 after hours.

Intending participants in the Murraylands Region should contact Chris Trethewey, telephone (085) 32 1455 or (085) 32 3736 after hours.

A "TREACLE-GATE" MAKES MOLASSES EASIER TO HANDLE

One of the major problems of handling molasses in drums (and there are plenty of other problems), is the slowness of discharge if an ordinary water tap is used in the bung-hole. The alternative, of using an open bung-hole, requires brute force to lower and raise the drum, and risks molasses dribbling everywhere during the operation.

Treacle-gates, which are designed to handle treacle, molasses, honey, and even tar, are quick opening, quick closing, non-dripping, full-bore faucets, which enable full advantage to be taken of the diameter of the bung-hole.

Cast in aluminium alloy, they are available from the Association's office, telephone (08) 51 3034, for \$28, or \$30 posted.

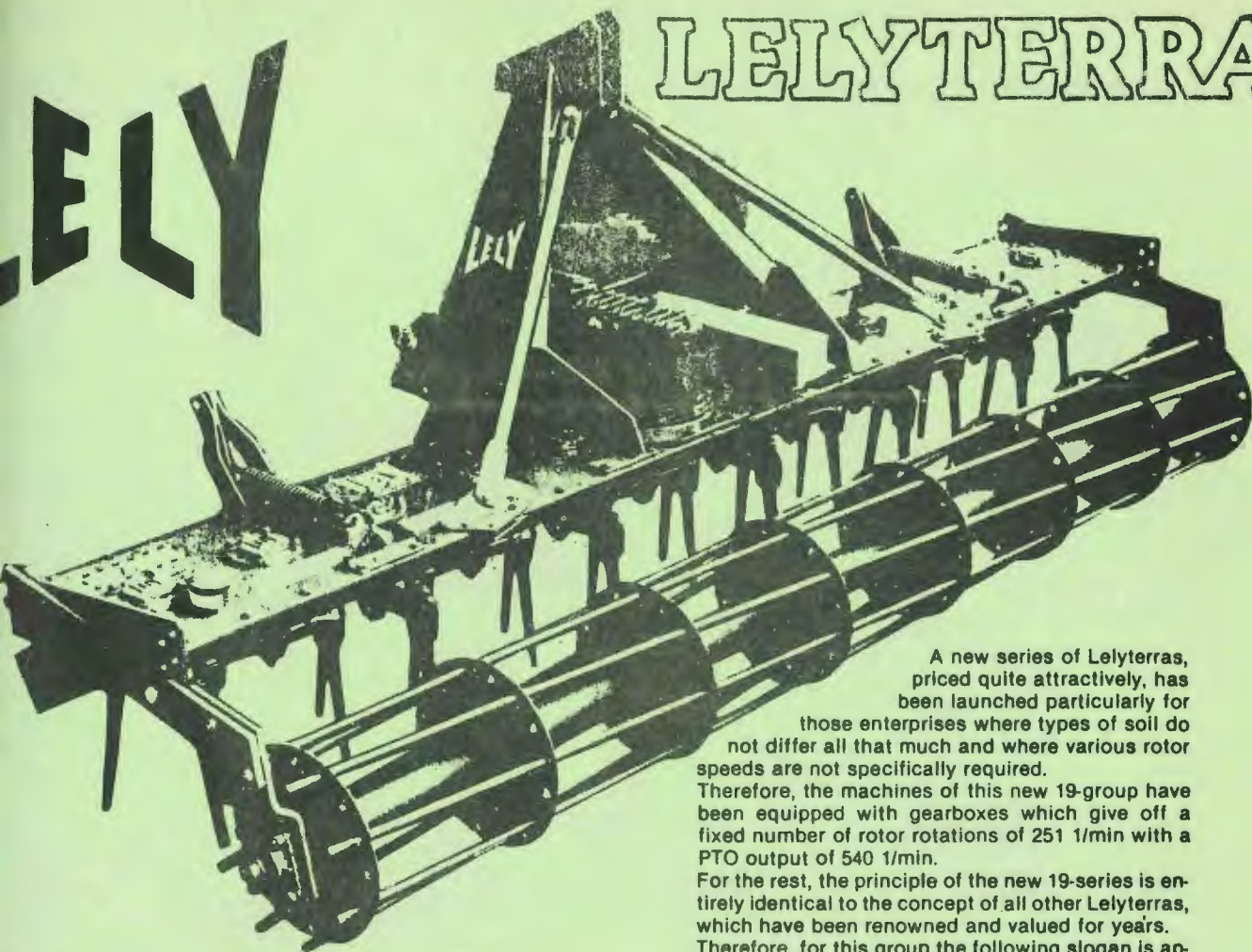
MOLASSES STILL IN SHORT SUPPLY

But A Treacle-Gate Makes It Easier To Handle

Molasses is still under quota, and availability irregular, but we have now reverted to the previous practice of "drumming-off" from the tanker on the farm, so members ordering molasses must now ensure that they have sufficient drums of suitable quality, as drums can no longer be supplied, nor can empty drums be returned.

LELY

LELYTERRA



A new series of Lelyterras, priced quite attractively, has been launched particularly for those enterprises where types of soil do not differ all that much and where various rotor speeds are not specifically required.

Therefore, the machines of this new 19-group have been equipped with gearboxes which give off a fixed number of rotor rotations of 251 1/min with a PTO output of 540 1/min.

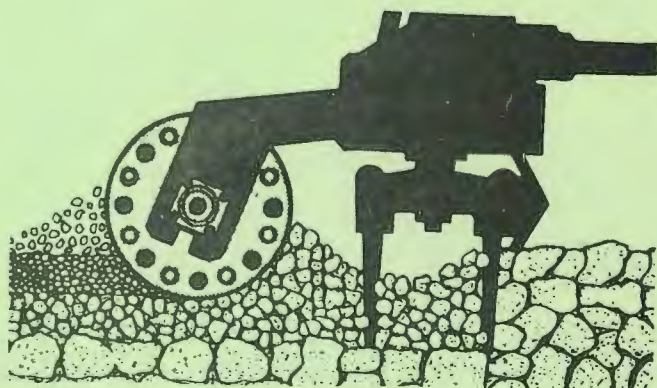
For the rest, the principle of the new 19-series is entirely identical to the concept of all other Lelyterras, which have been renowned and valued for years. Therefore, for this group the following slogan is applicable too:

LELY tillage = minimum tillage for maximum yields!!

Many years of practical experience have led to the introduction of a fresh range of Lelyterras, which can quite justifiably be said to be **UNIQUE**.

UNIQUE... in its design
UNIQUE... in its construction
UNIQUE... in its working
UNIQUE... in its capacities
UNIQUE... in its possibilities
UNIQUE... in its savings of costs

What's more:
MOST ATTRACTIVE PRICES!!



