

Marek's Disease Progress Claimed

Losses due to Marek's disease were reduced significantly in broiler chickens vaccinated with a herpes virus of turkeys during a recent study at the University of Delaware, according to Dr. William C. Krauss, associate professor of animal science and agricultural biochemistry.

In a report presented at the Northeastern Conference on Avian Diseases at Blacksburg, Virginia, June 16, Krauss said broilers vaccinated with the vaccine had a 10-fold reduction in leukosis condemnations com-

pared to broilers that weren't vaccinated. Marek's disease is responsible for condemnation losses to the poultry industry estimated at \$200 million annually.

The vaccine used in the Delaware study was prepared by Sterwin Laboratories, Inc., Millsboro, Delaware, from a virus discovered at the Regional Poultry Research Laboratory in East Lansing, Michigan. In the controlled research project at the University's Georgetown Substation, the vaccine was adminis-

tered by injection to 2,100 day-old chicks. An equal number of unvaccinated chicks were maintained in the same house as controls.

During the growout period, no mortality from leukosis occurred in the vaccinated birds. When the broilers were processed at eight weeks of age, the vaccinated birds had 90 per cent less condemned for leukosis than the unvaccinated broilers, said Krauss. Five per cent of the control flock were condemned for leukosis while only 0.5 per cent

of the vaccinated birds were condemned.

According to Dr. William J. Benton, chairman of the department of animal science and agricultural biochemistry at the University, this is the first report of the successful use of a vaccine of this type in broilers.

Although the vaccine is still in an experimental stage and not available commercially, the results of this experiment indicate that an effective vaccine to fight Marek's disease in broilers can

be developed. Additional studies using this vaccine are planned for the future.

Heat Hurts Equipment

Winter weather can be the most damaging, but summer sun and heat also shortens the life of farm equipment, remind extension agricultural engineers at Pennsylvania State University.

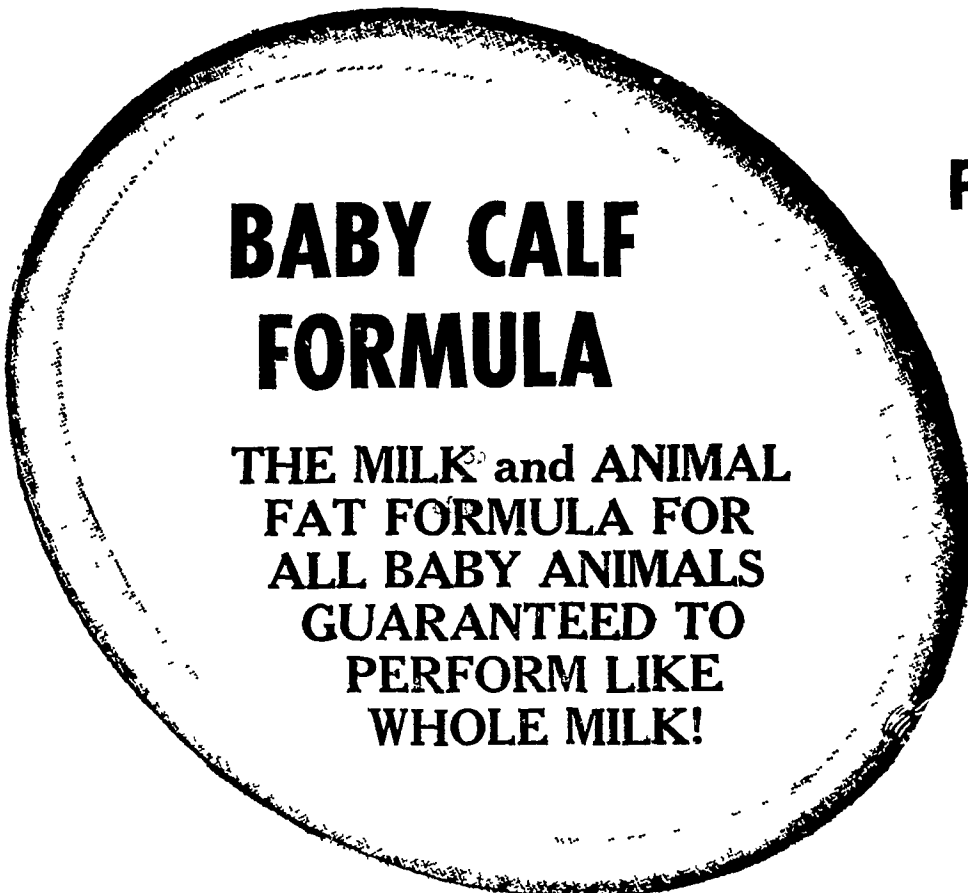
It pays to keep "sophisticated" and expensive equipment under cover when not in use.



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