

## Vitamin D Provides Calcium To Halt Milk Fever In Cows

The best way currently known for dairymen to reduce the incidence of milk fever in their dairy herds is to provide adequate calcium and phosphorus in the rations of cows, avoid feeding rations excessively high in calcium, and supplement with vitamin D the rations of those cows with previous milk fever history.

Dr. John W. Hibbs, dairy research scientist at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, Wooster, Ohio, reports this conclusion in a summary of 25 years of milk fever research carried out at the center.

Dr. Hibbs reports that early work at the research center showed that feeding 20 million units of vitamin D three to seven days prior to calving significantly elevated the blood level of calcium following calving.

One major problem with this preventive treatment is that it requires accurate prediction of the calving date. Feeding of these high levels of vitamin D up to 30 days resulted in toxic effects from calcium deposits in blood vessels, kidney, and other organs, but no harmful effects were seen when it was fed for the recommended seven-day period.

The effectiveness of feeding lower levels (100,000 to 500,000 units daily) of vitamin D the year around was also studied. A marked reduction in milk fever incidence was found in those animals with a history of milk fever. Scientists noted, however,

that in cows with no milk fever history, no reduction in milk fever incidence occurred.

Dr. Hibbs says these studies indicated to the scientists that milk fever cows differ metabolically from other cows as far as availability of their calcium reserves is concerned. For this reason, either method of vitamin D feeding for milk fever prevention is recommended for use only in milk fever suspects or in mature cows in herds where milk fever is a serious problem.

## Nixon Asks Board On Farm Labor Disputes

President Nixon has proposed a program to guarantee the right of farm workers to organize and, at the same time, to protect growers against the secondary boycott.

Presented to Congress by Labor Secretary George P. Schultz, the plan calls for the establishment of a three-member Farm Labor Relations Board and includes a formula to head off strikes at harvest time.

The formula requires 10 days advance notice of a strike or lockout within which time either party could postpone the work stoppage by invoking a 30-day period of mediation. The party invoking the 30-day mediation would have to agree in advance to accept contract terms to be determined by a neutral fact-finder.

The legislative proposals were prompted by the current grape dispute in California.

\$2.5 billion more for food was demanded by the Poor People's Campaign in Washington this week. The Rev. Ralph David Abernathy addressed an empty chair on the steps of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the absence of Secretary of Agriculture Hardin. He criticized the farm program and said the amount requested is no more than that given farmers not to grow food. And he added, "How can we grudgingly request (only) \$1 billion for food and continue to spend \$30 billion a year for an unjust and immortal war?"

The USDA came under bitter attack from other quarters on the hunger issue. The Select Committee on Hunger and Malnutrition headed by Senator George McGovern (D-S.D.) heard a scathing denunciation at San Francisco by California State Assembly Speaker Jesse Unruh, who proposed that food programs be taken away from the USDA. But in Washington on Wednesday, Congresswoman Leonor K. Sullivan (D-Mo.) reminded her colleagues that nearly everything in the Administration's anti-hunger proposal had been asked by USDA last year and turned down by many who now hail the recommendations as a major breakthrough. "One question in my mind," said Mrs. Sullivan, "is whether the Administration intends to ask for legislation to raise the ceiling, or eliminate it—as we tried to do here last year." She said nearly everything being proposed by the Administration could be done under present law if the spending ceiling were removed.

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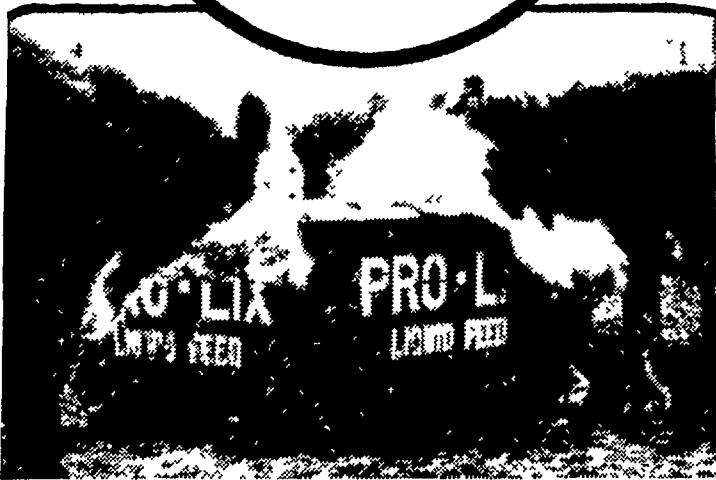
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