

Gradual Shift To Pasture Allows Cows to Adjust

When roughage supplies are low some dairymen tend to tend to pasture their cattle before the forage is ready, according to County Agent Max M. Smith. He says this results in the cattle eat-

ing forage that is extremely high in moisture, and reduces the yield of pasture nutrients.

Grasses can be grazed in when growth reaches 5-6 inches in height, while grass-legume mixtures may be pastured when the forage is 8-10 inches tall. Usually, alfalfa is not grazed until the stand is 10 inches high.

Accustom dairy cows gradually to pasture, Smith advises. Turn cattle out for only an hour or so during the first several days of the pasture season. The grazing time can then be gradually lengthened until cows are on full pasture feeding at the end of a week or two, depending upon weather conditions.

Do not discontinue hay or silage feeding until the cows have been on full pasture for 2-3 weeks. Similarly, do not reduce the amounts of grain fed or the protein content of the grain mixture for a similar period. Some dairymen feel that grazing time should be limited more severely during the first two weeks if cows refuse to eat fair amounts of roughage and grain.

A gradual introduction of cows to a pasture feeding program is necessary to allow the cow and the billions of microorganisms in her rumen to make a proper adjustment to the new conditions. This practice is of value in preventing the weight losses which too often occur early in the pasture season. It may also indirectly aid in maintaining production levels in the pasture season.

Egg Quality Panel Scheduled For Tuesday

A tour and panel discussion on egg quality will be held Tuesday at the R. W. Sauder candleing and packing plant, Lititz.

The tour of the plant will begin at 6:30 p. m. and the panel is scheduled to start at 7:45 p. m. On the panel will be Dr. L. A. Wilhelm, Quaker Oats Co. research farm director and secretary of the Poultry and Egg National Board; Dr. Wiley of Whitmoyer Laboratories, Myerstown; Robert Houser, DeKalb Hatcheries, York; and Fred Calkins, James Manufacturing Co., Lancaster.

A general discussion period will follow the panel.

County Dealers Are Commended For Sales Rise

Lancaster County Wirthmore Feed dealers were commended for their efforts in raising tonnage sold in the Lancaster district by 80 per cent in the last year by Lew Whitaker, division sales manager, at a meeting held April 25 at the Ephrata American Legion.

He said that shipments for the first quarter of this year continue to show an increase.

Other featured speakers were Larry Peterson who discussed present and future possibilities of bulk feed distribution; Robert Han who spoke on trends to be expected in the poultry industry in the remainder of this year; and S. A. Claverie who reviewed the subject of dealer-customer relations.

Following the talks, a general discussion was held.

Attending the meeting were Ben Graybill, Amos Mummon, Paul Heistand, S. A. (Ham) Claverie, Cris Heistand, Lew Whitaker, LeRoy Sensenig, Jack Renshaw, George Holton, Mahlon Kreider, Clem Hooper, Roger Ham, Larry Peterson, Glenn Herr, Morris Hershey, Charles Good, Bob Eckberg, Norman Kurtz, Travis Johnson, Jake Hooper and Elwood Chambers.

Travis Johnson, district salesman, was master of ceremonies.

Rains Brought Temporary Stop To Farm Work

HARRISBURG—Although most field work on Pennsylvania farms was on schedule by the first of this month, prolonged statewide rains last week brought a temporary stoppage in plowing and planting, the state Department of Agriculture reported Monday.

Improved conditions after mid-week gave many farmers opportunities to continue field operations as warmer days pushed buds on fruit trees and shrubs that had been held back by cool weather, the Department said.

A mid-March warm spell enabled farmers in the south-eastern counties to start planting oats, peas and early potatoes. Some oats were planted in central and western areas, according to Federal-State surveys.

In the northwestern counties, soils dried out earlier than usual and prospects before April 1 indicated a more favorable planting season than last year.

Grains and grasses in general came through the winter without much protective snow cover. There was little killing from freezing and thawing except on alfalfa and wheat in some south central and southeastern areas.

Pastures on April 1 provided little grazing for cattle due to lack of growth and wet ground. Condition of pastures average 86 per cent of normal or two points above April 1 last year.

