

**You Can Prevent Hardware Disease**

A cow reluctantly comes in to the milking parlor with her head down, her back arched,

she grunts each time she breathes or moves, and she doesn't eat. . . last night she seemed to be okay. What can be wrong with her? There's a good chance that

she is suffering from "hardware disease", or as the veterinarians call it, "traumatic gastritis," says Dr. Robert C. Hammond, Extension veterinarian, University of Maryland

A cow's digestive system is designed for her to eat large amounts of roughage at one time, chewing it only enough to swallow

When she's full, she moves to a quiet spot and begins to chew her cud. This adds moisture and saliva to the food and breaks up the roughage

It's a fine system for utilizing

roughage if everything works right.

Sometimes as the cow hurriedly eats her food, she swallows foreign bodies, such as nails, wire, stones, etc., he continues "I once removed a pocket knife from a cow's stomach"

The pieces of wire or nails swallowed are trapped in the second stomach or reticulum, Dr. Hammond continues. While they can stay here for a long time without doing any damage, in time the contractions of the sto-

mach may force them through the stomach wall.

A puncture wound results allowing some of the stomach contents to enter the abdominal cavity. In this way double damage is done to the cow and she becomes extremely sore from the puncture wound and from irritation set up by the rumen contents

Treatment consists of removing the foreign body from the puncture wound, either by surgery or by the use of magnets, and in controlling the infection with antibiotics and sulfas, the University of Maryland veterinarian continues

Prevention is always the best and can be done by keeping all foreign material out of the cow's feed.

A further aid in prevention is to place a magnet in the reticulum of each cow. This should be done before the first pasture season, but may be done anytime after she is 10-12 months of age.

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**Staggering Statistics**

In the US and Canada, less than eight of every 100 persons live on farms. In Asia, South America, and parts of Europe, over half the people are farmers. About 70 of every 100 Africans farm as a way of life. . . Thirty-five years ago, many young farmers started into business for themselves for \$1,000 or less. In 1968, the average U.S. commercial farm had production assets of \$119,000. Today, approximately one million large, commercial farms produce more than 85% of all US farm marketings. . . Seventy percent of the American people now live in urban areas. An estimated 85% of Americans will be city dwellers by the turn of the century. . . In 1790, when the first US census was completed, the population was 3.92 million. By the year 2000, the population of the US will increase from the present 200 million to somewhere between 300-340 million.

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