

Farm News

The USDA has announced national average support prices of \$3.24 per hundredweight for manufacturing milk and 54.9 cents per pound of butterfat for the 1965-66 marketing year, prices that reflect 75 percent of the parity prices for the two commodities. The comparable prices for the 1964-65 marketing year—also at 75 percent of parity—were \$3.15 and 53.0 cents.

Dairy support prices are mandatory between 75 and 90 percent of parity. The law requires that the Secretary of Agriculture set, within this range, the level "necessary in order to assure an adequate supply."

Milk production in the 1964-65 marketing year has been 1 percent more than a year earlier and consumption of milk and its products has increased slightly less.

The quantities of dairy products removed or diverted from the domestic market, through price support purchases and commercial exports under the payment-in-kind program, have been moderately larger in 1964-65 than a year earlier. The outlook is for the quantity removed or diverted to be at least as large in 1965-66 as in 1964-65.

In carrying out the program to support prices to farmers for milk and butterfat, USDA will as in the past offer to purchase cheddar cheese, and nonfat dry milk in carlot quantities. Because the parity and support prices are higher, the announced purchase prices are increased by one cent a pound for butter and one-half of a cent for cheddar cheese. The purchase price for nonfat dry milk in sealed 100-pound bags continues unchanged, and the price in unsealed bags continue will end. Experience indicates that these purchase prices will keep producers' average returns at the national average support levels announced today for the coming marketing year.

Sixty-five Communities Enter Contest

A total of 65 organized communities have entered the Western North Carolina Rural Community Development Program to date, according to J. Faulton Hodge of Rutherfordton, chairman of the area development program for the sponsoring Asheville Agricultural Development Council. 5 Yancey County communities have entered the 1965 area program at this time. 8 participated last year. Entered are: Double Island, Newdale, Mine Fork, Brush Creek and Mica-ville.

Participation in the Community Development Program is open to any community in the area which is actively engaged in an organized improvement program. Entry deadline is May 15. Purpose of the program, conducted as a contest among communities, is to stimulate community cooperation and encourage the people in the rural areas to work together on local projects.

The program is now in its 16th year in Western North Carolina, which has been widely recognized for having pioneered this program in North Carolina. Last year there were 118 organized community clubs in the western area and 1,050 in the State.

Area awards of \$4,550 will be presented to the winning communities this year by sponsoring business firms. In addition, local sponsors will provide \$8,000 in county awards.

Communities will be judged in two divisions, farm and non-farm. Special awards will also be presented to the communities with outstanding youth programs and for roadside improvement activities.

Communities interested in entering are urged to contact the local agricultural agencies.

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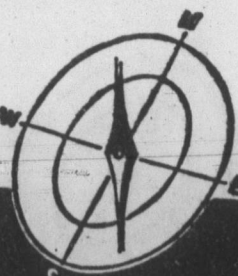
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