

# Milking school speaker focuses on mastitis



Steve Spence, Penn State dairy specialist, checks the vacuum pump of a milking system during the milking school held this week in Lancaster County.

[Continued from Page 1]

portant to discuss because they usually proceed the clinical or severe cases of mastitis."

"Cows with this form of the disease do not perform up to par and this is where production slips."

Comparing the two forms of the disease to an iceberg, Eberhart stated, "clinical mastitis (severe) is like the tip of the iceberg, we can see the problem in the strip cup, but the subclinical is like the massive ice under the surface - its problems are hidden from view. The impact of that hidden force really does the damage."

Eberhart explained that research had indicated that in most herds where there is no mastitis control, 25 percent of the quarters are subject to infection.

"We've found that mastitis costs producers from \$75 - \$125. per year for each cow, for culling and holding milk out along with the production lost."

The dairy specialist explained the two different categories mastitis has been broken down into - namely contagious and environmental sections.

"The contagious category is that which contains the strep agalactiae and staph aureus infections," he noted. "These are passed from cow to cow and quarter to quarter, usually at milking or by machine and people."

Eberhart explained that these forms of mastitis can be contained and controlled but the infections associated with the environmental causes were "more stubborn."

"The environmental forms are those such as the coliforms and other strep infections."

"The environmental infections are usually those picked up from bedding, free stall systems and contact with the environment as opposed to other animals."

"We haven't developed many controls for the environmental infections yet," Eberhart noted, "they are difficult to control."

#### Cell Count

#### Becoming Important

Eberhart commented on the relatively new use of somatic cell counters to determine the degree of mastitis present in a herd, along with using the device as a form of controlling the disease before it spreads.

"The more leucocytes or somatic cells found in the milk usually indicates infections," he noted.

"Leucocytes are the white cells or defense mechanisms sent by the cow's body to the site of infection" - in this case mastitis.

The dairy specialist explained that if more than 1 million such somatic cells were found in a milk sample it could mean up to a 20 percent loss in bulk milk production.

"In Pennsylvania," he noted, "about 49 percent of the herds had less than 500,000 cells with 49 percent having 500,000 to 1,000,000 cells, but then 9 percent had over 1 million cells which means a lot of lost milk." Penn State is currently experimenting with a somatic cell counter which was made in Denmark. While its effectiveness is still being researched, Eberhart noted that it will probably be quite useful - possibly in the near future.

#### Controversy on Controls

Speaking on controls effective against mastitis, Eberhart cautioned, "for contagious mastitis, many people think that teat dipping and dry cow treatments are the only cure."

"This isn't true, while they are effective in some cases, it is not the end of mastitis."

"Some producers think that teat dips will cure mastitis," Eberhart stated, "but dipping does not cure it, it is merely a protection for those cows which are not infected."

Cautioning producers against using any type of medical preparations for dips, Eberhart said, "use only those which are intended for a teat dip."

"Don't use sanitizers or washes for dipping purposes."

[Continued on Page 23]

## Spotlight on HEALTH

### Medical Fact Or Fiction?

Can you separate medical fact from fiction?

Most people now know that a child does not develop buck teeth because a horse frightened his mother during her pregnancy. Also, that a mole on the child's body cannot be traced to the mother's craving for strawberries during that period.

But some medical myths persist, even among generally knowledgeable individuals. For example, are you under the impression that you can "catch a cold" from standing or sitting in a draft, getting your feet wet, or going out in the rain without a hat?

In a medical guide for the layman, the physician-authors refer to the myth that exposure to the elements leads to colds.

### COMPLETE FARM PAINTING



We Use Quality PAINT AND IT DOES STAY ON!