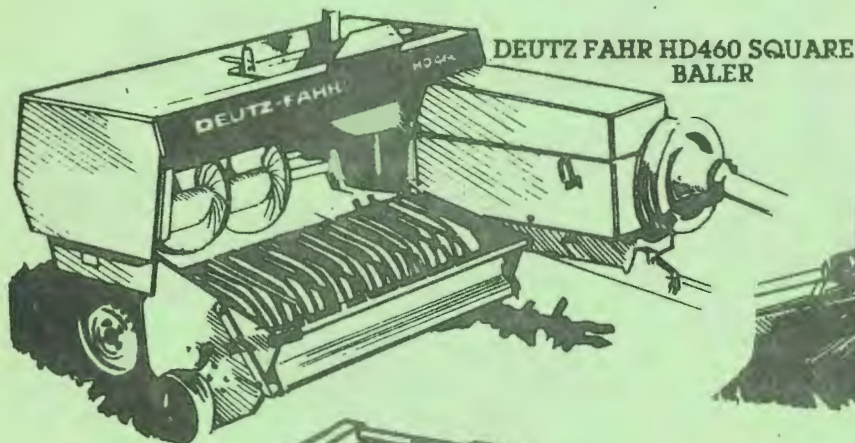
Tractors

Phone 388-4349

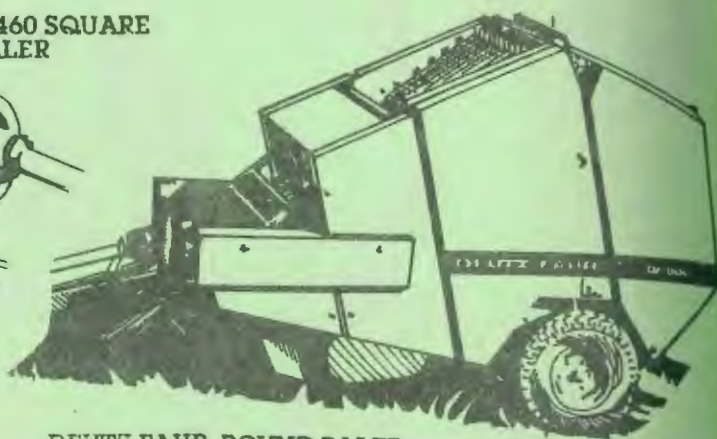
In Gillman's Road, 2 km from Oakbank, Towards Woodside

These are the most successful haymaking machines in the world

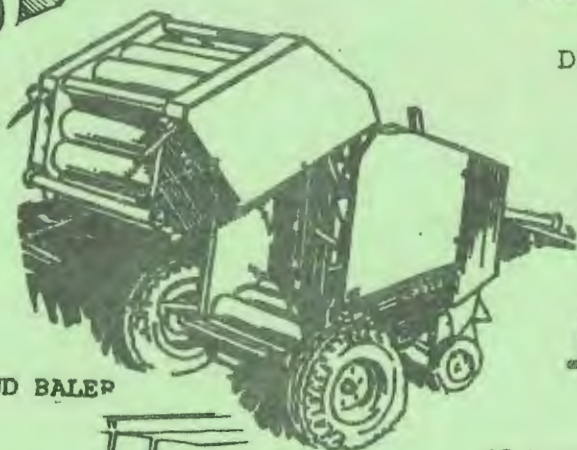
Here is a selection from the comprehensive DEUTZ-FAHR range



DEUTZ FAHR HD460 SQUARE BALER



DEUTZ FAHR ROUND BALER



GP.220 ROUND BALER



10 types of rotary mower,
working widths 1.35-2.70 m., (3 with conditioner)



DEUTZ FAHR KH500DN CENTIPEDE TEDDER



DEUTZ FAHR KM24CR TURBO MOWER - CONDITIONER



The mark of quality farming.



Tractors

Phone 388-4349

RIVERLANDERS PROTEST AT IRRIGATION RATE INCREASE

But It's Only The Latest Symptom Of A Long-standing Disease

The Association's Lower Murray irrigator members were represented at last week's demonstration on the steps of Parliament House, against the recent 28 per cent increase in irrigation rates.

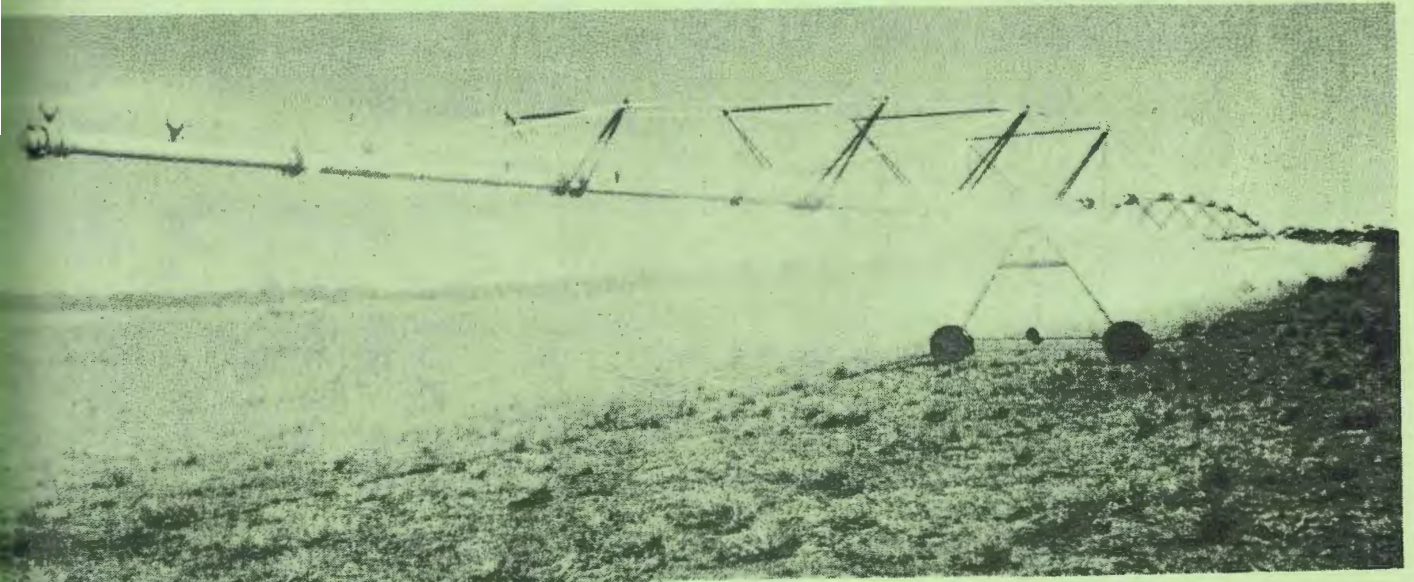
The demonstration, which was organised by the Murray Citrus Growers Association, was addressed by Opposition Leader John Olsen, by Shadow Water Resources Minister Peter Arnold, and by Australian Democrat MLC Lance Milne.

Admittedly the 28 per cent lift in irrigation charges is unreasonably steep, out of all proportion to any accepted, or acceptable, measure of inflation, and no argument has been brought forward to counter the organisers' claim that the major factors in the increase were the high cost and lack of productivity of the E & W S Department's workforce.

But the 28 per cent rise must be seen as only the latest (it's doubtful if it will be the last, even with a change in Government), though certainly the largest symptom of a creeping infection which has been evident for many years. Increases during the past 9 years are shown in the following table:

Year	Rate	Lift %	Year	Rate	Lift %	Year	Rate	Lift %
1975-76	54.00	-	1978-79	66.56	10	1981-82	109.76	18
1976-77	60.52	12	1979-80	82.32	24	1982-83	126.88	16
1977-78	60.52	0	1980-81	92.64	13	1983-84	162.41	28

LOW PRESSURE STERILINE AUTO PIVOT IRRIGATION SYSTEMS COMPLETELY AUTOMATIC NO LABOUR REQUIRED



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

COASTAL IRRIGATION SERVICES

MYRTLE GROVE ROAD, CURRENCY CREEK

PHONE 085 554031 All Hours

PASTURE

IS OFTEN VARIABLE IN QUALITY, AND ALONE CANNOT SUPPLY THE TOTAL PROTEIN, ENERGY, VITAMINS, MINERALS AND TRACE ELEMENTS REQUIRED TO UTILISE THE COW'S POTENTIAL FOR MAXIMUM MILK PRODUCTION.

DAIRY COWS REQUIRE HIGH PROTEIN AND ENERGY LEVELS FOR:

- MAINTENANCE
- MILK PRODUCTION
- RE-PRODUCTION

THE GREATER THE AMOUNT OF MILK AND BUTTERFAT THE COW PRODUCES, THE GREATER ARE HER REQUIREMENTS OF PROTEIN AND ENERGY.

