

Heifer program

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milking herd sooner than 30 months," he noted

Porter explained that most heifers used in dairy replacement situations were about 30 months of age before being included in the

milking string, when proper handling and feeding could narrow that time to 24 months. "We seem to back again at the figures of 1945," he explained

"In the forties a replacement heifer went into the herd at about 30 months and we haven't seen a whole lot of progress, although between the 50's and 60's the

figure did narrow to 27 months in some areas"

Stressing that size was an important factor in heifer development, Porter noted that total calf rations were important in early nutritional programs. Porter explained that most heifers experience their first estrus cycle near 600 pounds of weight and that feeding for size in relation to age was important to consider

According to studies, regardless of the relative age of the heifer, estrus did occur at about 600 pounds of body weight in a great number of cases

Porter indicated that the dairy herd of the future would need to have three basic objectives for good milk production, namely high genetic capabilities, producing live healthy calves and keeping heifers growing in size for earlier production

The Agway research director, also spoke on costs which affect the dairy farmer. Porter named several factors affecting the cost per hundredweight of milk including feed, cattle, machinery repair along with



Dr. Gilbert Porter (left) director of research and development for Agway talks with Mark Hess, Lancaster, Agway Zone Manager and Dr. John Porter, director of crop management

for Agway. Agway sponsored a program for dairymen held on Tuesday in Lancaster at the Holiday Inn.

"There's always that dilemma about attending to the corn or cutting the hay," Porter recognized "You have to look at both crops on a 50-50 basis."

Noting that reduced corn acreage could help both situations by allowing hay to get in on time, the manager explained that good value on each crop could be reached by dealing with both on equal levels.

"If a cutting is done when it should be there is a chance for about 20 percent more protein," Porter noted.

"We need more good forage and less roughage," the manager stressed

Porter also explained that good weed control and fertilization practices would aid in good forage production in the future

Two other speakers featured on the program were Jack Beideman, representing Ciba-Geigy and Wayne Martz from Stauffer Chemical. Both representatives presented slides on various herbicides now available for crops and forages.

The program is an annual event sponsored by Agway. This year's meeting was also sponsored by Stauffer Chemical and Ciba-Geigy. Jack Reed, area farm sales manager, was emcee for the program.

several other fixed cash costs.

Also included on the program was Dr. John Porter, director of crop management for Agway. Porter's topic centered on roughage and forage, the differences and use of each.

Noting that roughage was primarily termed as a bulky material containing a high fiber content with low nutritional value - while forage contained more nutrients and less fiber, the crops director told the dairymen, "too many times we are feeding roughage when forage is what we really need."

Porter explained that in "tough times" roughage helped out but since more nutritional information was now available, good forage programs were important.

Citing several research programs, Porter noted that the later a forage (alfalfa) is cut the less value it is for feeding.

"Earlier cuttings of alfalfa produce better tonnage," Porter reminded the dairymen. The first cutting (usually around June 1) produced good tonnage with a second cutting occurring around June 15 being of less amounts by about one ton. Research also showed that a third cutting about July 1 lowered the tonnage by two tons per acre.

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