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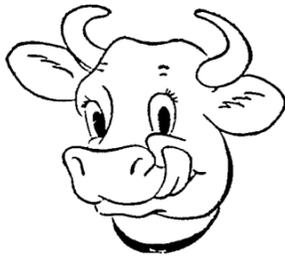


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Cautions Against Too Fat Breeding Heifers

"Feed all breeding heifers to grow out well, but don't get them too fat. This will help avoid calving difficulties."

That is the recommendation of John Lasley, Missouri University professor of animal husbandry.

On the basis of University research, Lasley also recommends breeding heifers to a smaller type bull rather than one that is extremely large and growthy for his age. He emphasizes that this is only for first-calf heifers.

"After a heifer has dropped her first calf, the size or breed of bull does not seem to be so important with respect to calving difficulties," Lasley adds.

He notes, too, that "all breeding animals should be kept in good condition, but never too fat. Excess weight appears to have a very harmful effect on fertility and calf production."

In this connection, he tells of findings in an experiment with Hereford heifers. Some were fed a low level of nutrition, some a medium level, and others a high level before and during the breeding season. The high level heifers were fat. They had the highest percentage of dead calves

They also had more calving difficulty.

This was true, he notes, despite the fact that calves from the fat heifers were no heavier at birth than were the offspring from heifers on the low and medium nutrition level.

Lasley's recommendations are based on information obtained in a study of about 200 first-calf heifers at the University's North Missouri Center at Spickard. Cattle being studied are purebred Hereford, Charolais, and Angus.

The study of calving difficulties is one part of the nine-year research project now in its second year. The three breeds are being crossed to determine the effect on meatiness and calving percentage.

Thus far, says Lasley, calves from Charolais and Hereford bulls were involved in a larger percentage of difficult births than Angus sires.

"At least a part of this difficulty," he states, "was due to longer gestation periods, and heavier birth weights of calves. Although it wasn't measured directly, width of the calf in the shoulders and hips might also be involved. Within each of the three breeds studied, some bulls caused more calving difficulties than others"

Charolais heifers had less

CORNED BEEF ON A SPIT

The new corned beef for oven roasting is tender enough to remove from the wrapper and place directly on the spit to be cooked over low charcoal heat. Use the oven roasting time given on the label and test the doneness by probing with a long handled fork near the end of the suggested roasting time. The time may vary depending upon equipment and fire builders. But when the roast is served, all will agree that it is the best flavored and most tender corned beef they have had for many a picnic.

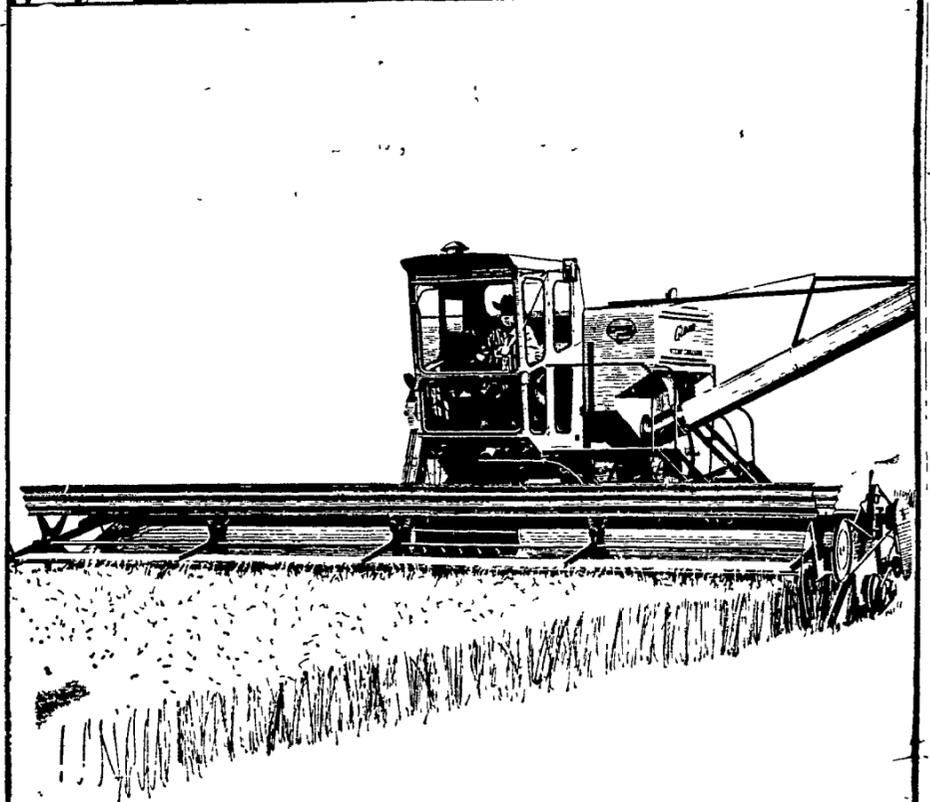
Ideal to serve with this full-flavored meat is corn on the cob. Remove corn husks and silk, dot with butter or margarine, and sprinkle with salt and pepper before wrapping in a double thickness of foil. Unwrap one ear to check for doneness after 15 or 20 minutes of cooking.

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difficulty at calving time than either Hereford or Angus heifers regardless of the breed of bull used. The probable reason is the larger frame of Charolais heifers, according to Lasley.



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