

Dairymen Urged To Watch Costs

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money. "There's just not much excuse right now for feeding young calves anything but sour colostrum," he noted. Young stock should also be provided with forage from the first week on, Adams feels, and it can be silage, haylage or greenchop.

Adams scored the Lancaster County audience, telling them they were the most extravagant farmers "on the face of the earth". He said, "If dairymen would watch their spending, they'd be doing themselves more good than if they got a \$3 increase in the price of milk. Especially here in this county. You spend too much on silos, silage additives, mineral mixes, special feed additives and forage testing and feed testing programs that are more elaborate than Penn State's but don't give you any more useful information.

"I'm not saying you don't need any of these things. But I am saying that there are all

kinds of these things available, and if you buy something, you'd just better be sure that you do need it, and that you're getting it at the best price available."

Going through some computations, Adams explained the importance of the milk to feed price ratio, and showed how it has changed in a relatively short time. "About 18 months ago, the feed to milk ration left you feed a pound of grain for every two-and-a-half pounds of milk production. Today, you shouldn't be feeding more than one pound of grain to every five pounds of milk."

Adams cautioned against switching the feeding program too fast, urging the dairymen to make sure their cows got some forage, and a protein feed that should be about four percent higher than they've been using. He also recommended feeding one pound of grain for every



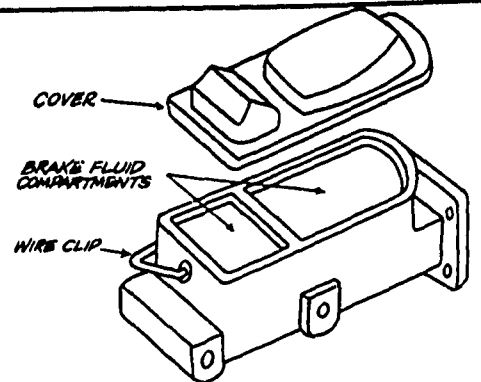
Meet Lancaster County's new poultry princess, Michele Renee Melhorn, 17-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Melhorn, who own a hatchery in Mount Joy. Michele is a senior at Donegal High School, where she plays hockey, is on the gym team and a member of the band. Other activities include football team manager, booster club, Future Business Leaders of America, and the drama club. Michele hopes to attend Hagerstown Legal Secretarial School after she graduates from high school, and she eventually hopes to be a court reporter.

three pounds of milk in the first five months of lactation, then cutting back to one to six in the latter stages of production.

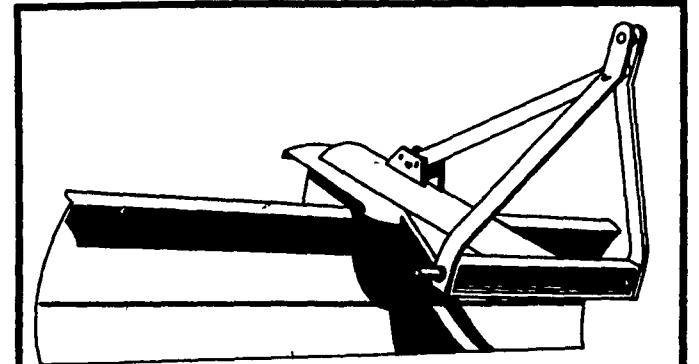
"I'm not saying you'll be getting as much milk as before," Adams commented, "because if you do you were really messing up before. But you will decrease your costs and you will increase your returns from milk. I know one farm where they've saved 42-cents a day on every cow in the herd."

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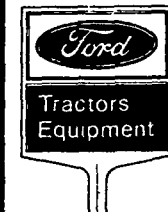
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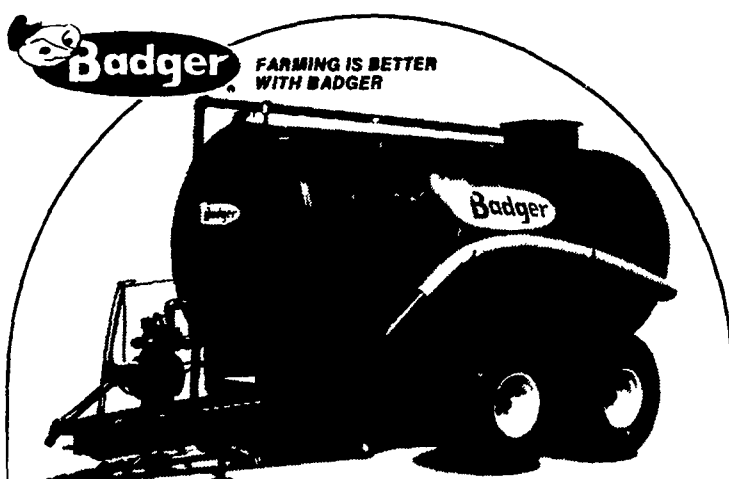
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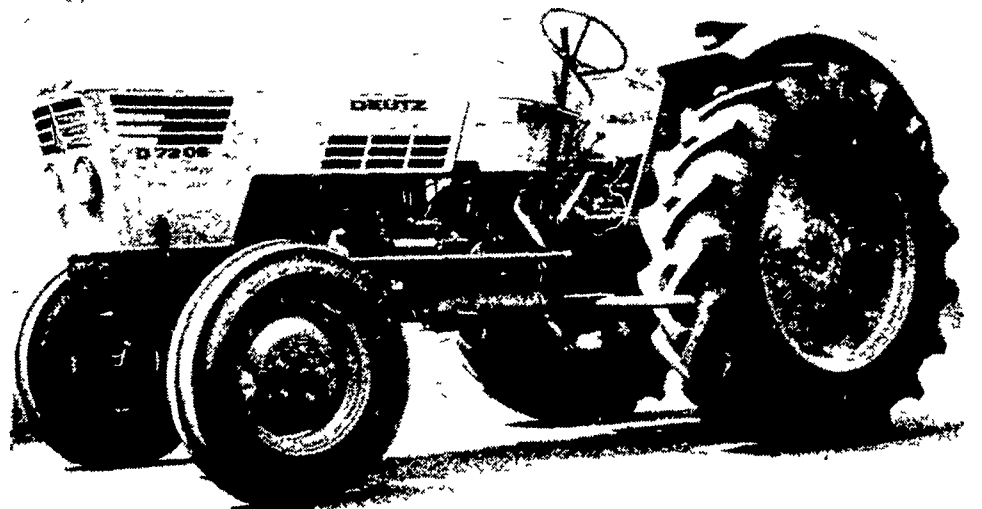
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