

Facts Dairymen Should Know

(Continued from Page 17) to 25 pounds/head/day, disappeared promptly when corn feeding was stopped, and reappeared again when the moldy corn feeding was resumed.

Young calves are much more susceptible to some forms of mold poisoning. First symptoms are loss of appetite and incoordination. Liver and kidney damage cause orange-colored urine and yellowish discoloration of mucous membranes.

Aside from acute mold poisoning, several other situations may arise when animals are fed or exposed to lots of moldy forage, grain or bedding. Liver damage and other problems may increase. Often this may result in a higher incidence of milk fever and anemia-related reproductive problems. Mycotic

abortions also may become more prevalent. As much afterbirth or placental membrane as possible should be examined with aborted fetuses to aid in diagnosis.

Respiratory and other mold-related problems may arise from inhalation of mold-laden air as well as by consumption of feed or bedding. Thus, one should avoid as much handling of mold-laden feed or bedding as possible in closed quarters.

Persons working in dusty areas with a high mold count may be afflicted with so-called "farmer's lung" or other disorders. Avoid such a situation or wear dust masks.

Keep Batteries Charged For Easier Starting
Keeping auto and truck batteries fully charged is important during the winter months.

tant during the winter months.

If it's not recharged after thickens lubricating oils in the engine and transmission, making it harder to crank. Another reason is that since batteries rely on chemical reaction to make electricity, they won't produce nearly as much power when they are cold.

If you car or truck seems harder to start in winter, it may be because you are not driving enough. It takes at least three miles to recharge the average battery after starting on a cold morning.

If it's not recharged after each start, the battery will become progressively weaker and the car will be harder and harder to start.

During these cold winter months, keep your car or truck on the go by operating it enough to keep the battery charged.

Cow Production Influences Income Of Dairy Farmers
Better than average milk production per cow is important in

obtaining higher incomes on dairy farms. The 1969 farm business records of 577 Pennsylvania dairy farmers revealed the influence of this factor on incomes. A strong relationship existed between milk sold per cow and incomes.

As milk production rates increased, incomes increased substantially. With farm sizes averaging 47 to 57 cows for each production group, each additional 1,000 pounds of milk sold per cow increased family labor and management income an average of \$1,300. Farmers with milk sold per cow averaging slightly less than 8,000 pounds had incomes averaging \$4,664. Those farmers averaging slightly more than 14,000 pounds per cow had incomes averaging \$12,722.

In obtaining higher production rates, greater amounts of feed were fed. Value of feed fed per cow for the highest production group was more than one-third more than for the

lowest group. However, the increased production rates reduced estimated total costs of production per hundredweight of milk. When milk production was below 11,000 pounds per cow, estimated total costs of production were more than the price received. These costs included cash costs, depreciation, six per cent interest on investment, operator's labor at \$2 per hour and unpaid family at \$1.25 per hour.

When grouped by herd sizes, larger herds had higher incomes at each level of milk production. However, the top production level for each size group had higher incomes than the lowest production level for the next larger sized group. When production per cow increased from less than 11,000 pounds to over 13,000 pounds, family labor and management incomes increased 134 per cent for the 20-39 cow group, 81 per cent for the 40-59 cow group; and 91 per cent for herds with 60 and more cows.

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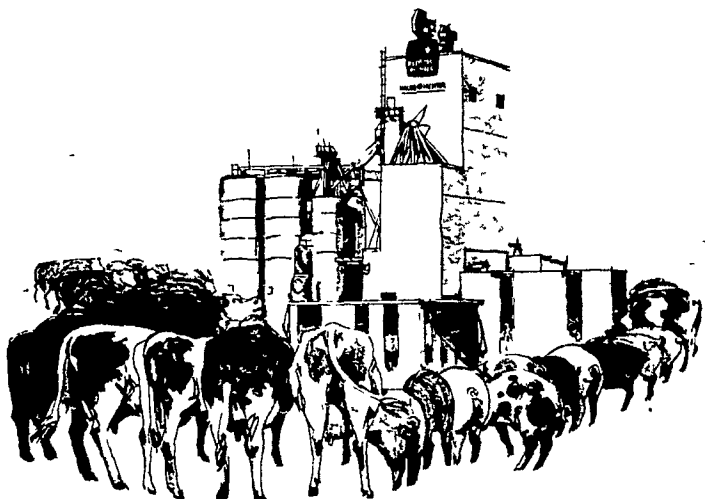
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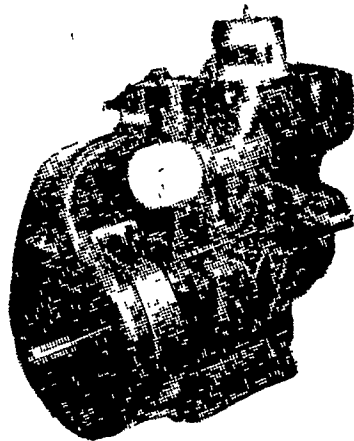
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When faced with the problem of whether "to get good or to get big" a dairy farmer should get good before he gets big, but maximum incomes will be achieved only on the larger-sized farms.

Clean Up Pesticides

Most pesticide usage is over by now, but the mess hangs on. Loose, poorly packaged, unlabeled, and scattered pesticides can only lead to danger, both to yourself and others.

My first suggestion is that you have a pesticide room. If you have one, swell, if not, it only takes a few sheets of plywood, 2x4's, a lock, elbow grease, and you're in business. A sign on the door, PESTICIDES — KEEP OUT, will deter adults. A lock on the door will keep out kids.

Now that you have a good storage area, take a close look at your inventory. If you were very shrewd and smart in your buying and application, very little should be left over, but this is the impossible to wish for, and most of you have dabs and barrels all over the place.

Throw away the dabs as they are more trouble than keeping. If ample amounts are left, check for broken bags, bottles, and lids, repair if possible. Check your label to see if it is clear and legible. If not, re-label with a wax pencil or magic marker so there will be absolutely no misunderstanding about the product next spring. I know that many of you, through haste at usage time have many completely unmarked containers.

Store insecticides and fungicides in one area and weed killers in another. 2,4-D and Sevin do not do well in a mixed condition, but it does happen. Some liquids and emulsions must be kept above freezing. Check labels on these compounds and store accordingly.

But above all else, keep your pesticides under lock and key with a warning sign on the door.

Meat Inspection Suspended

The US Department of Agriculture announced recently that Federal meat inspection has been suspended at Medallion Provision, Inc., 1933 Reed St., Philadelphia, effective Nov. 20.

USDA's Consumer and Marketing Service said that sanitation in the plant did not meet Federal requirements.