

Dairy Day reviewed management

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improved remarkably. But that wasn't the point of the film. Farmer cooperatives are being challenged in the courts; the film attempted to give some background on the hows and whys of cooperatives while stressing the advantages and importance of belonging to such an organization.

QUALITY MILK

Sid Barnard, associate professor of food science at Penn State, was the first of five to speak. His review on milk sanitation, entitled "Procedures for Producing Quality Milk," included tips and reminders known to most dairymen, but it "didn't hurt to hear them again," commented Fred Crider, who moderated the event.

"Generally, bacteria problems (high counts) are not associated with cow problems... they result from a lack of proper sanitation and/or improper cooling," Barnard informed the dairymen. He noted that it takes two types of cleansers to have a complete sanitation program: an alkaline cleaner to remove fat and protein deposits; and an acid cleaner to eliminate mineral formations. "There is no one product for all purposes," the professor cautioned.

The three critical factors to keep in mind for units which are cleaned in place are: temperature, velocity, time, and strength.

MANURE MANAGEMENT

"There is no such thing as waste disposal," Gerald Bodman remarked while pointing to brown areas on a slide which was being projected onto the screen. "It's management of a resource," he emphasized. Speaking about manure

and how it should be handled, Bodman, an extension agricultural engineer at PSU, expressed a firm belief that manure was indeed a resource. He advised farmers to treat it as such — not only because of its values — but because laws are being passed which will set guidelines on how it can be handled. He entitled his talk "Manure Management — The Problem, The Opportunity, The Alternatives."

As far as Bodman is concerned, "if they (suburbanites) can see it (manure), they think they can smell it. It may have been intended as a hint that all phases of proposed regulations aren't in agreement with him, and that the issues can be carried too far, but that did not lessen his conviction that manure should be handled in such a way so that its values will not be lost.

The Extension Service, which aids farmers in coming up with plans for manure handling, is now offering plans which comply with standards recommended for 1983, Bodman said. He described criteria which would determine which farms would be required to apply for "discharge permits," and cautiously added that any size farm could be singled out if and when complaints are filed against it by a neighbor. Applications for "waste disposal" permits are due by March 10 of next year, he advised.

According to Bodman, there is no "environmentally approved" manure handling system on the market, although two farms in the state have approved methods. One of them is the Young Brothers operation near Peach Bottom.

SOMATIC CELLS

Sid Barnard returned to the podium after lunch to talk about "Somatic Cells and Growth Inhibitors." The main thrust of the talk centered around the fact that on any given day, five to 10

per cent of Pennsylvania's dairy herds submit herd milk samples which exceed 1.5 million on the somatic cell count. The estimated loss of production is calculated at 10 to 20 per cent.

Penn State is currently working with a machine imported from Denmark which may make it possible in the near future to test DHIA samples for somatic cells, thereby giving dairymen "early warning" if certain cows show signs of potential problems. Barnard guesses the cost of such a program might be 10 cents per sample.

Another concern at Penn State and dairies all across the country are antibiotics. "It happens too frequently that we find them in milk," the professor warned. He noted that approximately two dairy farms per day are caught. "There is absolutely no use for milk which contains antibiotics in it," he stated emphatically. "The tolerance under FDA regulations is zero."

Barnard emphasized that dairymen hold all milk for 72 hours from time of last treatment from cows which have been treated with antibiotics.

DAIRYING'S FUTURE

"Food For People and the Future of Dairying" was the title of B. R. Baumgardt's presentation. Introduced as a dairyman at heart, Baumgardt recently succeeded Dr. D. V. Josephson as head of the newly created Department of Dairy and Animal Science at Penn State. He had previously been primarily involved with the animal industry courses at the University but took over Josephson's job as well

when he retired last summer and departmental changes followed shortly thereafter.

To make a long story short, Baumgardt is optimistic about the future of the dairy business, and to quote him: "I sincerely and honestly believe that animal agriculture will exist for a long time — although feeding programs, etc., may change, the dairy cow will persist." He bases his optimism on the world's need for nutrition and health and that animals have a definite place in this program. Furthermore, animals are a necessary component of the environment and economy, regardless of what opponents of animal agriculture say.

FORAGE FEEDING

Dick Adams concluded the program with his speech on "Effective Forage Feeding." He noted that the most profitable forage feeding programs require the use of corn silage and hay and that both must be made carefully and properly. Alfalfa is the top

source of protein per acre, and corn silage ranks first as an energy source, Adams pointed out.

All things considered, Adams believes that it is usually more practical to keep as many cows as what the land will raise feed for. But he adds that there are exceptions to the statement, especially when labor is considered.

Speaking on forage quality, Adams compared hay, haylage, and wilted silage for dry matter losses and came up with the following respective figures: 24.2, 19.7 and 18.6 per cent. Noting the lower loss level with wilted silage, the dairy specialist cautions that the dairyman can't necessarily expect to overcome his forage quality problems by going the silage route.

Heat damage in ensiled feeds is a "management problem" and there isn't a product on the market anywhere which will minimize such losses. But there are some tips which will improve the farmer's

chances of having little or no heat damage. They are: 1. don't overwilt, 2. fill silo fast, 3. chop fine, and 4. go for proper moisture.

Adams finished his talk by mentioning the three most important "devices" for coming up with good quality forage, which are: The moisture tester, scales, and a good manager.

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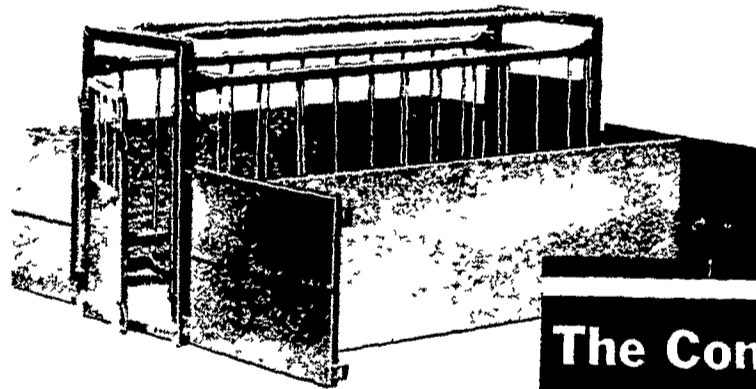
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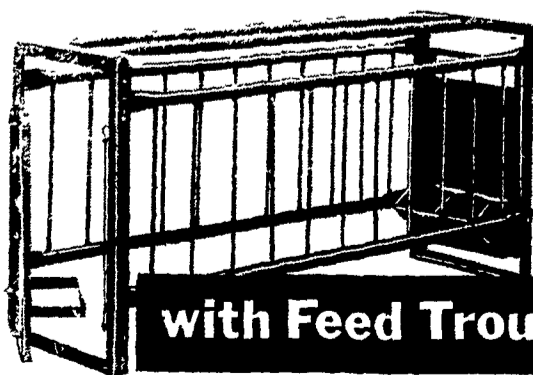


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