

Veterinarian Urged at Dairy Day

Clean Practices Fight Mastitis

High moisture corn, mastitis control, dairy breeding and barn ventilation were among topics discussed at the annual Lancaster County Dairy Day program this week at the Farm and Home Center.

D. B. P. Anderson, Perry County veterinarian, attacked the improper handling of dairy cows by farmers, saying that too many rely on "wonder drugs" to solve the problem of mastitis, which can reduce both quantity and quality of milk.

Bacteria, he said, cause a great deal of the problem, but improperly handled milking machines also are a major source of mastitis.

Much of the disease can be reduced, he said, if farmers provide adequate sanitation, proper cleansing before milking, proper use of the milking machine and teat dipping after milking.

The milking machine, he said, should have an adequate vacuum reserve, or enough pressure to handle the size herd under milking. This usually means a large enough pump, he said, but machine company experts are best qualified to analyze and recommend.

Proper Ventilation
Joe McCu. d. Penn State agr 11

Herr to Outline New Objectives

John H. Herr, newly elected president of the Farm and Home Foundation, will discuss some of the major activities of the Foundation this year at the regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 17, in the conference room of the Farm and Home Center.

Herr also will name several committees. Howard Campbell, Farm and Home Center Manager, will give a report on the use of the Center.

All board members have been requested to give some thought to additional fund-raising activities to reduce the mortgage on this project.

cultural engineer, outlined needs for proper barn ventilation. One of the greatest needs, he said, is a continuous air flow fan, supplemented by a temperature control booster for the summer.

The moving air removes moisture which collects and causes problems. Foul smelling air also is removed.

Poor ventilation can cause bad working conditions and high building maintenance costs.

Cow Breeding

Harvey Shaffer, Penn State dairy specialist, told local dairymen that unsuccessful breeding of cows often was caused by attempts at insemination too early in the heat cycle.

He said that a 24-hour insurance on breeding was contained in the life of the semen, which means that insemination can take place late in the cow's heat period.

Shaffer said that the only sure sign of ovulation in the cow is indicated by standing heat. All other signs may mislead and a farmer who hurries to call a breeding co-op serviceman might really be to blame when the attempt is unsuccessful.

Speaking about the average cow, Shaffer said the cow will be in standing heat 18 hours. Then there is a 12-hour period before ovulation. The egg will live another 12 hours after ovulation and can be fertilized anytime.

This is where the 24-hour life of the sperm in the cow provides an advantage. The sperm can be introduced during any part of the heat cycle where the sperm life and egg life overlap.

Usually, he said, this means that the farmer is better off waiting to have the cow bred so there is more of a time overlap. Waiting too long is rarely the problem, he added.

High Moisture

Leading off the program was Dr. Samuel Dum, Penn State farm management specialist, who outlined uses of high-moisture corn in the dairy operation.

He told county dairymen that there is no apparent difference in the nutritional value for milk production of a pound of dry matter from high moisture corn or air-dry corn, but that adjustments in quantity fed must be made. He estimated that 12 pounds of high moisture corn is needed to equal a pound of air-dry corn.

Dr. Dum told farmers that the ideal kernel moisture in shelled corn is 26.28 per cent, with limits of 25 to 33 per cent the acceptable limits.

Ground ear corn moisture he said, is an ideal of 32 per cent, with limits of 25 to 40 per cent.

Some studies, he said, have shown 7 per cent less field, harvesting and storage losses for 25-30 per cent moisture corn than with dry corn. This figure can

vary, depending on equipment, management and worker skill.

Pros And Cons

Advantages of high-moisture corn are found in the harvesting, storing and handling processes, he said.

They include: 1) harvesting can be done two to three weeks earlier than for cribbing; 2) there is less field, harvesting and storage losses compared to air-dry corn; 3) it is usually ready to feed when removed from storage or can be processed as a part of the continuous feed system; 4) it adapts readily and easily to mechanical harvesting, storing and feeding; 5) storage costs for new facilities can be less than for crib storage or heat dried corn.

Disadvantages which must be considered in overall dairy use

include: 1) moisture percentage of corn at harvest must be known to properly harvest and store with minimum loss; 2) top spoilage can be great if right amount is not fed daily; 3) feeding methods must insure adequate protein and mineral intake, as well as adequate fiber and energy intake;

4) Extra equipment, or accessories for equipment, may be needed to handle high-moisture corn; 5) extra storage facilities may be needed while others are left idle; 6) corn stored in this manner must be fed since usually there is no market for it; 7) additional power may be needed for conveying or processing; 8) in winter freezing of grain may cause handling problems; and 9) more weight is handled than with dry grain.

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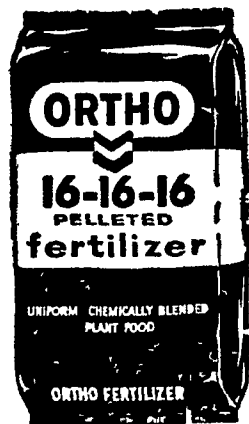
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