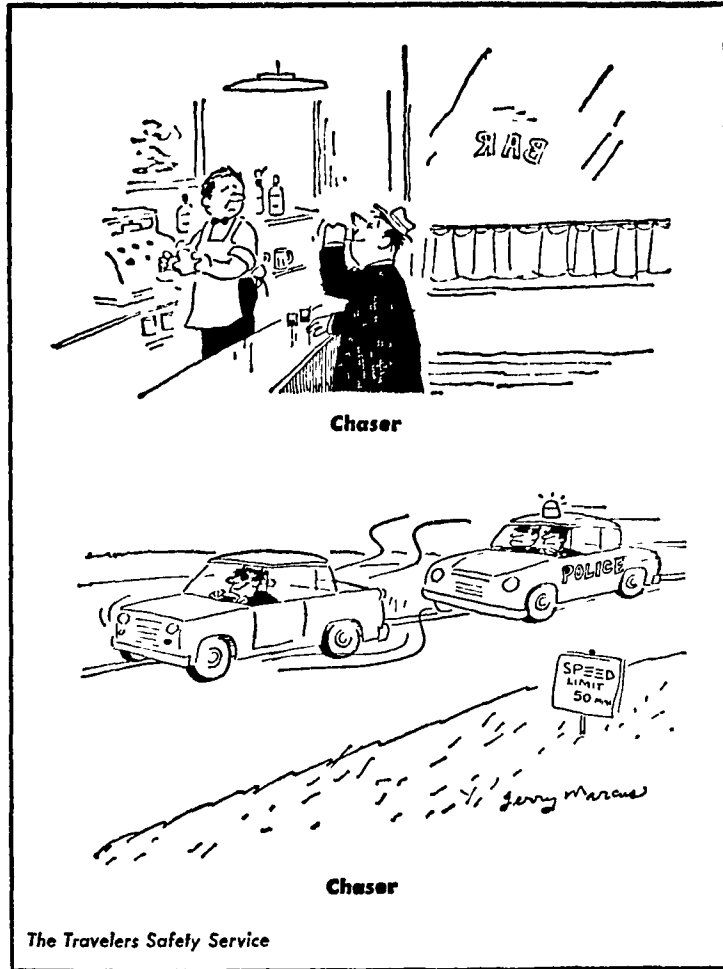


Salt and Minerals Free choice of both salt and minerals is still a good practice for all livestock producers. Both of these items are needed for top production. The use of block salt is far too common on most farms because many of the animals cannot get enough salt before their tongues get sore. Both the salt and the minerals should be provided free choice and kept under roof and out of the weather. The mixing of these materials in the feed is very common but should not be their only source of salt and minerals.

Americans travel about 560 billion miles yearly.

Attitudes & Platitudes Jerry Marcus



The Travelers Safety Service

Driving after drinking is a major cause of highway accidents.

Parasites To Control Cereal Leaf Beetle

A seemingly simple washing process is helping the U.S. Department of Agriculture improve the chances of controlling the cereal leaf beetle by the use of biological control agents instead of pesticides.

Thomas L. Burger, of USDA's agricultural Research Service told a Entomological Society of America meeting recently in Chicago about his method for removing insect eggs from plant leaves. The eggs are used as host material for the production of natural enemies of insect pests, such as the tiny wasp that lays its eggs inside the eggs of the cereal leaf beetle.

The solvent wash process developed by Mr. Burger permits a 10-fold increase in production of cereal leaf beetle parasites at the ARS parasite rearing laboratory at Niles, Mich. The aim of this laboratory is to find and raise natural parasites of the cereal leaf beetle and other plant pests for release in infested areas.

ARS pest control workers hope that continued release and spread of the wasp, in addition to the release of other parasites and predators and other control measures, will eventually minimize the damage being caused by the cereal leaf beetle.

The cereal leaf beetle in both adult and larval stages is destructive to oats, wheat, and barley. A joint Federal-State control program was started in 1963 to suppress the pest. This program has reduced the damage to small grains, but it has not stopped the spread of the pest, which was found for the first time in the United States in Michigan in 1962. The beetle is now known to be present in Kentucky, Maryland, New York, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan.

Mr. Burger believes that this egg recovery technique can be adapted by other laboratories to resolve the problem of handling other glutinous insect eggs to be used for host or parasite rearing.

For the process, oat leaves containing eggs are cut in sections of about 3 inches from growing trays in the laboratory. The leaves are placed in a desticking bucket, which is partially submerged in a tub containing a denatured alcohol held at 77 degrees F. and agitated for 80 seconds with an air jet. This procedure is repeated in a water bath at 90 degrees. Eggs that have been loosened from the leaves are flushed through a series of screens and collected. The eggs are then treated with a fungicide and coated with glycerine to prevent desiccation, and deposited on filter paper for drying.

There is no apparent difference in acceptability of eggs by the parasites whether eggs are recovered by hand picking or washing.

This new process is part of USDA's continuing search for additional safe and effective methods for controlling pests.

Income Tax

Income tax return time is approaching for the farmer and I'd like to announce that the 1969 Income Tax Guide for Farmers is on hand, this booklet is revised each year to explain the many changes. It seems that the tax returns becomes a more vital part of farm accounting each year and many transactions are related to income tax returns. All farmers who are making their own returns, or others making the report for farmers, are urged to obtain their copy. Two Income Tax training sessions are scheduled for this part of the state late in January.

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