#### AERIAL LADDER EQUIPMENT

- \* Modern and Efficient Method
- \* Reasonable Prices
- \* Spray On and Brush In Method
- \* Sandblasting if Necessary

FOR FREE ESTIMATES WRITE

#### ESH SPRAY PAINTING

(Daniel S. Esh)  
(C. Ralph Miller)  
SPRAY ON AND BRUSH IN PAINTER  
BOX 350A

RONKS PA 17572

## The HYBRIDS of Tomorrow - Today



- Uniform Grade
- High Germination
- Fast Growing
- Disease Resistant
- Excellent Standability
- 84 to 125 Day Maturities
- High Yields

COMPETITIVE YIELD PLOTS AVAILABLE IN PA — MD — DEL

#### DEALERS TO SERVE YOU:

CARROLL ANDERSON  
RAY A. BRATTON  
RICHARD BRECKBILL  
ELI DETURK  
DUTCHMAN FEED MILL  
ROSS J. GARLAND  
ROBERT C. GREIDER  
JOHN HERR  
ELI HOOVER  
HURST BROS. MILL  
DALE JARDINE  
CREDON JUMPER  
LADY NORMAN, INC.  
PAUL MARTIN  
RAYMOND MOYER  
MURPHY & CLOUSE  
EARL NOLT  
WALTER OCKER  
HARRY PEIFER  
WILLIAM RENNO  
EDWIN SCOTT  
GEORGE STAMBAUGH  
CHARLES SWAILES  
ROY WILDESON  
WILLIAM YOHE  
ARTHUR ZUG

Red Lion, PA  
McVeytown, PA  
Oxford, PA  
Oley, PA  
Ephrata, PA  
Warfordsburg, PA  
Columbia, PA  
Grantville, PA  
Reinholds, PA  
East Earl, PA  
Carlisle, PA  
Carlisle, PA  
Biglerville, PA  
Richland, PA  
Manheim, PA  
Carlisle, PA  
Lancaster, PA  
Chambersburg, PA  
Pine Grove, PA  
Danville, PA  
Malvern, PA  
Newville, PA  
Willow Hill, PA  
Chambersburg, PA  
Spring Grove, PA  
Port Royal, PA

717-244-1124  
717-899-6282  
215-932-3307  
215-689-5423  
717-733-3020  
717-294-3218  
717-684-7769  
717-469-2401  
215-267-5529  
215-445-4131  
717-249-4983  
717-243-0544  
717-577-8191  
717-866-4228  
717-665-2038  
717-249-2963  
717-898-7075  
717-264-5147  
717-345-8482  
717-672-9480  
215-644-9113  
717-776-3883  
717-349-2491  
717-264-4298  
717-225-4136  
717-527-4906

FOR DEALER INFORMATION WRITE:

### HAROLD J. DIETRICH

RD1, Box 98 Richland, PA 17087

DISTRICT MANAGER FOR:

### FRED GUTWEIN & SON, INC.

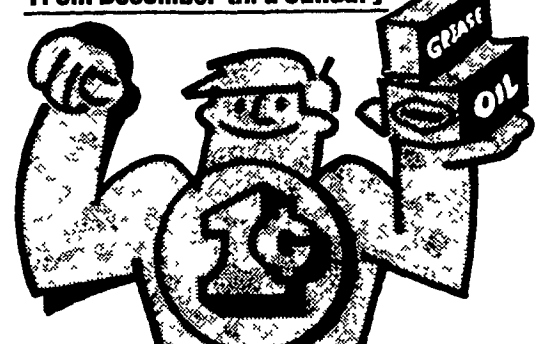
Francesville, Ind 47946



Don't miss the Agway Oil-Grease Penny Sale where

a penny is a powerhouse

From December thru January



Just 1¢ can buy a quart of oil — even a case  
Just 1¢ can buy a cartridge of grease — even a 10 pack

You've got plenty of penny power at Agway during the early-order, mid-winter sale. Just place your order during the sale dates. Take delivery at your convenience (before March 31) and pay only when you receive your lubricants.

#### Here's how it works:

Order any oil . . .	and a penny gets you
55-gallon drum	a 24-quart case of the same (or equivalent value)
24-quart case	3 quarts
5-gallon can	2 quarts
2-gallon can	1 quart
Order any grease . . .	and a penny gets you
120-lb drum	10-pack of the same (or equivalent value)
35-lb pail	4 cartridges
10-pack of cartridges	an extra cartridge

Call now and place your order. Remember, you pay only on delivery. What could be fairer?

## AGWAY PETROLEUM

AGWAY AGWAY PETROLEUM CORP.

BOX 1197, DILLERVILLE ROAD  
LANCASTER, PA  
PHONE 397-4954

