

Facts Dairymen Should Know

(Continued from Page 1) she will be much more than second chance. It is interesting to note the improvement made in the second lactation. Fifth-one animals (41.8 per cent) were still in the bottom fifth of the herd, 32 were in the 4th fifth, 28 were in the middle fifth, and only 11 were in the upper two-fifths. This means that less than 10 per cent improved enough to rank above the "middle" group.

Of the 61 cows that had a third lactation, 26 per cent were still in the bottom group and only 6 (still less than 10 per cent) were in the upper two groups. If we consider all of the lactations for the 122 cows that were given two or more chances to improve, we find that 42 (34.4 percent) never ranked higher than the bottom fifth. On the other hand, only 18 (14.7 per cent) ever attained the upper two-fifths for even one lactation.

These results indicate that there is little justification for keeping a heifer that ranks in the bottom fifth of the herd. There is one chance in ten that

she will be much more than average during her second or third lactation. There is about one chance in seven that she will ever achieve this level.

Forage Fed Per Cow

A look at the 1968-69 testing year summary indicates that most dairymen (96.6 per cent) fed both hay and silage, while 2.6 per cent fed hay only and less than one per cent of the herds were fed silage as the only forage. It is of interest to note that production in the silage only herds was about 700 pounds of milk lower than in herds feeding hay as the sole forage and 600 pounds lower than in the herds fed a combination of hay and silage.

Forage Fed	No. Herds	Milk	%	Fat
Hay only	99	12833	3.78	484
Silage only	27	12125	3.88	473
Hay and silage	3654	12727	3.86	492

The hay only herds were fed 5300 pounds of grain per cow

compared to 4750 pounds of grain per cow for the silage only herds and 5066 pounds of grain for the hay and silage herds.

Danger Signals For Electrical Overloads

If the lights flicker when the refrigerator motor starts or the TV picture wobbles when the furnace goes on, you may have a safety hazard. According to the Penn State Extension Safety Committee, all these danger signals point to one thing: an overloaded electrical system.

Cooler weather calls for space heaters, extra lights, brooding equipment, and electrically-heated livestock waterers. These are some of the things that can put an extra strain on wiring during the winter.

The Safety Committee suggests you have your wiring system checked. It may be that the load isn't distributed evenly enough over the circuits. Perhaps the wiring was designed for the lighter loads of years ago and it just isn't adequate for the modern farm.

Whatever you do, do not replace a blown fuse with one of a larger size. This will allow the circuit to carry the overload, and it may cause a fire when the wire gets too hot. The best thing to do is to call in a competent electrician or a representative from the power company. They can inspect your wiring and find out what's causing the trouble.

Remember, electrical work is dangerous for the do-it-yourselfer. The money you save on labor may well go up in smoke. Let a qualified electrician do it for you.

Milk Outlook

A good supply of herd replacements, an easing of the tight labor situation, top-of-the-record milk prices, and the present high milk feed price ratio. All are favorable to more milk output and indicate a small gain for 1970 from the 116.2 billion level of 1969.

pounds of milk produced last year.

More milk is available for manufacturing this year than last. Output of cheese, nonfat dry milk, and frozen dairy products is running stronger.

Also, compared with last year, customers have stepped up their purchases of all these items — plus lowfat fluid milk products and frozen desserts. But, overall, dairy sales are not quite matching 1969's.

With the slight drop in total dairy sales and heavier production, the USDA is buying more dairy products to support milk and butterfat prices than it has since 1967.

Farm milk prices have been running about four per cent higher than in 1969. And as of now it looks as though farmers' cash receipts from dairying this year are likely to be some four per cent above the \$6.2-billion level of 1969.

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