

Nutritionist Gives Area Dairymen Some Livestock Feeding Advice

by Everett Newswanger, staff reporter

An expert on dairy cattle feeding told a group of Lancaster County Dairy farmers this week, "Since corn is a natural silage crop and is easily preserved, the routine use of a chemical preservative is not recommended for corn silage."

Dr. Richard Adams, Extension Nutritionist, Pennsylvania State University, speaking to a disappointingly small number of dairymen gathered at the Solanco High School, Quarryville, Wednesday evening, for the Dairy Clinic sponsored by the Lancaster County Extension Service, said, "The exceptions to this are ground limestone for livestock other than dairy cattle and possibly sodium metabisulfite when problems with silo gas may be expected."

"The use of urea as an additive for silage is not being encouraged," Dr. Adams stated

VITAMINS

Adams suggests that sufficient vitamin concentrates be included in the ration to provide 30,000 units of supplemental vitamin A and 60,000 units of supplemental vitamin D per head daily. Supplementation with fat-soluble vitamins should be considered especial-

ly in herds fed limited forage rations (around 1.5 pounds of hay - equivalent per 100 lbs. of body weight), those using year-round stored feeding, and those feeding little or no hay with corn or other annual silages.

MINERALS

For insurance purposes, supplementary minerals should be provided to all dairy cattle both in the grain mixture and on a free-choice basis. "A phosphorus deficiency or calcium-phosphorus imbalance is the most commonly found mineral problem," he said.

All animals need a source of salt. Adams suggested the use of a trace mineral salt unless appreciable amounts of a commercial protein concentrate or a commercial mineral mixture

containing trace minerals is used.

UREA

"Both research and farm experience have demonstrated that satisfactory results can be obtained when urea is properly used as a protein substitute for dairy cattle," Adams said. He gave six recommendations for its use: 1) Use at least two to four weeks to gradually convert cows from a non-urea to a urea-containing ration; 2) Limit urea to 1.0%-2.0% of the grain mixture as fed to dairy cows for palatability reasons; 3) Do not use urea in mixtures containing raw soybeans or inadequately heat-treated soybean products; 4) Make certain that urea-containing mixtures as fed are adequately balanced; 5) Use good mixing methods to insure against intake of toxic levels; and 6) Consider removing urea from the ration of sick cows with impaired rumen function,

particularly if nitrate poisoning may be involved.

held for dairymen in the northern part of the county Thursday evening at the Hanheim direction of Dr. Adams was Twp. Jr. High School, Newville.



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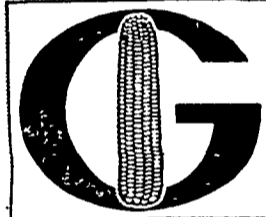
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