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Ayrshire

(Continued From Page 1)

come, you've got to try and balance protein and energy intake."

Breneman said a good production goal for a typical 1300-pound cow would be 60 pounds of milk a day, testing at four percent butterfat.

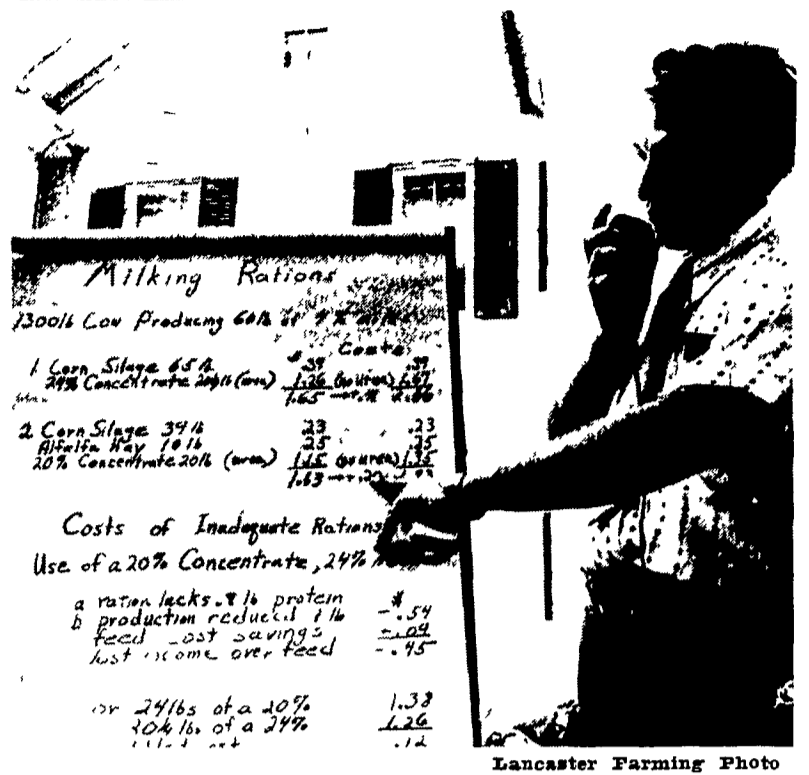
He noted that feed costs are coming back down, but dairymen still need to be careful in determining the nutritional quality of their cows' rations. "I think you should use as much alfalfa as possible," he said. "But you have to know what's in your alfalfa before you can put it into your feeding program. A forage test is really good insurance. The best rations include some alfalfa and some corn silage."

Two techniques which can save feed costs, Breneman pointed out, are a good worming program for young stock, and keeping cows bred.

Cutting the protein content of a ration is usually not a way to save, Breneman feels. He used one example of a dairyman who cut his ration from 24 percent protein to 20 percent. The farmer saved 9-cents in daily feed costs for each cow, but he lopped 54-cents off the value of each cow's production.

"Urea is going to become more and more important in dairy rations," Breneman predicted. "Dairy cows are competing for soy protein with the export market, and with food processors in our own country. Urea is going to have to replace some of that soy protein."

Breneman described a visit he'd made earlier this year to a soybean processor who specialized in producing food for people. He said there were huge silos filled with soybean meal that was to be made into hamburger additive and bacon bits. If



Lancaster Farming Photo

Roy Breneman, an Agway dairy specialist in Harrisburg, was a guest speaker last Saturday at the Pennsylvania Ayrshire Club's 52nd annual field day. Breneman spoke on meeting the challenge of high feed costs.

it weren't for these markets, the meal might otherwise go into livestock rations.

Switching to urea should be done gradually, Breneman warned, or problems will develop. The publicity given to these problems has scared many farmers away from urea, but he said the problems can be avoided with careful management.

Garry Rutter, promotion director for the National Ayrshire Association, was also at the meeting. He urged the members to use all the selling and promotional tools available through the association. Rutter noted that last month in Penn-

sylvania there were four more Ayrshire herds enrolled in DHIA and seven herds classified.

There were three first prizes awarded in a cow judging contest held during the day. Don Gable won the youth division, Betty Henly came in first in the women's division, and David Harnish topped the men's group.

John E. Auken captured first prize in the sire identification contest.

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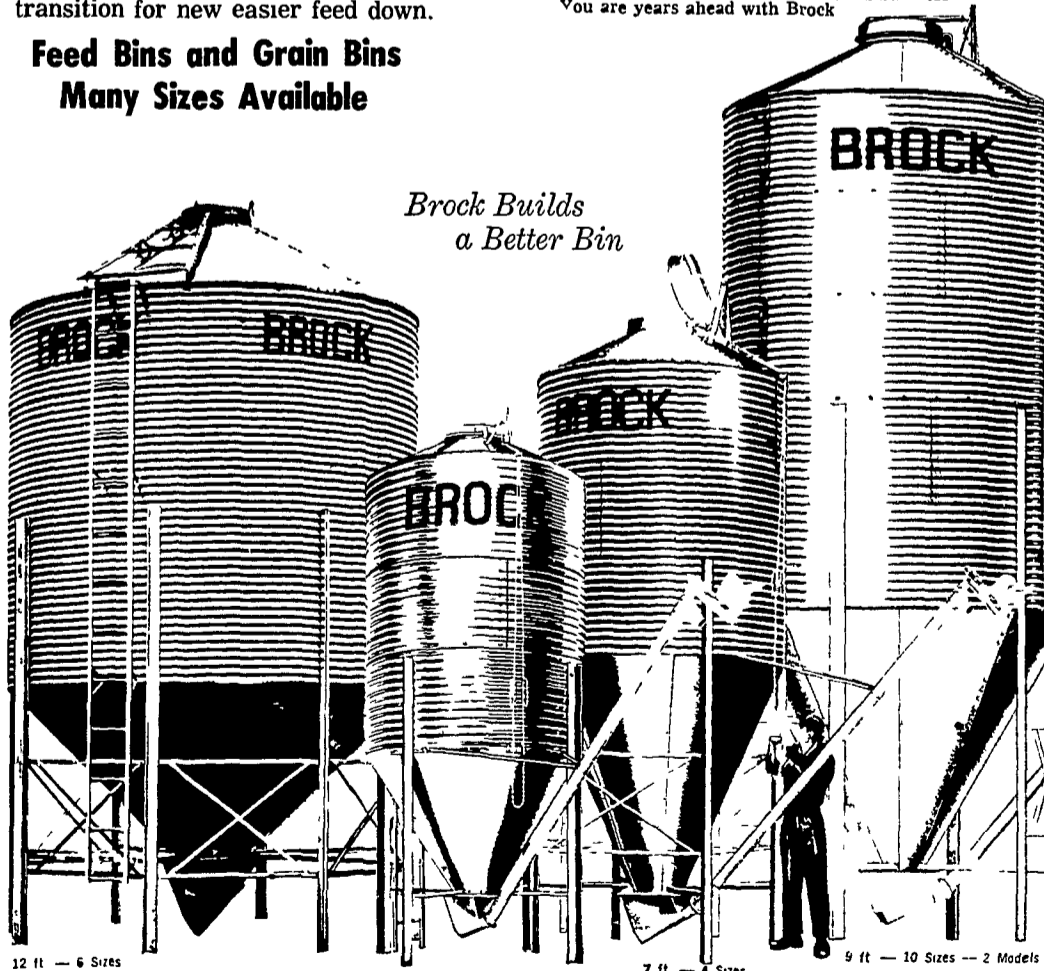
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