RED COMB HAS DEVELOPED TWO NUTRITIOUS DAIRY RATIONS DESIGNED TO SUPPLEMENT YOUR PASTURE CONDITIONS AND TO MATCH THE STAGE OF HERD LACTATION.

A WELL-FED COW WILL HAVE A HIGHER PEAK YIELD, A MORE SUSTAINED PEAK, AND A LOWER RATE OF DECLINE, LEADING TO A LONGER AND MORE PRODUCTIVE LACTATION.



RED COMB DAIRY FEEDS

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

LIZ WILSON RDA LIVESTOCK OFFICER

RED-COMB CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED
CORNER OF GUM AVENUE AND CAVAN ROAD, DRY CREEK
TELEPHONE (08) 262 4918, AFTER HOURS (08) 556 5258

~~~~~

### FEDERAL DAIRY PROMOTION LEVY INCREASES

#### *To Aid All-Out Effort To Lift Butter And Cheese Sales*

*Legislation to increase the maximum rate of the Commonwealth dairy produce promotion levy from 12 cents to 24 cents per 100 litres of milk, and to lift the operative rate (the actual rate to be used for the time being) from 12 cents to 19 cents per 100 litres, was passed by Federal Parliament recently.*

*The changes, which are in line with the recommendation of the Australian Dairy Farmers Federation, will probably become effective from 1 November 1983.*

*Total promotional income from the levy during the balance of 1983-84 will be of the order of \$9.2 million, and will be used to fund the Australian Dairy Corporation's dairy product promotion program.*

## WIDE-LOAD PERMITS FOR HAY CARTING

### No Change In The Rule, Only In The Season

Opposition Member of Parliament Dean Brown recently asked the Minister of Transport a series of questions about wide-load permits for hay carting, implying that policy changes had recently taken place.

The explanation is that no changes have been made; all that has happened is that the special "drought relief" concessions will not be available (or necessary) during the coming months.

Wide-load permits available during the coming season (and which apply for a period of 12 months) are as follows:

BALED HAY - 2.75 metres maximum (rectangular and round bales)

SHEAVED HAY - 3.36 metres maximum

Conditions applying to the permits are that the hay may be carted ONLY on weekdays, ONLY during daylight hours, and NOT in the metropolitan area.

An annual permit is available also (subject to the same restrictions as to hours and days) for a maximum width of 3.36 metres for ROLLED HAY (round bales) when the hay is being carted from one portion to another of a farmer's property, over a maximum distance of 40 km.

The special "drought relief" concession available during last season was for a maximum width of 3.36 metres for ROLLED HAY (round bales), again restricted to daylight hours and weekdays, with a permit period of 14 DAYS ONLY, and two further conditions, first, that the route taken is that specified on the permit, and, second, that the load will be defined by a red flag at each corner. This concession will not be available this season.

# COASTAL IRRIGATION SERVICES

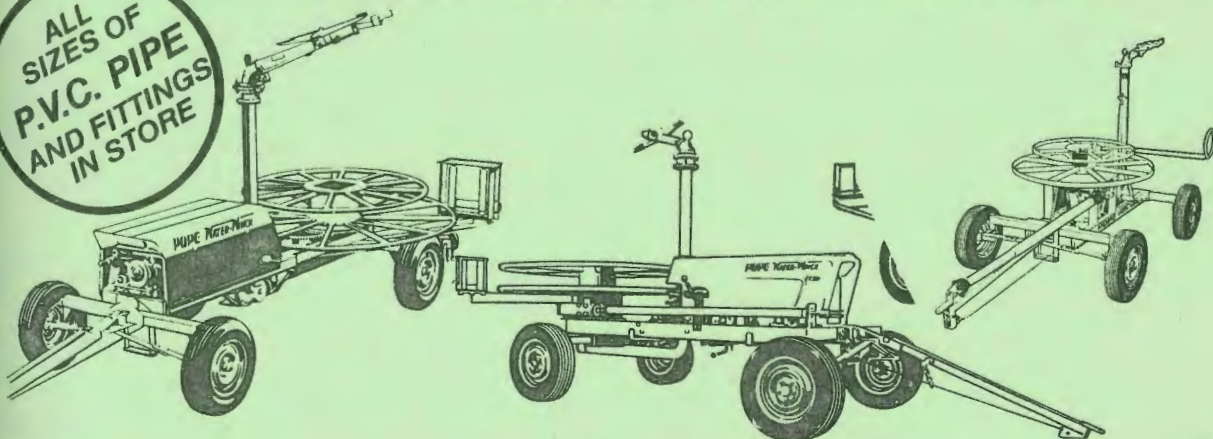
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AUTHORISED SALES, SERVICE & SPARE PARTS DEALER

FOR **POUPE WATER-WINCH** RADIAL POWERED

FULL RANGE AVAILABLE FROM 30-100 ACRES

ALL  
SIZES OF  
P.V.C. PIPE  
AND FITTINGS  
IN STORE



## COASTAL IRRIGATION SERVICES

MYRTLE GROVE ROAD, CURRENCY CREEK. RICHARD HODGE, PH. (085) 55 4031

## SUMMER FODDER CROPS

WHY GROW FODDER CROPS? \_\_\_\_\_ From M.F. Hodge & Co.

- to obtain maximum production from the use of irrigation water
- to supplement dry summer pasture with succulent milk-producing green fodder
- to maintain production and profit
- to over-come shortages
- as a cleaning crop for new pasture
- for fire protection

### WHEN CAN FODDER CROPS BE SOWN?

From mid August to early January

- the brassica group:-
  - N.Z. Rangi Rape
  - Clou Moellier
  - Mammoth Turnip
  - Purple-top Swede
- the grass group:-
  - Japanese Millet
  - Sirohie Millet
  - Hybrid Feedmill Millet
  - Sudax ST6 Forage Sorghum
  - Magic Forage Sorghum
  - Speedfeed Forage Sorghum
  - Honeydrip Forage Sorghum
  - XL668-XL77 Hybrid Maize
- miscellaneous crops:-
  - Long Red Mangel
  - White Mustard
  - Sunflower
  - Fodder Beet

### SHOULD FERTILIZER BE USED?

The grass group will need nitrogenous fertiliser from three to four weeks after sowing and after each cutting or grazing. Use of 3-4 bags per hectare of Complete D or 3:1 super and ammonia at sowing time will boost seedling vigor and development.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT HODGES (08) 260 6900



**SUMMER FODDER**  
*COMES FROM GOOD SEED,*  
**AND...**  
*GOOD SEED COMES FROM*

**HODGE**

**M.F. HODGE & SONS** PTY. LTD.  
17 DUNCAN ROAD, DRY CREEK. 5094 (08)2606900

### ONLY NINETEEN HEIFERS - AND OVER-WEIGHT!

A well-known Mid-North dairyfarmer, who had agisted some young stock at Tailem Bend because of the continuation of drought conditions on his own property, was pulled up recently, when taking the stock back home, and instructed to put his truck over the weighbridge.

You can imagine his surprise when he was booked for being overweight, with a load of only 19 yearling heifers.

This is obviously one more factor to be considered at in the proposed "large cow" research project - how many beasts can you legally put on a truck?

## INSURANCE NOTES

**NO LIFT IN PREMIUMS IN CFS AREAS** - The 25 per cent surcharge now applied by the State Government Insurance Commission to insurance premiums on properties in areas covered by the Country Fire Services was not being imposed by Federation Insurance Limited, said Federation's State Manager Tim Carr.

Mr. Carr said that Federation had many years of specialised experience in insuring rural properties, and had no need to suddenly revise its procedures even after a crisis as severe as the 1983 holocaust. Federation's premiums would, consequently, continue to be the same for properties in CFS areas as for all other properties.

**REINSTATEMENT & REPLACEMENT COVER NOW AVAILABLE** - Federation's study of the possibility of extending "reinstatement & replacement" (r & r) cover to dairyfarm dwellings and milking sheds has been speeded-up by the number of inquiries for this type of insurance received since the Ash Wednesday bushfires.

Mr. Carr explained that a normal insurance policy undertook only to financially indemnify the insured up to the value of the property at the time of loss. A reinstatement and replacement policy (for which, of course, the premium was proportionately higher) undertook to replace the insured building in an "as new" condition.

For dairyfarmers this type of insurance was available for farm homesteads and other substantial dwellings, and for milking sheds (and contents) built within the last 10 years.

**HILLS DAIRYFARMERS WELCOME BRIAN WINTERS** - Federation's new inspector in the Adelaide Hills area is Brian Winters, replacing Fred Jung, who has returned to Head Office. Brian can be contacted at 272 4464.

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



TUNE IN TO  
MONDAY'S A.B.C.  
COUNTRY HOUR FOR  
THE LATEST CHANGES IN  
TIME TABLES AND CALF PRICES

Hams Bacon Smallgoods Fresh Meat Products

**Australian Bacon Limited**

TELEPHONE  
(08) 3911711

**Dandy Meats (Australia)**

CURRENT MARKET PRICES PAID FOR CALVES

WEEKLY PICK-UP SERVICES - AS SCHEDULED

FACTORY-DOOR PURCHASING AT OUR MOUNT BARKER PLANT

# The South Australian Dairymen's...

## IN THIS ISSUE

World Dairy Price And Consumption Statistics  
Central Council Proceeding  
Brucellosis - Caution Still Needed  
How To Beat Milkstone  
Pick Herd Sires By Performance

# JOURNAL

## LIABILITY FOR DAMAGE BY STRAYING ANIMALS

### Stockowners Now Responsible If Proved Negligent

Owners (or persons in charge) of livestock will now be liable for damage or injury caused by straying animals, if they are proved to be negligent, following the passing of an amendment to the Wrongs Act last month.

As members are aware, from widely reported cases in recent years, in South Australia, prior to the new legislation, the law relating to the liability of owners of domestic livestock (and tamed wild animals), in cases where loss, damage or even death, are caused by those animals straying onto roads, was based on a 1947 judgement of the House of Lords ("Searle versus Wallbank"), which established, essentially, that "if livestock stray onto the highway their owner does not thereby incur any liability to users of the highway for bodily injury or property damage caused by the livestock so straying".

The "Searle versus Wallbank" rule has been frequently criticised by legal authorities, and in the United Kingdom, Scotland, Canada and New South Wales, it has been replaced by legislation which generally applies the ordinary principles of negligence to owners of livestock, though proposals by various law reform instrumentalities for similar changes in the law in Queensland, Tasmania, Victoria, Western Australia and New Zealand have not, so far, been implemented.

