

Livestock Ignore Noise

Loud noises have little effect on farm-raised animals, says a scientist of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Dr. James Bond of USDA's Agricultural Research Service said research on the physiological and behavioral effects of loud noises on livestock indicates that animals adjust rapidly to these noises and are not permanently distressed.

Speaking before the 134th

meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Boston, Mass., Dr. Bond recounted experiments including one in which Jersey cows were exposed to fright stimuli caused by exploding paper bags. At first milk flow ceased, but it returned 30 minutes later.

"Study of 42 herds of dairy cattle in close proximity to an airbase showed no evidence of

lower milk production because of flyovers by aircraft or sonic booms," Dr. Bond said. "Other similar studies with sheep, horses, and swine also showed little effect from sonic booms."

When nursing sows were exposed to different frequencies of sound, Dr. Bond said, they were startled at first. However, the sows resumed nursing their young within a short time. Birth weights and weaning weights were not affected by the noises.

Dr. Bond said experiments were conducted at Beltsville, Md., to establish what normal

behavior patterns are for livestock. When the results of these observations were compared with reported changes in the activity of livestock exposed to loud noises, no difference was found between the two groups.

Developed Scale

The thermometric scale was developed by Gabriel Fahrenheit, an 18th century German physicist and manufacturer of meteorological instruments.

Snow Cover

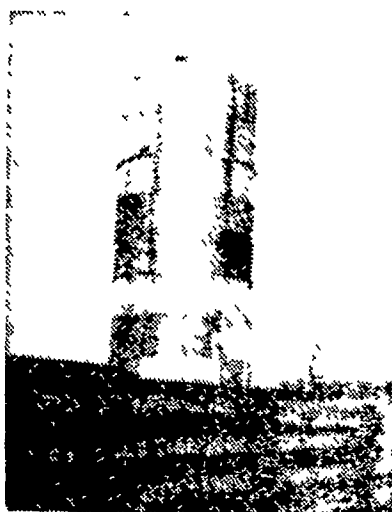
Good snow cover has many advantages to agriculture and to vegetation in general, however, it does bring on some problems that are hard to handle. One is the trouble with birds (starlings) about our livestock feedlots; many farmers are facing this situation without any good corrective recommendations at this time. Another is the heavier infestation of rats and mice that have been driven in from the fields; these can be controlled by poison bait stations and by eliminating all possible nesting places. A good cleanup program and good sanitation at all places will help discourage rats and mice. Farmers are urged to be on the alert for more rats and mice due to the snow cover and try to eliminate them rather than to operate along with them; they can do heavy damage and carry disease.

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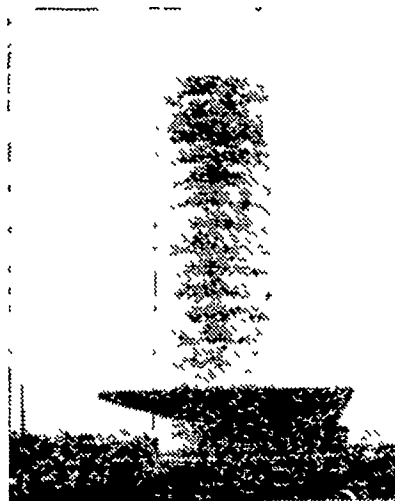


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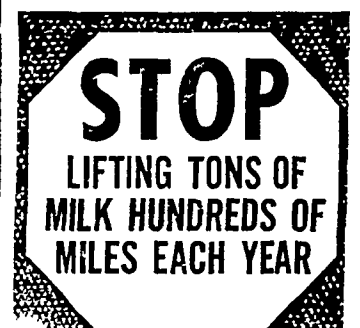
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