18—Lancaster Farming, Saturday, November 11, 1967

Freeze Branding Tried In Maryland

The old phrase about heat-white cattle. cooled down."

manently and painlessly.

"In Maryland," Dr. James the extreme cold.

Ferguson, Extension livestock Dr. Emory C. Leffel, profesmarks are not yet recognized liquid cold for nearly four as legal brands. The technique hours. was developed at Washington Agriculture veterinarian.

Unlike the results of hot iron ard large animal clipper will

branding, the new method does "Nope, we don't need a fire short for the branding and proximately 180 degrees below breeding herds by the freeze when it grows long again it is freezing in the alcohol and dry branding method. The brand

ing the branding irons may be In the Maryland experiment, ing hair or skin as with hot the animal's hair is long or on the way out; if this new Dr. Ferguson said the Mary- iron branding, and apparently short, Dr. Ferguson says. method catches on, the fore land Beef Cattle Improvement man may have to tell the cow- Association supplied the ma-boys to "get the branding irons terials and the University's Agricultural Engineering Depart-A Livestock Management ment made a set of aluminum class at the University of Ma- branding "irons." The nine 4ryland tried an experiment in inch high numerals have ½ February of this year and the inch square faces and have a results look promising as a stainless steel rod screwed inmethod of marking cattle per- to them. Wooden handles protect the operator's hands from

specialist at the University, sor of Animal Science and his hurries to add, "The system livestock management students will probably be used only for used about four to six inches individual animal identification, of methanol in the bottom of a Freeze brands are not likely styrofoam picnic cooler to lowto be used — at least not just er the temperature of the yet — to establish ownership. "irons." Fifteen pounds of "dry In fact, he emphasizes, the ice" in the akohol kept the

Students in the class held State University by Dr. Keith the animals in a standing posi-Farrell, U.S. Department of tion and clipped the hair at the site of the brand. A stand-

Dr. Leffel found.

not clip the hair close enough, no pain to the branded animal, Dr. Ferguson says.

Warm alcohol was used to Several Maryland dairymen not produce a hairless scar, wet the animal's skin, and the and livestock producers have completely white. The method ice — was held against the appears to be permanent, pain-has no value on naturally skin for about 25 seconds. less, and is easily read from a white cattle. There is no smoke from sear-considerable distance whether

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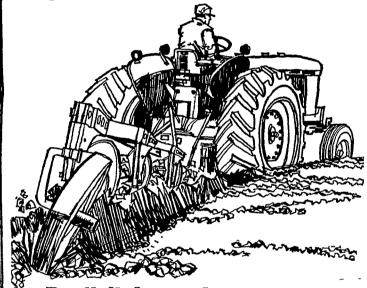
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