In South Australia the Law Reform Committee recommended, in 1969, that what it called "the anachronistic decision of the House of Lords in Searle versus Wallbank" be abandoned, and that "the liability of the owner in relation to his animals for keeping them properly fenced in, penned up, chained or as the case may be should be determined in accordance with the ordinary law of negligence".

But nothing was done about any of the Law Reform Committee's recommendations for wide-ranging changes in the law relating to animals until the then Attorney-General, the Honorable Trevor Gritton, in 1980, announced that he was considering implementing the Committee's recommendations, and wrote to the Association, asking for our opinions.



The Official Publication of the  
South Australian Dairymen's  
Association

Published Bi-Monthly.

Price \$1.00

\$6.00 a year, post paid

Registered by Australia Post  
Publication No. - SAC 1906

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The Association's view on the Committee's recommendation concerning animals on roads was that we supported it, with reservations, the reservations being related, on the one hand, to what we believed were deficiencies in the Fences Act, and, on the other hand, to problems that we thought could arise in pastoral areas.

In the meantime, the Member for Playford, Mr. Terry McKrae, submitted a private member's Bill to effectuate only the Law Reform Committee's recommendation concerning animals on roads, by an addition to the Wrongs Act, disregarding the other half dozen or so recommendations, some of which we thought were related, and at least equally important.

The McKrae Bill was not passed by the House of Assembly, but reappeared, a year later, this time under the sponsorship of then shadow Attorney-General Chris Sumner, but before the debate could be concluded, the Government had changed, and the Bill, this time as a Government Bill, was again presented to the Legislative Council, which decided to refer the matter to a Select Committee.

The Select Committee redrafted the Bill in a way that, it claimed, made its intention clearer than did the previous Bill, though its essence was unchanged, namely that "... liability for injury, damage or loss caused by an animal shall be determined in accordance with the principles of the law of negligence".

As far as the Association is concerned, we stated, when appearing before the Select Committee that ..."although there may be a general assumption that reform of the law ... as proposed is contrary to the interests of stock owners, as such reforms would impose obligations that do not now exist ... we believe that ... because they live in a rural environment where animals may be expected to create hazards, and because their own livestock may be at risk, primary producers are ... as likely to be the victims, both physically and financially, of the hazards created by dangerous, unrestrained, mischievous or diseased animals as they are to be the beneficiaries of archaic law".

We also expressed the view that the law should be preventive, rather than punitive, that it should be directed towards preventing loss and injury, rather than to finding the guilty party after the loss or injury had occurred, but this principle did not receive a mention in the Select Committee's report, and has not, consequently, been incorporated in the new Act.



# **NIGHTINGALE CHEMICALS**

Leaders in Dairy Sanitation present NEW

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READY MIXED IDOPHOR TEA I DIP  
(Registered Stock Medicine)

SAVE TIME ---- SAVE MONEY

Available from your Dairy Factory

For details of this and all other NIGHTINGALE dairy hygiene requirements  
contact our field officer BOB GOOLEY  
on Adelaide (08) 262 1649 or, after hours on (08) 258 4391

This NIGHTINGALE service is available to you at no extra charge



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Division of Harcross Chemicals Pty. Ltd.  
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## THE GENERAL PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Greetings,

I can, I hope with confidence, wish you all a joyous and blessed Christmas, even though, for most of you, as you read this, the Yuletide celebrations will be almost over.

But I am on less certain grounds in wishing you a happy and prosperous New Year, for that will depend, not on my wishes, but on the action that the Australian dairy industry takes, during the next few months, to avert the disaster that will befall us if the recommendations of the Industries Assistance Commission are allowed to go unchallenged and unchanged.

As we predicted, the IAC, in its Final Report, took no notice of the claims put to it that the economic status of the dairy industry should be related to wage levels and other cost indexes in this country, and that the standard of living of those in the industry should compare with that enjoyed by the community generally, nor did it make any reference to the evidence presented to it (see elsewhere in this Journal) to show that retail prices for dairy products and milk in this country are among the cheapest in the world.

Instead the IAC continued to claim that the benchmark for the industry should be the bargain basement value that the EEC is prepared to accept for the surplus it dumps on world markets from its subsidised and featherbedded dairy industry.

The Australian Dairy Farmers Federation has lost no time in addressing itself to the issues missing from the IAC's Report, and in acting to stave off what will, otherwise, be a recipe for disaster, basing its case on 4 principles which recognise, primarily, the need to maintain a modest export surplus to safeguard the domestic market against a harsh seasonal downturn, and for the equitable sharing of the financial burden of supplying that low-priced surplus.

It is proposed that these goals be achieved, first, by some form of production control aimed to prevent the creation of an "open-ended" situation in which excess production is actively encouraged by the burden-sharing arrangement; second, by a study of the present stabilisation levy pool and the proposed "levy on all milk" to see which method, or combination of methods will most satisfactorily fund the scheme; third, by insisting that export surplus beyond that considered necessary to provide the "safety margin", returns to dairyfarmers who produced the extra milk a price that reflects the actual value of the product.

Finally, and most important, the Federation believes that market milk supply should be "the responsibility of each State (dairy) industry, without uninvited interference from any other State".

The problem now before the Federation is to develop the means by which the 4 agreed principles can be put into a form which is acceptable to the dairyfarm organisation in each State, is workable, and politically acceptable, and which is based on the normal commercial practice of recovering costs with a reasonable profit margin, leaving consumers the right to identify, in the market place, the value of our products.

It is regrettable that the IAC should now spread a web of uncertainty over the dairy industry's future at a time when we had reached a stage of buoyancy, with consumers better serviced than ever before with a range of alternative dairy products, high in quality, nutrition and value.

The IAC's recommendations are, fortunately, not the last word; the Australian Agricultural Council still has a say, and we can hope that that group of State Ministers of Agriculture, several of whom, including our own Minister, Frank Blevins, have already criticised the recommendations, will recognise that the Australian public is not being fleeced by the dairy industry.

It is, however, not enough only to criticise the recommendations, and defend the industry's present status. We must take this opportunity to discipline ourselves in producing and marketing, relying less and less on Government assistance and intervention, a task that will need the conscious effort of every dairyfarmer, dairy company executive, and dairy products marketer if the industry is to survive in a fiercely competitive environment.

Perhaps, having written that, and knowing the effort of which the dairy industry is capable, I can, after all, wish you a happy and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely Yours

AUB KRETSCHMER

# Hot water until the cows come home

SAYS GEOFF MATHEWS OF OAKVIEW PASTORAL CO.  
