

● **McMullen**

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Papers were filled out to be filed with the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture in Harrisburg, and it was time again for the ritual of boot washing. By this time Dr. McMullen's white coveralls were beginning to get blood and manure spattered, but since our next stop was more dehorning, he decided to wait until after that operation to don clean clothes.

After three cows were dehorned and the blood vessels pulled out to stop the bleeding, a cow with breeding problems was examined. The doctor removed a Corpus Lutum from the ovary and told the farmer, Mason Druck, Quarryville R1, that the cow would be ready to breed in three to five days. The condition could be corrected with hormones, he said, but that treatment sometimes brings on cystic ovaries, and that is a much more serious problem. Removal of the body from the ovary by pinching it off was done quickly and with very little effort through the intestinal wall. In most cases this is all the treatment needed, he said.

Since we were near home and the doctor needed clean coveralls, we returned to Quarryville, and I took my leave. He had several more calls to make during the afternoon and I had to leave the exciting world of animal medicine and return to the exciting world of printer's ink.

As I look back over the day, I thought most of the cases were routine, but to the farmer, none of them were routine. They might mean the difference between profit and loss on his year's operation. I thought of the relief some of them must have felt when the animals seemed to be on the

● **Corn**

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ce to indicate a buildup of soil insects in a field of continuous corn.

On the other hand, Dr. Carlton Taylor, plant disease specialist, said corn diseases do tend to build up in fields where corn follows corn. He said corn leaf blight, a problem in wet years and with thicker plantings can best be controlled by planting resistant hybrid varieties.

Stalk rot, which is also a disease of hot, humid summers, can also best be controlled by selecting resistant varieties. Strains resistant to the virus of staly rot are now being developed and will soon be avail-

road to recovery, and I thought of the disappointment which must have been felt by the farmer when the doctor told him his high producing cow with hardware disease had very little chance of recovery.

Every one of the farmers were interested in the health of his animals, and Dr. McMullen shared his interest.

This too is agriculture, I thought.

best thing to do is "get in there and pick as soon as the corn is ready", he reminded the farmers. Rotation of crops will help if the disease organism has built up in the soil.

The organism that causes stalk rot of corn also causes scab of wheat and barley and seedling blight of corn. Taylor urged clean cultivation of corn ground before seeding wheat in the field.

While most commercial seed corn has been treated for fungus diseases, Taylor said a tablespoonful of Captan or Arasan sprinkled over the seed in the hopper would give better protection against stalk rot and smut organisms.

George Berggren, extension agronomist, said it takes a combination of all factors to produce a good yield of corn, but one of the most important is placement of starter fertilizer.

He told farmers a survey of 69 farms in Pennsylvania showed that 47 had split boot corn planters and the other 22 had side banding shoes. On the farms with split boot planters, the farmers averaged just about 8,000 plants per acre.

able from commercial seed houses, he said. If stalk rot does become a problem, the

Berggren said farmers should shoot for 15,000 to 18,000 plants per acre at harvest time for husking corn and about 4,000 more plants per acre on silage corn.

If fertilizer is too close to the seed, poor germination will

result and the stand will probably be poor, he said. The best fertilizer spacing is a band two inches below and two inches to the side of the seed.

Berggren said atrazine should not be used continually in (Continued on Page 9)

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