

Urea Feeds Suggested As Protein Conserver

Farmers not currently using either liquid or dry feeds containing urea should consider switching to such feeds in order to combat extremely high prices for soybean and other proteins,

Lewellyn S. Mix, vice president-farm merchandising of Agway Inc., has advised.

In a letter to dairymen, Mix suggested alternatives as means of coping with reduced supplies and high prices.

"The December differential between a 16 percent protein dairy ration containing urea and one not containing urea was over \$12 per ton," he stated, adding that the differential was \$19 for 20 percent protein, and \$45 for 32 percent protein.

For farms in areas where liquid protein supplement is available, Mix recommended meeting part of protein needs with liquid supplement fed free choice on top of poor quality hay or silage.

Mix described some of the savings that could be realized by feeding urea rations. "Saving in a 50-cow herd when cow is fed 15 pounds of 20 percent protein ration containing urea amounts to \$7.13 per day or 31 cents per hundredweight of milk produced—a savings potential of \$2,600 per year," he pointed out.

Dairy cows fed well-balanced rations can safely and effectively use one-half pound of urea per day, he said, continuing, "If self-fed, balanced, total mixed rations are used or liquid protein supplement is offered free choice, cows can use three-fourths of a pound of urea per day."

He cautioned against simultaneously feeding silage treated with urea, liquid protein supplement, and grain rations

containing urea. Changeover to urea feeds should be made gradually over a two-week period, he said.

Mix cited research data on thousands of cows indicating that urea properly used in balanced rations has no adverse effect on milk production or breeding efficiency. Michigan DHIA records over five years show no difference between urea and non-urea-fed herds in regard to calving intervals, sterility, or level of production.

"About two-thirds of Agway dairy feed users consider feeds containing urea a better buy," Mix noted. "A sample of 297 Agway-fed herds producing 16,000 pounds of milk and-or 550 pounds of butterfat showed that over 69 percent were fed rations containing urea."

"Your use of urea-containing feeds would help conserve tight protein supplies and help control high protein prices," Mix stated.

Oil Firms Boosting Environmental Funds

Petroleum companies are spending an average of some \$3.3 million a day to protect the U.S. environment, according to preliminary results of an American Petroleum Institute survey.

The survey indicates that estimated environmental expenditures during the past year totaled \$1.2 billion, of which more than \$1 billion was spent on air and water conservation. The rest of the money went for land restoration, solid waste disposal and noise control.

This year's estimated spending on air and water conservation is four times as great as in 1966, the first year for which figures were gathered. The total for the seven-year period is expected to reach \$4.5 billion.

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Singing Fish

The sapo, which lives under stones near the shore, is often called the singing fish on account of a peculiar humming noise that is made by its air bladder.

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