

Bee-Sting Factor Preserves Silage

Formic acid, a naturally occurring compound that puts the "ouch" in a bee sting, may also help cattle gain weight, a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist reported recently.

Cattle fed unwilted silage don't gain well. This is because they don't like to eat much of it, Dr. Dale R. Waldo, a USDA cattle nutritionist, told the annual meeting of the American Dairy Science Association in Ithaca, N.Y.

An average of three trials conducted in 1965 and 1966, however, shows that silage treated with formic acid sustained dairy heifers so well that they gained 11 percent faster than heifers fed hay cut from the same field. Since heifers on treated silage got no more digestible energy than those on hay, the digestible energy in treated silage must have been used more efficiently, Waldo said.

That may make formic acid

look doubly attractive to the cattle producer. First, it makes silage production practical where wet weather prevents field wilting, because treatment overcomes the low taste appeal of unwilted silage. Second, cattlemen can count upon increased energy value from their feed.

Returns, although consistently good, have varied, the nutritionist reported. In a 1966 trial with alfalfa, heifer gains with treated silage were 15 percent greater than with hay. In a 1965 orchardgrass trial, the advantage was 14 percent. And in a 1966 orchardgrass trial, four percent. Waldo hopes to further clarify the economic advantages of formic acid.

Formic acid, found naturally in bee venom, is also available as an industrial chemical. The cost of Waldo's treatment (one pound of undiluted 90 percent synthetic commercial formic acid per 200 pounds of orchardgrass) is \$2 per ton, but he hopes that further studies on the amount and method of application will reduce the cost.

● Have You Heard

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is out of place in public.

Unload your pockets — they aren't designed as carryalls in most clothing.

Keep your toenails even and clean.

Hang dresses up after wear-

ing to avoid wrinkles. Press fastenings or buttons that when needed and sit carefully should be there. to avoid wrinkles in the back of your skirts.

Re-hem slips that show with an even hem.

Replace safety pins with the

Wear a strapless bra or fasten bra straps with a small tape holder to avoid straps that show.

Keep your legs free of fuzz and unsightly hair.

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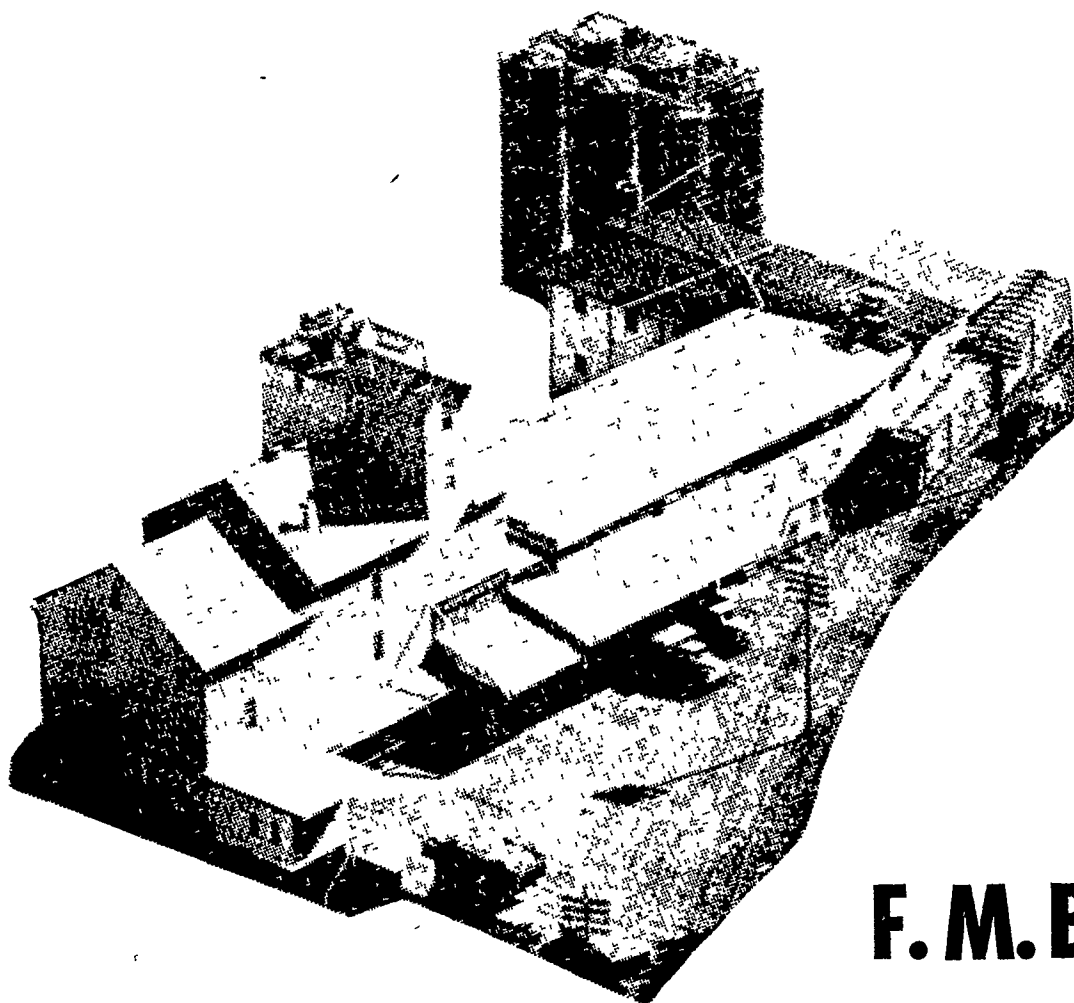
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