

To Get Most Value, Cut Hay Crops Early

Cut hay crops early for maximum feed value, says Dr. William H. Mitchell, extension agronomist at the University of Delaware.

Hay that is cut early provides a higher quality feed than that which is cut too late. The young plants are usually tender and palatable; older plants tend to be stiff and stemmy, points out Mitchell.

Alfalfa should be cut in the bud stage before it blooms or orchard-grass during the boot stage before the heads emerge, and oats should be cut in the boot or early head stage, explains Mitchell. Although hay yields are lower when the crops are cut during the early stages, the total digestible nutrients (TDN) will be higher.

When cut at the proper stage,

● Sprague

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The Poultry Queen Committee is looking for candidates for the Queen Contest. The contestants will have their expenses paid for their two day stay in Hershey and all contestants will be awarded prizes.

Qualifications are that the girl be between the age of 17 and 23 and that she is a relative of a poultryman or an Allied industry man. Complete information can be secured by writing to the Poultry Federation Office.

Any information as to good candidates from this contest would be greatly appreciated by the Queen Committee. This committee is comprised of Harold Musser, Chairman, Robert Woodward and Dick Wilson.

A joint effort between the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation is being used to construct a new egg promotional display.

The Greater Allentown Fair, which will be held August 7 through 15, has offered space and are interested in the Federation setting up and manning the display.

The display will also be used at the York Interstate Fair September 15 through 19, and will be used at the Poultry Festival at Hershey August 25 through 30.

hay crops are high in moisture content. If the weather is cool and rainy, you can still make high quality hay by using a hay conditioner after the crop is cut.

Use of a hay conditioner can reduce the time required to cure hay from three to two days, says Mitchell. Thus, your hay can be stored earlier with more leaves intact and with less damage from leaching.

Hay should be conditioned no more than 15 minutes after being cut and windrowed to retain its maximum feed value.

● Delaware

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"With automatic feeders, you don't know when a bird or part of the flock goes off feed. By hand feeding, we can tell when something is wrong in a few hours."

Efficient feed conversions is the result of good management practices. Last year, one flock of turkeys in the Haas operation had a feed conversion of 3.2:1 (3.2 pounds of feed per pound of gain) at the end of the 22-week grow out period.

In spite of the time required for his farming enterprise, Haas finds time to play an active role in community programs. He is a member of the New Castle County ASCS Committee and the New Castle County Soil Conservation Service Committee. In addition, he is also a member of the Delaware Farm Bureau and Delaware State Grange.

Pompon Producers Drop

Decline in number of pompon growers continued in 1969. Pennsylvania lost 32 growers and has 299 remaining, the nation lost 163 and now has 2,497 pompon producers.

The average pompon price was down slightly, from 84 to 83 cents a bunch, nationally, but up slightly in Pennsylvania from 82 cents to 83 cents a bunch.

Production nationally was higher in '69 by 8 per cent, lower in the state by 4 per cent. And 1970? Expect 2.6 per cent more supply in the nation but a continued decline in the Commonwealth.

● Facts

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per 1 1/2 - 2 pounds of excessive drop in milk. Use the 1 1/2 pound figure for cows producing over 70 pounds.

In addition, check udder health using a suitable screening test and closely observe the cow for other possible problems. If a number of cows are involved check ration balance.

Heid Infertility Program

Calving — provide cows with the cleanest possible environment at calving time.

Retained placenta — be sure that afterbirth is passed and if not, obtain your veterinarian's assistance. Dairymen should not attempt to remove retained placenta. This is a procedure which demands competent veterinary assistance.

Pre-breeding examination — have your veterinarian examine all animals sometime following the first three weeks after calving.

Record all heats and watch for abnormality — good breeding records are essential for diagnosis of abnormalities.

Never breed animals which show the slightest evidence of infection (abnormal discharge). Check especially at heat and following heat for abnormal discharge.

Have all cows examined between 45 and 70 days following last service. Earlier examination is not recommended except for problem cows.

Work out a good working relationship with your AI technician and your veterinarian. Less than complete cooperation among the three of you will cost you money.

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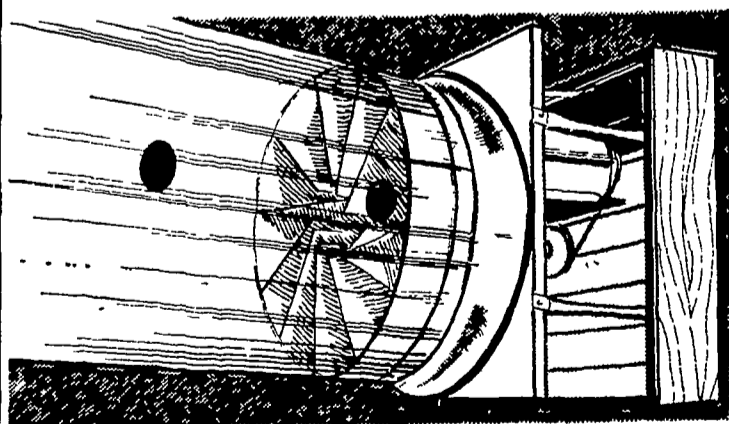
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