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Farmer's Pay

(Continued from Page 1) holes in the top. Then when the feed has traveled the full length of the trough, a mechanism rolls the cover over and dumps the whole load evenly.

Hofmeister recommended feeding all the silage that animals will clean up in 1-1/2 hours, and doing this at least three times a day. He said they'll eat better if fed frequently and will perform more uniformly. "Every animal should have room to eat at the same time; they don't want 'mouthed-over' feed," he said.

His suggestion on feeder space was 2 1/2 linear feet for large mature animals, and 2 feet for medium-sized ones. He felt the production gained from giving those extra few feet to cover all cows would pay for the extra feeder space.

SPECIALIST TREND

Hofmeister told the group he sees a definite trend in the specialist feeding of beef. For example, one farmer will take young stock and push forage till the animals weigh 800-900 pounds. Then the next specialist will take over and fatten the animals for market. Both of these operations will be done on an increasingly larger scale, and each will require different and specialized equipment.

FEEDLOT LAYOUT

"Spend only what you need

to do the job today; don't try to anticipate your requirements for too many years ahead because both tools and plans will change," Hofmeister said.

Several important factors in laying out a feed lot were presented by the equipment representative

1 — Ventilation — too many lots don't have adequate movement of air to dry up manure, especially if part of the feed bunk is in the sun. He found moist manure an ideal breeding place.

2 — Direction of feeder — should be north and south so that the sun can shine on both sides equally. This will help to dry the feedlot in summer, and thaw feed and manure in winter.

3 — Drainage — should run along side of silo and away from feeder.

4 — Curbs — keep the

boss animals from forcing the others away from feeders. They are a must, even if you can only afford to use 8x8 inch blocks and pour concrete in the holes. The ideal size is 14-16 inches wide, and 4-6 inches high.

5 — Feed bunks — should be at least 22 inches above the curb, and the trough should be at least 8 inches deep.

Paul Kline, president of the Manheim Young Farmers, was in charge of the meeting which was held in the agricultural room of the Manheim Central High School.

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