



This Registered Shropshire from the Warn G. Menhennett flock, Cochranville, took grand champion honors in breed competition at the recent Eastern National Livestock Exposition at Timonium, Md. The ram

is a spring lamb born in February, and weighed 92 pounds when it was 90 days old. Holding the lamb is David Lytle, 4-H club member from New London.

Withdraw Feed Additives

In large pens of cattle, certain animals finish faster than others, so it's common practice to "top-out" a portion at a time.

But what if they're heifers receiving a feed additive such as MGA which must be withdrawn from the ration 48 hours prior to slaughter?

"No problem," says Dr. John B. Herrick, extension veterinarian for Iowa State University.

It is important to recognize that the 48-hour withdrawal period refers to the time between withdrawal of the drug and the time of slaughter, not the time of shipment.

If a time lapse of 12 to 24 hours between shipment and slaughter can be assured, a feeder can reduce the "in lot" withdrawal time to 24 to 36 hours, says Herrick.

Dr. Herrick recommends three easy methods to top-out part of a pen of MGA-fed heifers.

The first method is to feed a non-medicated withdrawal supplement to all cattle in the pen for the necessary

time period. After the heavy cattle have been removed from the pen, the medicated ration can then be added. Virtually no estrus will occur among the remaining cattle if they miss the MGA feeding for a short period.

A second alternative is to remove the medicated supplement entirely. After market-ready cattle are shipped, replace the supplement. Again, few, if any heifers will come into heat.

And third, feed a non-medicated withdrawal supplement continuously until all animals are marketed. Some heifers will come into heat during the prolonged period, but research trials show no detrimental effects on carcass quality, even when heifers have not been fed

MGA for as long as 22 days. Following a prolonged withdrawal period, the MGA-fed heifers graded, yielded and cut equal to controlled animals and the incidence of bruises was no greater, the Iowa State specialist reports.

Herrick emphasizes that feeders should not be reluctant to use feed additives because of drug withdrawal.

In this period of high-cost feed grains, for example, MGA improves feed efficiency by more than 6 percent and increases rate of daily gain by 10 percent, he says. For heifer feeders, these feeding benefits far outweigh the slight inconvenience encountered with drug withdrawal at market time.



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The baby pig requires an amino acid balance totally different than it will when it is older. As the sow's milk supply begins to dwindle, the baby pig's nutritional requirement is increasing rapidly. The fact that the small pig's tiny stomach can only hold a small amount of feed further complicates the situation.

Intensive research at the Purina Research farm determined the baby pig's amino acid requirements. The information gathered from the research has been used to formulate Baby Pig Chow with its special fortification and amino acid balance.

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Satellite Forecasting Planned

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will join with two other federal agencies in an experiment to study the degree to which computer-assisted analysis of data acquired from space can contribute to crop forecasting.

The experiment is one of many that will be conducted by government agencies in various earth resource fields using the second Earth Resources Satellite (ERTS-B), scheduled to be launched in January.

Called the Large Area

Crop Inventory Experiment (LACIE), this one will be a joint investigation by USDA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The purpose is to find out if use of data gathered by spacecraft and analyzed with the aid of computers can improve the timeliness and accuracy of major crop forecasts.

Wheat will be the test crop for this experiment. At the outset, LACIE, which will continue over several growing seasons, will concentrate on a major wheat-producing region, such as the Great Plains.

The experiment will rely on statistical sampling in order to permit the rapid assembly and analysis of data.

If successful, the techniques and approaches developed in LACIE will be made available for expanded international coverage as well as for incorporation into routine USDA agricultural forecasting programs.

LACIE stemmed from recent studies which indicated the potential of combining meteorological and climatological data with information derived from survey satellites to get better crop forecasts.



ODDITY . . . Ha Jennings, of Wooster, Ohio, was surprised recently when he cracked open an egg only to find another smaller egg completely encased in its own shell. Jennings was told it was a "billion to one" chance for this occurrence.

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