Northern counties and the Somerset area saw maple sugar camps in operation during the month of March. Reports generally indicated below average production due to unfavorable weather.

Soybean Oil Meal Price Favorable, Dairyman Says

A number of dairymen throughout Pennsylvania are taking advantage of extremely favorable prices for soybean oil meal, reports Richard Adams, Dairy Extension Specialist at Penn State. In many areas soybean oil meal is selling for less than the usual 32-36 per cent dairy supplements.

Since most soybean oil meal on the market today contains 44 per cent crude protein, a dairyman can purchase a pound of protein cheaper in this form than in a 32-36 per cent supplement sold at the same price, Adams says. Due to its higher protein content, less of this protein supplement needs to be used. Thus, more home-grown grains, or cheaper by-product feeds can be included in the grain mixture.

Protein quality is not a problem in the feeding of ruminants over 10-12 weeks of age. When soybean oil meal is combined with the commonly used home-grown grains, the cow is receiving protein of good quality.

If soybean or other straight oil meals are used in balancing the grain mixture for dairy cattle, Adams suggests that one per cent salt and one per cent dicalcium phosphate or steamed bone meal be included in the mix to pro-

Causative Organism Present for Edema

Veterinary authorities consulted on 15 outbreaks of edema disease in pigs, reporting in a professional journal, The North American Veterinarian, speculate that the causative organism is always present in a pig's intestinal tract.

Under certain conditions, such as travel or change of feed, these organisms multiply to cause the typical symptoms of edema disease. These include diarrhea, loss of the ability to coordinate their limbs, swelling of the eyelids and extremities, and paralysis followed by death.

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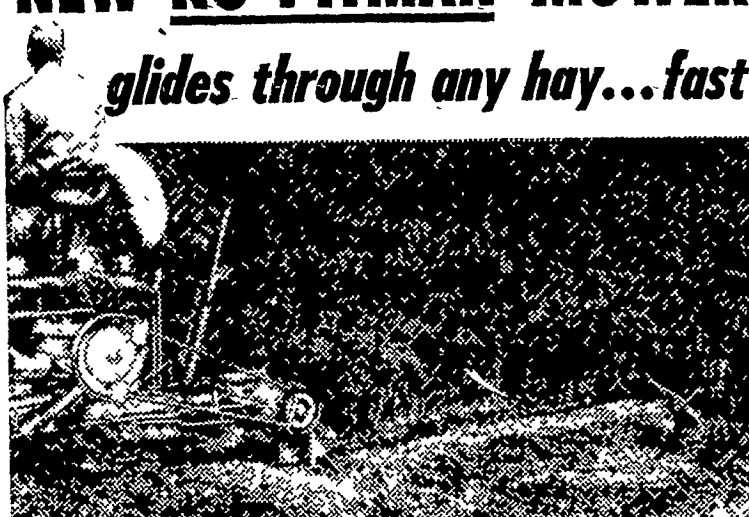
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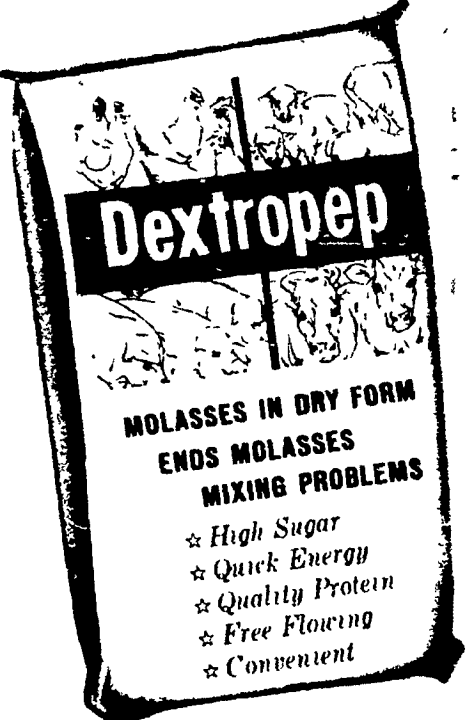
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