

What Does It Cost To Keep A Bull For 1 Year?

According to the Atlantic Breeders Cooperative newsletter for January it may cost you more than enough to have artificially bred 65 cows to maintain your own bull. They further point out that this doesn't even consider the added value of resulting progeny sired by the generally superior bulls available through the artificial breeding service. Nor does it consider the cost and aggravation of injuries, breeding hazards, building and fence repairs, time and labor to turn the bull out with each cow in heat, plus worry and anxiety for the family's safety.

In the Washington-Oregon Area the cash costs of keeping a bull were figured as follows:

1—Housing Investment \$90

About \$1,200 per bull, or \$120 each year; same cost per cow is \$300, or \$30 each year. \$90 represents the added housing cost for the bull.

2—Labor \$260

About 120 hours per year per bull, compared with 60 hours per cow; if you sell the bull and use this labor to milk and care for two cows you can save \$260 per year since each cow shows a labor return of \$130 per year.

3—Feed Costs \$60

A 2,000-pound bull will eat 5 pounds of grain and 20 pounds of hay per day. In a year this will cost about \$150. If you value the weight gain on this feed at \$90, based on 450 pounds of gain at 20 cents per pound, then feed cost, less rate of gain, amounts to \$60 per year.

Totaling these three costs the breeding service finds that it actually costs a farmer \$410 to keep a bull for one year!

USDA Urges Reduction In 1965 Potato Acreage

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is recommending a 7 per cent acreage reduction in 1965 for both fall and late summer potato crops, and a 2 percent reduction in acreage for early summer potatoes.

Acreage-marketing guides issued by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service call for the important fall crop to be cut to 904,390 acres, 7 percent less than last year. Acreage of late summer potatoes was recommended at 136,720 acres, also down 7 percent. For the early summer crop, acreage of 79,710 acres was recommended, down 2 percent.

Individual State recommendations range from reductions of 10 percent in acreage to acreages equal to 1964. In the major Northeast fall crop areas, the guides call for a 7 percent cut-back in acreage in Maine and 6 percent in Upstate New York, but none on Long Island, N.Y. However, the guides recommend a 10 percent reduction in Long Island's late summer potato acreage and 9 percent in New Jersey.

The acreage guides just issued, combined with guides previously released for the winter and spring crops, recommend that U.S. potato plantings in 1965 total 1,267,655 acres, 6 percent below the 1964 total of 1,347,200. With average yields obtained on the guide acreages, U.S. production in 1965 would amount to 257 million hundredweight—a marketing guide which is 6 percent greater than last year's below-average crop of 242.9 million hundredweight.

Poinsettia Plants For Next Christmas

Horticulturists from Ohio State University recently offered a few tips on holding your Christmas Poinsettia plants for blooms for next Christmas.

If you're interested in keeping your poinsettia through the year for bloom next Christmas, Ohio State University Extension horticulturists offer a few tips on how to care for it.

Poinsettias are a little fussy about the kind of care they receive in our climate. They are normally a tropical plant, and to hold them over requires a little knowledge about their habits.

Usually, during the growing season, poinsettias need plenty of water. But as the season ends, gradually reduce the amount the plant receives until all the leaves have fallen. At that time, cut the plant back to about 6 inches, then

store it, pot and all, in a basement or room where the temperature stays about 60 degrees. To keep the plant alive, you will need to water it about once every two to three weeks.

In the spring when new shoots begin to develop, the plant will need more care. If there is more than one plant in the pot, you probably should repot them to one per pot. A well-drained potting soil containing bone meal or superphosphate should be used. Begin watering the plants more often and give them plenty of sunshine. When outdoor night temperatures remain above 60 degrees, the plants can be placed, in their pots, in a sunny spot in the garden.

When the shoots are 8 to 10 inches long, give them a pinch to cause them to branch and stay somewhat short. The last pinch should be not later than about August 1. Feed the plants every two to three weeks with a good liquid house plant fertilizer, especially in October and November.

In the fall, before outdoor night temperatures drop below

All-American Show

(Continued from Page 4) sion and the Pennsylvania Dairy and Allied Industries Association.

Dr. Howard Thoele, coach of student dairy judging at the Pennsylvania State University, was requested to develop the intercollegiate contest.

Harold R. McCulloch, general manager, reported to the committee that added en-

60 degrees, bring the plants indoors. Keep them in a sunny window until October 1, then place them in total darkness from 6 p.m. until 8 a.m. each day. Poinsettias are known to be "short-day" plants and require so many dark hours to set flower buds.

Once the top left bracts begin to show color, the dark treatment can be discontinued. Water the plants carefully, keep them in a sunny spot and avoid cold drafts. With a little luck the plants should be very colorful about Christmas time.

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Clarence R. Hack, Berwick R2, was named to the show committee and to the PDAA board as replacement for Eugene Harding, Brookville, resigned.

Nairn announced the Jan. 26 meeting, to be held in the Agriculture Building, will be open to exhibitors, show supporters, class sponsors and others interested in the further development of the exhibition. A permanent board of directors will be named.

A blue porqual whale may measure over 100 feet in length.

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