

Holsteins Meaty Beef Animal

Recently we suggested that there should be potential in Southeastern Pennsylvania for farmers who raise dairy animals for beef

Availability of large numbers of dairy calves could help make the idea practical, particularly since obtaining feeder stock has become a problem for beef producers when beef prices are favorable.

The following article in the May 10 issue of Hoard's Dairyman shows that Holsteins, which account for the overwhelming majority of dairy animals locally, gain fast and are meaty. The Hoard's article is as follows

Facing formidable competition from beef and other dairy breeds, Holstein steers were first for rate of gain in USDA agricultural research service feeding trials. Holstein, Jersey, Milking Shorthorn, Angus, and Hereford steer calves were included in the comparisons.

Half the cattle from each breed were on a high plane of nutrition from birth to 180 days, and half were on a low plane. The high plane diet included large quantities of whole milk. The low plane ration was typical for rearing dairy heifers and included milk replacer, grain, and hay.

At 181 days, the calves were divided

by breed and previous treatment into three groups and fed, free-choice, finishing ration, chopped hay mixture, or chopped hay until 83 per cent of market weight, and then finishing ration to slaughter weight.

Holsteins gained fastest in both phases of the trials. They also had the largest rib eye area and highest percentage of lean meat and bone of any breed in the study.

Beef breeds produced the most fat, Holsteins the least.

Jerseys and Angus were most tender by taste panel scores.

At equal slaughter weights, Holstein steers will not grade as high as the beef breeds because they lack fat.

While Holstein steers can reach live weights of 1,000 pounds in about a year, they may need to hit 1,400 pounds to add extra fat for higher grade. However, that extra fat might be too expensive to make it pay.

The fact that Holsteins didn't finish out efficiently for high grade may or may not be a serious drawback to use of the dairy animals for beef. The high percentage of lean meat may help to offset this drawback. Or maybe feeding techniques which are both efficient and effective can be developed to increase quality at a reasonable cost.

Sell Milk Through Beef?

We note that other countries have reported highly successful beef operations using two or more calves on one dairy cow.

Since Holsteins, which account for the majority of local dairy animals, are noted for their high milk production and other dairy breeds are reporting good records locally, such a program would seem to be feasible here.

One report we received recently indicated, for instance, that a cow in England which produced about 6,500 pounds of milk fed two calves through nine months and the two were sold at 1,000 pounds each at 12 months. That's a ton of beef per cow.

Note that most local dairymen consider a 6,500 pound cow as cull material, that 10,000 pounds is a modest goal and 12,000 to 15,000 average is achieved by many year after year.

It would appear that local dairy animals could support three to four beef animals, at least in the beginning of the lactation, possibly with the number being tapered off toward the end of the lactation.

While the possibilities are interesting, we would caution local farmers to move into such a program with extreme caution. The management factors are many and complex.

In addition to many of the problems of

both a dairy and a beef operation, such a program offers some challenges all its own.

Basically, such a program would involve marketing milk in the form of beef, just as farmers now market their crops in the form of milk or beef. Before moving in this direction, the farmer would have to be sure he could make more money by marketing milk through beef than by marketing milk directly.

There could possibly be some cost advantages in marketing through beef, since milking systems could be bypassed and much of the labor involved in milking eliminated.

Most local beef producers indicate that the return per animal is relatively low and that, for most beef producers, the beef animal is a means of efficiently marketing local crops. Probably the competition from the huge feedlots in the west will keep beef margins low.

Therefore, the key to the success of a beef program centered around dairy cows would probably be in controlling costs.

Despite the obvious problems, we think a merger of the county's crop, dairy and beef programs deserves consideration. Marketing a combination of crops and milk in the form of beef may offer another alternative for our diverse farm economy.

Cut the Linguistic Lariat

The poultry industry — along with the livestock and dairy industries — is putting increasing emphasis on solving its waste

and environment problems. But material across our desk and comments by local poultrymen indicate many industry people are deeply concerned about restrictions under which they have to work.

This concern is reflected in the following excerpts from an article in The Poultry Times April 28 issue on "FDA's Linguistic Lariat Ensnarers Litter Study" by John F. Yarbrough, publisher:

Much research on the use of litter as a feed ingredient source is now in progress, but reports we get indicate industry and researchers are getting a big run around from the Food and Drug Administration as they attempt to get clearances for their programs.