TO JIM McCARTER RURAL AFFAIRS EDITOR OF THE "ADVERTISER"

"Since installing my ECONOHEAT I have never run out of hot water, with unlimited hot water I save on steriliser and time."

## **ECONOHEAT? How Come Waste Heat?**

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### **ECONOHEAT FEATURES**

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- b. 100 gallons or 450 litres of 94°C water per milking.
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- e. **ECONOHEAT** will pay for itself in a relatively short period.

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.....

## WHERE AUSTRALIA STANDS IN THE WORLD DAIRY LEAGUE TABLE

### On Consumption, Price, Minutes Worked to Earn, and Promotion

Reference is made elsewhere to the comparisons between prices for milk, butter and cheese in Australia and in overseas countries, contained in the Association's and other organisations' submissions to the final hearing of the Industries Assistance Commission.

The following table shows where Australia ranked among Western World dairying countries in 1981, the date of the latest available information.

|             | MILK                |                     |                      | BUTTER               |                     |                       | CHEESE               |                     |                       |
|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
|             | (1)<br>Price<br>c/l | (2)<br>Mins<br>Work | (3)<br>Cons.<br>l/pc | (1)<br>Price<br>c/kg | (2)<br>Mins<br>Work | (3)<br>Cons.<br>kg/pc | (1)<br>Price<br>c/kg | (2)<br>Mins<br>Work | (3)<br>Cons.<br>kg/pc |
| Australia   | 59.3                | 4.9                 | 105                  | 259                  | 21.4                | 4.3                   | 321                  | 26.5                | 6.6                   |
| NZ          | 35.5*               | 4.0                 | 127                  | 188                  | 21.1                | 13.2                  | 307                  | 34.5                | 8.5                   |
| UK          | 66.0                | 6.7                 | 134                  | 342*                 | 34.7                | 5.7                   | 474                  | 48.1                | 6.4                   |
| Canada      | 65.0                | 5.0                 | 103                  | 362*                 | 28.0                | 4.4                   | 489*                 | 38.0                | 9.2                   |
| USA         | 60.0                | 4.4                 | 119                  | 439                  | 33.0                | 1.8                   | 545                  | 44.0                | 9.8                   |
| Belgium     | 49.1                | 3.6                 | 76                   | 451                  | 33.1                | 7.8                   | 493                  | 36.2                | 13.6                  |
| Denmark     | 63.0                | 3.6                 | 130                  | 452*                 | 25.6                | 7.8                   | 710                  | 31.0                | 10.9                  |
| France      | na                  | na                  | 77                   | na                   | na                  | 9.3                   | na                   | na                  | 18.9                  |
| W.Germany   | 52.6                | 6.4                 | 71                   | 435                  | 52.6                | 7.1                   | 507                  | 61.3                | 14.1                  |
| Netherlands | 52.0                | 4.9                 | 100                  | 381                  | 36.0                | 3.5                   | 392                  | 37.1                | 13.4                  |
| Norway      | 54.4*               | 4.2                 | 169                  | 330                  | 25.3                | 4.7                   | 534*                 | 40.9                | 12.5                  |
| Sweden      | 50.2*               | 4.7                 | 165                  | 345                  | 32.0                | 3.7                   | 531*                 | 49.3                | 13.9                  |

(na = not available)

Care should be taken in comparing these figures; their calculation involves many factors, not necessarily revealed here, such as currency exchange fluctuations during the year, the payment of consumer subsidies as shown by \*, and the general level of support to the dairying industries in the EEC countries.

As might be expected, Australia ranks low (lowest for cheese, second to NZ for butter) in the number of minutes worked to earn a unit of product, but also shows up well in actual price paid, being outstripped, again, only by NZ.

The International Dairy Federation bulletin from which this information was taken (Document 160 : June 1983) also lists the expenditure on dairy promotion per head, in the countries surveyed, but warns that care should be exercised when making comparisons, because of differing circumstances in the various countries. Nevertheless it is interesting (if not necessarily very helpful) to note that, according to the Bulletin, Australia's promotional expenditure per head in 1981 was 72 US cents, well below that of Sweden (240c), Norway (124c) and Canada (109c); close to UK's 70c, and above that of USA (60c), Denmark (50c), Netherlands (45c), Belgium (23c) and France (17c).

#### NOTES:

- (1) average retail price in US cents per litre of milk or per kilogram of butter or cheese.
- (2) minutes of work necessary, at average wage rate, to earn the price of 1 litre of milk or 1 kilogram of butter or cheese.
- (3) average consumption per head (pc) per year in litres of milk or kilograms of butter or cheese.

At a conference in Sydney last month a paper was presented by G.R. Saul and P.C. Flinn from the Pastoral Research Institute, Hamilton, Victoria. The title was "Hay Quality in South Western Victoria - Results of a Survey".

The following is a discussion of the results, and some thoughts on why some hays are better nutritionally than others.

*There was a wide variation in hay quality within and between years. Although within year variation may be explained by factors such as species, legume content, time of mowing, etc., between-year variation is more difficult to explain.*

*Some of the improved hay quality in 1980 may be explained by the increased proportion of samples with a high legume content, but even samples containing little or no legume in 1980 were of higher quality than similar samples in 1979. Weather conditions during the haymaking season in each year were quite different (1979, cool, wet, overcast; 1980, fine, mild, warm, little rain) and this may have had an affect.*

*Early cutting has been promoted as the best way to improve hay quality (Bishop and Kentish 1968) but many farmers, while recognising the improved quality of early hay, are reluctant to cut early for various reasons, e.g. low yield, bad weather, shearing, unavailability of machinery. Given this lack of acceptance of early hay, other ways of improving hay quality should be examined.*

*Our results suggest that phalaris and anthoxanthum species are less desirable for hay than other common grasses. Although only four samples of cereal hay were included in this survey, the poor quality of this type of hay from this area has been noted with other samples analysed at the Institute.*

*Increasing the legume content of hay would appear to be an effective method of improving hay quality. Although there have been some variable responses to feed *T. subterraneum* (Kenny and Walsh 1980), Egan and Doyle (1980) have shown an increased intake of clover versus grass-dominant hay, and this is in line with the improved performance of animals fed legume rather than grass diets (Reed 1976).*

*Another alternative is to grow special purpose legume hay crops, i.e. lucerne, Haifa white clover, giant shaftal clover. Some studies of the growth of these species have been conducted (Reed et al. 1980).*

Although the hay season will be well finished by the time you get these notes, I believe it is important to understand what factors affect your hay quality. With the unseasonable weather conditions this year it is possible that your hay was cut at a later maturity date, and therefore is of lower nutritional quality.

When placing the hay in the shed it is good practice to record what condition you believe each paddock was. You can then use this information to allow you to retain the highest quality hay for your milking cows in early lactation.

ROBIN REID - MANAGER, TECHNICAL SERVICES



