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BEFORE THE DAY ON THE ROAD starts, every technician pitches in and helps prepare the semen cases for all the breeders. Here Clyde Dubble checks to make sure the insulated cases have just the right amount of refrigerant in them to keep the semen between 35 and 40 degrees during the day.

L. F. Photo.



IN THE BARN a rubber glove protects both the technician and the cow. A new plastic semen tube for each cow insures that disease will not be carried from one herd to another. Dubble works swiftly but quietly so that the cow is not excited unduly. On Wednesday he inseminated 20 cows on 17 farms.

L. F. Photo.



BOOTS ARE WASHED EACH TIME before the technician leaves a farm. The water contains a disinfectant soap which prevents disease being carried from farm to farm. Cleanliness is the watchword with Dubble as it is with all SPABC technicians.

L. F. Photo.

he writes up the receipt which includes the name and/or the ear tag number of the cow, the name of the bull, the date, whether it is a "first service" or a "repeat", and whether it is a cash or charge service. Next the information is entered on the barn chart for the dairymen's record.

A rubber glove washed in warm water and surgical soap goes all the way to the technician's shoulder to protect both the cow and the inseminator. A plastic tube — a new one for every cow — prevents the spread of disease from one herd to another.

Clyde works quickly, but quietly, in the barn so that the cow is not unduly excited.

He put a polyethylene bulb on the end of the plastic tube and drew one cubic centimeter of diluted semen from the correct three-cc test tube in his kit. A different colored dye in the semen of each breed helps avoid errors. With a clean paper towel, he removed manure from the vaginal area of the cow and quickly inserted the semen.

After a thorough washing of the rubber glove and another sprinkling of the antiseptic soap, we were ready to go to the next farm, I thought, but one thing remained.

Clyde made sure I wore boots, and now I found out why. Before we left each farm, boots got a thorough scrubbing in the same warm water — surgical soap solution, applied with a stiff brush.

The newspaper under the kit, the used paper towels and the polyethylene bulb stayed in the manure gutter on the farm. The plastic semen tube went into a special container for later disposal, and we were on our way.

Practically the same routine, the same meticulous care for sanitation and the same newsy visit with the farmer was repeated on each of the seventeen farms visited that day.

Clyde's schedule is seven days "on" and one day off with alternate Sundays free except in busy periods or emergencies. "It's a good excuse for getting out of teaching Sunday School class," he explained, but I got the feeling that he might rather have been in Sunday School sometimes.

"I may not have the best job in the world, and I could probably make more money somewhere else, but the cooperative has been good to me, and I enjoy the work. I believe we have the best program, and the best selection of bulls of any breeding service in the county," he explained.

Though Clyde made his last assigned call sometime before five p.m., his day is not always over when he breeds the last cow. He is always on the lookout for new prospects and often calls on other dairymen in a public relations capacity. When a new dairy business is started in his area, Clyde calls on the farmer to explain the co-op's program and solicit new business. He is strictly on a salary basis, and no commission is involved, but he realizes the strength of the organization is the cooperation of all members and employees.

After discussing the possibility of a 20-year class reunion, we parted company. I hoped he would get home safely without a spare tire in his trunk and went on my way thinking how our vocational agriculture training had taken us on such diverse paths. I realized anew what a world of opportunity there is for farm boys who can not — or do not choose to — remain on the farm.

This, too, is agriculture, I thought.



NEITHER SNOW NOR COLD NOR LACK of spare tire can stay the artificial breeding technician from the swift completion of his appointed rounds. Clyde Dubble awoke Wednesday morning to find a flat tire on his car. Undaunted, he changed the tire and completed the day's business without a spare.

L. F. Photo.



CLYDE DUBBLE AND EDWARD SAUDER, technicians at the Southeastern Artificial Breeders Cooperative pour diluted semen into the three-cubic centimeter test tubes for packing into the inseminator's kits. Temperature in the room is kept at 38 degrees Fahrenheit, to keep the semen fresh and in good condition.

L. F. Photo.

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