

GROUND HAY FOR CALVES

The nutritional impact of ground hay on the first and largest stomach, the rumen, is what provides a growth boost to newborn calves, according to associate county agent Victor Plastow. Ground hay, added to pelleted calf starter, rapidly increases size and capacity of the rumen, speeds up maturity of rumen tissues, and increases absorption of digestion products, he said, adding, the faster rumen development enables calves to digest roughages at a younger age. Ground hay in the diet of newborn calves also speeds up growth and weight gains, a result noted

in calf feeding studies. Researchers fed groups of new born calves four different rations, Plastow noted. All contained pelleted calf starter and whole milk. Two, in ad-

dition, contained chopped hay, free choice. One contained ground hay, substituted for 20% of the grain in the pelleted calf starter. The other ration was fed without hay in any form. Faster growth and development of the rumen oc-

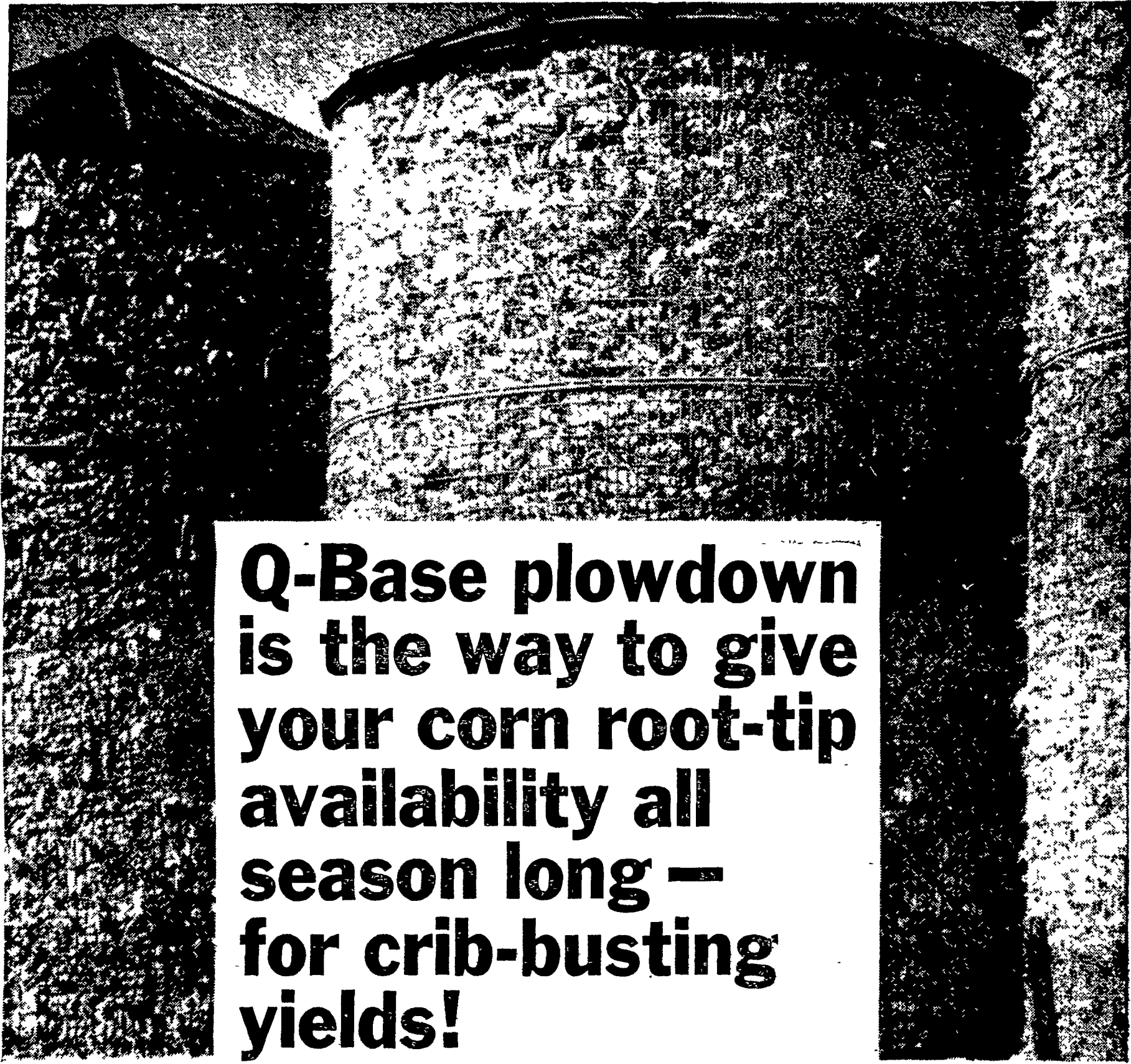
curred in the calves fed the ration containing ground hay. The researchers also noted that whole milk, fed longer than 5 weeks after birth of the calf, slows down development and maturation of the rumen.

Education is to a human what sculpture is to a block of marble. Two things parents run out of at kid parties — food and patience.

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