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## THE CENTRAL COUNCIL LOOKS AT ...

**IAC Inquiry Into Dairy Industry** - Delegates were informed that the Final Report of the IAC had not yet been released publicly, but it was unlikely that there would be any change in the general tone of the recommendations, although changes might be made in the rates proposed for the milk levy and the export subsidy, arising out of evidence given at the final hearing.

The proposal from Victoria supported the general principle of the IAC's recommendation, but with higher levels of levy and subsidy, whilst the NSW proposal was a compromise by which the Victorian proposal would be introduced gradually whilst the existing scheme was phased out.

The case put to the Minister of Agriculture, prepared by representatives of all sectors of the South Australian dairy industry, proposed that the intentions of the IAC's proposals could be achieved, with far less danger of bankrupting the industry, by expanding the scope of the present stabilisation scheme to include market milk and manufactured dairy products not now subject to stabilisation levy, and to make provision for "inter-pool transfers", so that the move towards the IAC's goal could be made, under the direction of the Australian Dairy Corporation, at a controlled rate, related to supply and market conditions as they existed from time to time.

Delegates agreed that reasons for the Association's policy of defending the status quo and making the present stabilisation scheme more flexible should be published in the Journal.

**Industry Policy On Farm Vat Size** - It was agreed that the Association should not decide, at this stage, whether it supports a charge being made for extra pick-ups in cases where farm vats are too small to hold the day's milk during the flush season, or alternative options such as requiring larger vats to be installed, but that it should defer a decision until after the whole subject of milk transport had been discussed with the Merchants early in 1984.

**Monthly Cell Counting** - Delegates were informed that the Milk Board was moving towards eventually equipping the Central Testing Laboratory with apparatus capable of providing a monthly individual cow cell-count service. Information had now been received that the routine monthly herd milk cell count service provided by Northfield would terminate at 30 June 1984.

The question now was whether the Board should be asked to initiate a routine monthly herd milk cell count, to replace the Northfield service, as individual cow cell-counts did not totally replace the routine count as a measure of sub-clinical mastitis in either individual herds or in the State's total dairy herd.

It was agreed that the question of requesting the Board to provide a monthly routine herd milk cell count be referred to Districts.

**Water Allotment Policy** - Delegates were informed that the Minister of Water Resources had informed the Association that the present prohibition of transferring water allotments to properties surrounding the Lakes was not designed to reduce the political influence of the Lakes land-holders, but was an interim measure, pending the publication of the River Murray Water Resources Policy study.

**Leptospirosis** - Delegates were informed that a recent study in Gippsland had shown that 10 percent of dairyfarm workers were infected with leptospirosis, and the Victorian Government was encouraging vaccination of herds.

The incidence of leptospirosis in dairy herds and dairyfarm workers in S.A. was not known, but the Department of Agriculture is collecting information on lepto. in this State, and, as climate was a factor, it could be assumed that the incidence in dairyfarm workers in the wetter regions could be as high as in Gippsland.

Delegates asked whether it was possible to vaccinate humans against lepto., and also whether it could be guaranteed that humans would not contract lepto. from a vaccinated herd.

Delegates then agreed that, because of the difficulty in getting labor, including relief milkers, to work on farms whether lepto. was known to exist, the Association should proceed with the existing resolution to have lepto. included in the Workers Compensation Act as a compensatable disease for farm workers.

**Annual Meeting & Conference** - Delegates expressed support for the Executive Committee's proposal that the Annual Meeting of the Central Council should be combined with an Annual Conference to extend over a total of two days.

One aim of the proposal was to enable a wider range of subjects to be discussed at the Annual Meeting, which was, at present, largely restricted to formal matters such as the presentation of reports and the election of officers, but a more important reason was to involve a greater number of the members and associated persons and organisations in the Association's affairs, to ensure a wider understanding of the issues in which the industry and the Association were involved.

It had been proposed that the first 2 day Combined Meeting/Conference be held at Victor Harbor, with an official dinner in the evening of the first day, and with delegates and their spouses being encouraged to stay overnight, and that, in following years the Combined Meeting-Conferences be held at other major towns throughout the Central and Northern Regions, to enable all members to participate at some time or another.

**Seat Belts On Tractors** - Delegates opposed the compulsory fitting and use of seat belts in tractors equipped with ROPS (roll-over protection systems), as recommended by the medical profession. Although it was agreed that the danger of being injured by the ROPS itself, in the event of a roll-over, was almost as great as the danger from the roll-over, delegates claimed that there could be technical problems associated with the anchoring of seat belts, particularly in the open-frame type ROPS, and operating problems in manoeuvring tractors, particularly when reversing, if the driver's movements were restrained by a seat belt or harness.

**Biological Control Of Salvation Jane** - The time being taken by the Federal Government to introduce legislation over-riding the South Australian Supreme Court's injunction against the biological control of salvation jane, was strongly criticised by delegates.

It was agreed that the Federal Minister for Primary Industry be informed of the Association's support for biological control, and be asked to proceed with the legislation without delay. It was also agreed that members be urged, at District Meetings, to continue with control by spraying, in order to demonstrate to both the Federal and State Governments, and to the groups opposing biological control, that dairyfarmers were genuine in their concern about the spread of salvation jane and its economic impact on the dairy industry.

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



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## BRUCELLOSIS - CAUTION IS STILL REQUIRED

### What Precautions Should You Take When Buying, Agisting, And At Calving Time?

With most of SA being Provisionally Clear for brucellosis and second round testing completed it would be easy for producers and departmental staff alike to become apathetic in the final stages of brucellosis eradication. WE MUST ENSURE THAT WE MAINTAIN OUR VIGILANCE AT THIS CRITICAL STAGE. How then do dairyfarmers protect their herds from future infection with this disease?

**THE DEPARTMENT'S ROLE** - Future brucellosis detection within South Australia will rely principally upon ABATTOIR MONITORING to identify infected herds. Those herds which have not had a sufficient number of animals monitored through the abattoirs over the previous three year period will require a further herd test.

The critical monitoring figure is 45 per cent, i.e. in a 100 cow dairy herd this would require 15 per cent of animals to be culled through the abattoirs each year. Testing under this surveillance program has already begun in some areas of the State, beginning with the Fleurieu Peninsula.

**WHAT DAIRYFARMERS NEED TO DO** - Although many dairy herds will require further testing under the surveillance program, it is important that dairyfarmers assume much of the responsibility for protecting their own herds.

This involves care in:

- purchasing cattle
- agisting stock
- reporting abortions and segregation of suspect animals

**PURCHASING STOCK** - Although most herds in this State are CONFIRMED FREE for brucellosis, care should be taken in purchasing replacement stock.

- Check the brucellosis status of cattle you intend to purchase with the vendor or agent. This information is readily available through your local Department of Agriculture office. Only purchase cattle from CONFIRMED FREE herds.