So it is at this point the poultry industry must begin dodging missiles. On the one hand there are the environment-



NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent

To Pasture Heifers With Care

Heifers turned out to pasture for the summer should not be forgotten; if they are under a year of age, they should get plenty of shade, fresh water, salt, and minerals should be provided at all times in addition to the pasture. Don't neglect your future herd.

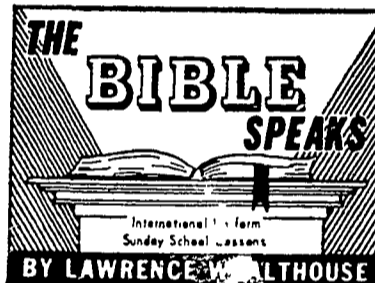
To Recognize Proper Stage of Maturity

Most of the major hay crops such as alfalfa, clover, and timothy have been cut or are in the process of being harvested. However, temporary forage crops such as sudan grass or the sudan-sorghum hybrids are just starting to grow. Proper time of grazing or harvesting of these crops is important to prevent danger of poisoning from prussic acid. Sudan grass

should not be used until 18 inches to 20 inches in length. The sudan-sorghum hybrids should not be used until 24 to 30 inches of growth. Plants consumed lacking this growth could be too high in prussic acid content. The same stage of growth is recommended for aftermath growth on both of these forage crops.

To Recognize The Merits of Mulching

Hot weather is hard on all vegetation, as well as man and beast. The use of a mulch on the ground around trees, shrubs, and plants is one good way to prevent weed growth, keep down temperatures, and conserve moisture. This is especially helpful on newly planted trees and shrubs, where sufficient moisture must be maintained the first summer in order to keep the plant alive. Many garden vegetables such as tomatoes will respond well from mulching, any type of organic matter such as peat moss, ground corn cobs, wood chips, or plastic covers will get the job done.



THE WAR WITHIN Lesson for June 13, 1971

Background Scripture: Isaiah 2:2-4, 9:2-7, 11:1-10
Devotional Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10.

World peace is as much a problem today as at any time in the history of mankind. It is probably an even greater problem today because of man's greater capacity for rendering destruction and misery to more people, faster than ever before.



"It shall come to pass"

It is easy to understand men's dreams of peace. The people of Israel looked for the great day when the Kingdom of God would finally be established in the world. The prophet Isaiah, spoke poetically of Israel's dreams of peace:

... and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. (Isaiah 2:4)
The wolf shall also dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a child shall lead them. (Isaiah 11:6)

But more than two thousand years have passed and that dream has still not been fulfilled. After centuries of warfare and billions of victims, it is not hard to understand the despair that many people feel. When shall the lion "eat straw," the wolf "dwell with the lamb," and swords be beaten "into plowshares"?

Part of the iceberg

One of our difficulties is that we tend to think of peace as something which is primarily a

matter of the external relations between nations and people. From our point of view, it is a matter of the Soviet Union giving up its aggressive intentions in the world, of Red China learning to live in peace with other nations, of the Israeli and Arab learning to settle their disputes in the Middle East, and the North Vietnamese agreeing to leave "in peace" the people of South Vietnam.

This, however, is only part of the problem. It is comparable to that part of the iceberg that is visible above the water. Peace between nations is simply another perspective to the problem of inner peace within the lives of individuals. Wars between nations are really large scale manifestations of the wars that take place within men.

Robert Louis Stevenson's novel, DR JEKYLL AND MR HYDE, is a fascinating description of the human war that rages within all men. Two personalities were at work within Dr. Jekyll. Modern psychiatry sees this inner conflict as the seat of many of our emotional and physical disturbances. Freud, the father of modern psychiatry, wrote at length of this inner war, ascribing sexual conflicts as the cause. Adler, one of Freud's disciples, saw it primarily in terms of a ruthless drive for power and supremacy. Karl Menninger, a prominent analyst today, sees it as a struggle between a "life instinct" and a "death instinct."

Christianity believes that the means to find inner peace has come to us in the person of Jesus Christ. It is his peace alone—"not as the world giveth (peace)"—that is able to bring harmony within the soul of man, and since man cannot achieve harmony with others so long as he is at war within himself, the peace of Jesus Christ is the key to world peace.

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