- In some circumstances, on advice of the District Veterinary Officer, it may be advisable to have breeding animals tested before entry to the herd. This can be done:
  - Before they leave the vendor's property;
  - On the home property, provided that animals are isolated until tested. Such testing to be done at the purchaser's expense.
- Ensure that pregnant breeding animals purchased calve in isolation if possible.
- Introduced heifers should be blood-tested after they have their first calf.

**AGISTED STOCK** - Breeding animals can contract brucellosis while agisted. To avoid this:

- Check the brucellosis status of the agistment property and adjacent neighbours. Are they under quarantine or have they been under quarantine for brucellosis? If there is any obvious risk involved - LOOK ELSEWHERE!
- Check that fences are stock-proof.
- If there are other stock running on the property, ask the owner for their brucellosis and TB status, or check with your local Department of Agriculture office.
- It is a good idea to check test your stock for brucellosis on returning to your property if they have been away for any length of time, and have mixed with "foreign" stock.

**ABORTING COWS** - The Department of Agriculture provides a free abortion investigation service through local private veterinary practitioners, and dairyfarmers should avail themselves of this service whenever they suspect an abortion has occurred. Although turn-around time for abortion investigation results can be protracted, producers should take care to:-

- Isolate any cow showing signs of abortion and endeavour to maintain isolation until results are obtained;
- If handling aborted material, wear gloves and always burn any aborted calves and afterbirth not required for laboratory submission;
- If possible, isolate the area in which the abortion occurred. This is particularly important in winter when the organism can survive for longer periods. Preferably this area should be FENCED OFF.

Although it is impractical, in many instances, to isolate milking animals, dairyfarmers should attempt to do so for as long as possible. The infected animal will pass out large numbers of brucella organisms when it aborts and during the ensuing few days, but shedding of infection will virtually cease within 2 weeks.

It is important to isolate aborting cows from all breeding females in the herd, **EVEN AT MILKING TIME**. If the cow must be milked, she should be milked after all other animals have been through the dairy, and the area should have a complete washing down after milking. Remember, any infected cow is likely to shed brucella organisms each time she is in season.

If an animal aborts whilst running with a dry herd, and can be identified immediately, she should be separated from the rest of the herd. If a few days have elapsed since she aborted it is probably pointless isolating her as the damage has already been done. In this instance all dry cows can be considered at risk.

Abortion investigations will usually be completed in 7-10 days. Dairyfarmers are encouraged to contact their private practitioner after that time interval, to ascertain the results.

We realise it is difficult for dairyfarmers to isolate suspect animals for long periods of time. If however, the Department of Agriculture and the dairy industry are to monitor brucellosis adequately, it is of utmost importance that producers accept responsibility for protecting their herds from brucellosis in future. This involves care in purchasing cattle to ensure freedom from disease and immediate isolation and reporting of aborting animals.

DR. MICHAEL SHALLOW

DISTRICT VETERINARY OFFICER, VICTOR HARBOUR

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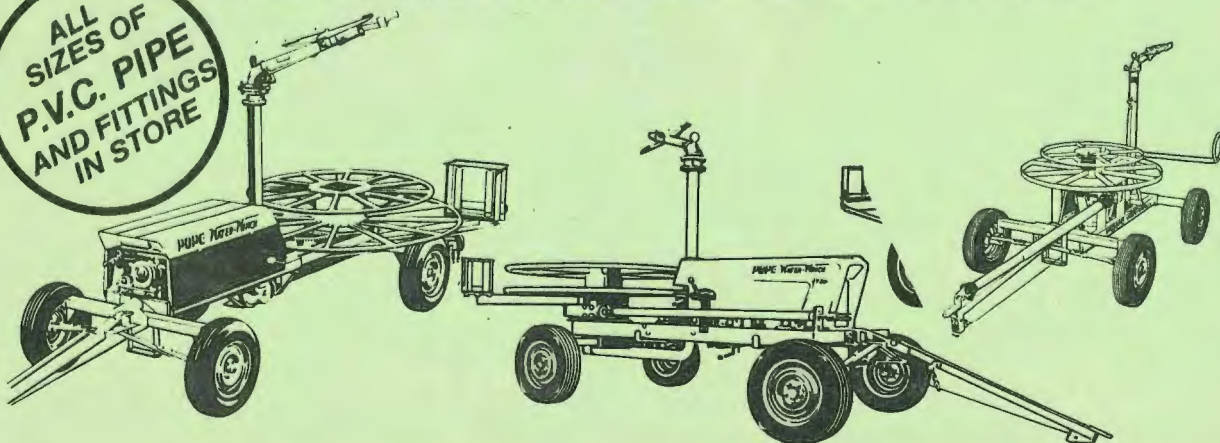
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**FORAGE SORGHUM**

- Never allow the crops to come into head.
- Always cut or graze when 90-120 cm in height (3 - 4 ft.).
- Graze at high rates and preferably strip graze rotationally.
- Do not graze ANY forage sorghum variety before 45 cm high (18 ins.) as, in the early stages of growth, it may contain prussic acid in toxic amounts. If frost or drought affects a crop and it becomes unduly wilted - BE CAUTIOUS!
- Try to avoid grazing or cutting below 10 cm (4 ins.). Slashing old uneaten stalks is a good idea.
- To maintain high productivity and quality of feed when growing under irrigation, immediately after cutting or grazing topdress with urea or similar nitrogenous fertiliser.
- If your crop gets out of control and is beyond your immediate requirements - make hay or silage - remember the hay conditioner is essential.

**MILLET**

- None of the millets give rise to prussic acid problems.
- Hybrid Feedmill can be used primarily for grazing by all stock - it's fairly drought tolerant and can be planted in light soils.
- Jap and Shirohie Millets may be grazed at any time after the plants reach 30 cms (12 ins.); for hay or silage cut at the time the seed head is leaving the sheath.

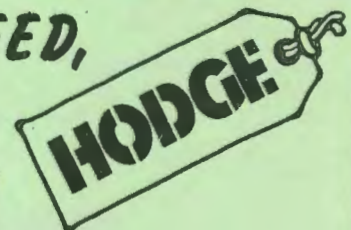
**MAIZE**

- Late sowings during January can be planted for late Autumn and Winter usage.

For additional advice contact M.F. Hodge & Sons at (08) 260 6900



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## BOMBS AWAY TO DEFEAT MILKSTONE

The Milking Research Centre at Werribee, the source of a continuous output of good ideas, has developed a "Boomer Of a Milkstone Beater" (BOMB for short) for which outstanding success is claimed in removing the most stubborn milkstone deposits.

The method entails the addition of a chlorinated alkali wash to the traditional "daisychain" sequence with acid milkstone remover.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE METHOD REQUIRES USE OF CHEMICALS IN STRONG CONCENTRATIONS AND THEREFORE PRECAUTIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE USED CAREFULLY. Rubber gloves and protective clothing should be used. Protective glasses are recommended. Any splashes on the skin and eyes should be rinsed under running tap water, and medical advice sought if necessary.

The chemicals used have no effect on stainless steel, rubberware and polycarbonate (visiclaws) but exposed brass on teatcup shells will gleam like gold. However, they can be cleaned separately to avoid this, if so desired.

### METHOD:

1. Remove each set of teatcups and milk droppers and rubbers. The milk droppers and rubbers are joined together to reach from the furthestmost milk entry to a large container (e.g. milk can) placed under the releaser. In the lowline shed make 2 lines of rubbers each connected to the end of each milkline. Short lengths of stainless steel milk dropper may be required to join the rubbers.
2. Plug milk entries with rubber bungs and seal off the airline rubbers with bungs or a twist of wire.
3. Fill the container (at least 50 litres) under the releaser with hot water (95°C). Start the machine and draw through about 20 litres to warm the system. Top up the container with hot water and add sulphamic acid or a proprietary milkstone remover at a 2 per cent concentration (200 grams/10 litres) and circulate for 15-20 minutes.
4. During the recirculation place the teatcups in the container. Clusters with brass claws and cup shells may be dismantled and cleaned by hand.
5. Flush the machine with 20 litres of hot water.
6. Prepare 50 litres of boiling water with 2 per cent caustic soda (200 grams/10 litres) and add 500 ml of sodium hypochlorite, or use a proprietary "Bomb" preparation.

NOTE: THE CAUSTIC SODA MUST BE DISSOLVED IN A SMALL QUANTITY OF LUKEWARM WATER FIRST, OTHERWISE A VIOLENT REACTION WILL OCCUR.

Recirculate for 15-20 minutes, placing the cups in the solution during recirculation.

7. Flush the machine with 20 litres of hot water.
8. Dismantle end-of-milking indicators (if fitted), releaser or receiving can and vacuum tank. Brush clean.
9. Brush out any stubborn deposits and reassemble the machine.
10. Flush machine with water. Check that the milking machine is in operating order for the next milking.

### WARNING:

1. This method should not be used on a regular basis to control milk-stone build up.
2. Presence of milkstone suggests a fault in the cleaning methods used. Appropriate alteration should be made to rectify the cause rather than use of the "BOMB" as a "cure-all".



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\*\*\*\*\*

### MILK PRODUCTION & SALES STATISTICS

|                                                          | For Month |        | Change<br>% | 12 mths cumulative |         | Change<br>% |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------|-------------|--------------------|---------|-------------|
|                                                          | 1982      | 1983   |             | 1982               | 1983    |             |
| <b>MILK PRODUCTION - METROPOLITAN PRODUCING DISTRICT</b> |           |        |             |                    |         |             |
| Sep (000 litres)                                         | 23 791    | 27 324 | +14.9       | 225 162            | 257 203 | +14.2       |
| (000 kg fat)                                             | 986       | 1 190  | +20.6       | 9 545              | 11 135  | +16.7       |
| Oct (000 litres)                                         | 26 072    | 30 442 | +16.8       | 226 321            | 261 573 | +15.6       |
| (000 kg fat)                                             | 1 111     | 1 323  | +19.1       | 9 627              | 11 347  | +17.9       |
| Nov (000 litres)                                         | 23 547    | 27 895 | +18.5       | 227 081            | 265 921 | +17.1       |
| (000 kg fat)                                             | 988       | 1 209  | +22.4       | 9 656              | 11 568  | +19.8       |

### MILK SALES - METROPOLITAN AREA

|                  |       |       |       |        |        |       |
|------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| Sep (000 litres) | 7 538 | 7 645 | + 1.4 | 91 758 | 92 769 | + 1.1 |
| Nov " "          | 7 720 | 7 655 | - 0.8 | 91 656 | 92 704 | + 1.1 |
| Dec " "          | 7 601 | 7 618 | + 0.2 | 92 011 | 92 721 | + 0.8 |

§§§§ §§§§ §§§§

### RETROSPECTIVE PAYMENT 1980-81

The final step-up in the Leviale Cheese Pool for 1980-81 will be paid in January at the equalised rate of 0.77 cent per kg butterfat on all production during 1980-81.

## THE NEED FOR FULL & ACCURATE IDENTIFICATION OF DAIRY ANIMALS

### A SAGRIC VIEW

The development of the Australian Dairy Herd Improvement Scheme (ADHIS) and the publication of the first Australian Breeding Values for bulls early this year have emphasised that if the Scheme is to achieve anywhere near its potential, full and correct identification of sires and cows is essential.

A recent analysis of information that the ADHIS has on file for use in calculating Australian Breeding Values for bulls and cows, indicates the gaps in their pedigree information. The method used to assess the breeding values uses available pedigree information to increase reliability of the assessment.

Of over 29 000 bulls, less than 1 per cent have a known maternal grandsire, which is an important part of the assessment.

There are over 800 000 lactations on file, but only 56 per cent of these could be used in the calculations. Forty four per cent were rejected because the cow had no sire listed, or records were outside the check limits. It is significant that cows with no sires caused the rejections of 42 per cent of records.

In addition to these problems, the use of incomplete names has resulted in sires being incorrectly identified into the system. While we can accept the old proverb that "the faintest record is better than the fondest memory" herd recording details need to be accurate and complete.

Dairyfarmers under test can improve the situation by:

- Accurately recording mating dates and sires used;
- Identifying all heifer calves when they are born and recording the calf's pedigree;
- Providing the herd recording co-operative with full and accurate details of cow, sire and dam.

Register forms are available through your herd recorder to assist you in keeping records. South Australia has a good record for the amount of information supplied, but there is considerable room for improvement, for your own benefit and for the benefit of other dairyfarmers in Australia.

MURRAY LIEBELT

SENIOR DAIRY ADVISER

(who also wrote the article on Page 17)

## WARNING NEIGHBOURS OF DISEASE OUTBREAKS

### New Legislation Puts Obligation On Stockowners

An amendment to the Stock Diseases Act, originated by Shadow Minister of Agriculture Ted Chapman, in a private member's Bill, now places an obligation on owners of stock known or suspected to be suffering from disease (for example, brucellosis, t.b., Johne's disease, etc.) to inform, "... by the quickest practicable means ..."

- the nearest Inspector of Stock who is an officer of the Department of Agriculture, or,
- the Chief Inspector of Stock in Adelaide, and
- the proprietors of all lands abutting the lands upon which the diseased stock are being kept or depastured.

The amendment also makes it an offence to drive any diseased stock on any road without the permission of an inspector (of stock).

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## JOINT INDUSTRY COUNTER-PROPOSAL PUT TO MINISTER

A counter-proposal to the IAC's recommendations has been put to the Minister of Agriculture, Frank Blevins, on behalf of all organisations, firms and instrumentalities comprised by the South Australian dairy industry.

The case put to the Minister claimed that the proposal for a levy on all milk was going "Too far, too fast", and that a more equitable sharing of the low returns from the industry's necessary exported "safety margin" could be achieved, with less disruption and possible financial disaster, by expanding the present stabilisation scheme to include all dairy products, including market milk, as leviable products, by providing for inter-pool transfers, and by allowing the Australian Dairy Corporation discretionary power to remit portion of levy paid on leviable products.

The submission claimed that the proposals put to the Minister would:-

- maintain the present protection of domestic prices for dairy products;
- permit the assistance to the industry now provided by the levying of prescribed products only, to be spread more widely;
- enable price levels within the product pools to be adjusted to provide either "... the price incentives to manufacturers which are neutral with respect to their effects on product mixes ..." as advocated by the IAC, or
- permit the payment of price incentives, (or disincentives) related to changes in domestic demand, and to short-term movements in world prices and stocks and to long-term planning, thereby removing the risk factors from individual manufacturers.

## HERD SIRES NEED MORE THAN GOOD PUBLICITY

### Make Sure You Select On Performance As Well

One of our dairyfarmers recently, interested in a highly promoted Canadian bull, thought he would look behind the publicity to see why the bull was not listed in his copy of the ABV.

The reason, as readers may have guessed, was the bull's strongly negative ratings, which, once again, emphasises the importance of using the constantly growing store of information that is now available to help you to select herd sires.

The Australian Breeding Values, published by the Australian Dairy Herd Improvement Scheme, compare, on a production basis, all bulls used in herd-recorded herds. Information in regard to conformation and utility characteristics is increasing each year, and Production and conformation ratings are also available for most of the imported semen. So, when using this information, what are the features to look for?

First, obviously, is the **PRODUCTION RATING** - always use a bull that has a high plus rating. The higher the rating the higher will be the average production of the bull's daughters. In an average herd the average daughter production will increase by one half of the bull's breeding value.

Regrettably, bulls rated in different countries cannot be compared accurately, due to different systems of calculation and different genetic potential in the proving herds. However, the ranking of bulls within a system can be expected to be maintained under other systems.

Then follows **RELIABILITY OF THE RATING**, indicating how likely it is that the average daughter production will increase by half of the bull's breeding value. Look for a bull that has a reliability higher than 50%.

Finally, at present, **CONFORMATION** allows you to select bulls that have been rated highly for characteristics which are faulty in your herd and which you consider are important.

What about the **COST OF SEMEN**? Remember, when selecting a bull, that the expected increase in the average daughter production is half the bull's breeding value. For every +2 kg of fat increase in the breeding value, you can expect an increase of 1 kg of fat in the average daughter production.

So, do not place too much emphasis on advertising - look at the above points before selecting your herd sires. If you need further information contact your local dairy adviser or artificial breeding service organisation.



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