

Heat detection 'stepped up'

RALEIGH, N.C. - The pedometers that hikers use to measure the distances they walk, are being used in research to detect estrus (heat) in dairy cows. Dr. Charles A. Kiddy, an animal scientist with USDA's Agricultural Research Service, has found via a pedometer strapped to the cow's leg that she is much more active when in heat than when she is not.

Dr. Kiddy monitored the activity of 40 dairy cows wearing pedometers at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center in Maryland. The cows were fitted with pedometers about 30 days after calving. Special cases were designed to protect the instruments and allow for easy reading. Readings were recorded for all cows each time they were milked.

An increase in activity averaging four times that of

normal was noted during estrus. Since the activity of the cows as recorded by the pedometers, tended to vary little from day to day, the increased reading during estrus was easily detected. When an increase in the cow's activity was noted in the morning, she was bred that afternoon; when her activity increased in the afternoon, she was bred the following morning.

This system proved highly effective in selecting cows for breeding. In 92 per cent of the estrus periods observed, the cows were at least twice as active as they otherwise were.

Dr. Kiddy believes that monitoring the activity of dairy cows as a means of detecting estrus would be practical for commercial dairy farms. Further research is planned for dairy cows milked under a variety of conditions and climates.

Research will also be conducted on the use of electronic equipment for monitoring the activity of cows.

Dr. Kiddy presented his research before the 71st Annual Meeting of the American Dairy Science Association.

Project winners named

GETTYSBURG - Seven Adams County 4-H members have been selected as Keystone Winners in nine different project areas. Named winners were: Kathy Hall, Littlestown R2, in Recreation and Bicycle; Carol Zepp, New Oxford R2, in Photography, and Citizenship; Ellyn Tannenbaum, 323 Pine St., Gettysburg, Conservation; Patricia Reinhart, Agriculture and her sister Nancy, Dairy Foods, both of Gettysburg R6; Don Brown, Hanover R1, Swine; Mary Ann Klinger, New Oxford R2, Clothing. Mary Ann Klinger was also selected as one of the top ten 4-H girls in Pennsylvania.

Keystone winners are state finalists in the National Awards Program sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Service and business and industry. These members were interviewed on July 30 at Penn State along with Keystone winners from other counties in Pennsylvania. Based on their 4-H records and the interview, a state winner will be named in over 30 different project areas. Members are scored on their project records, participation in 4-H events and activities, leadership responsibilities, citizenship and participation in community and school activities.

Hog roundup at Vintage

VINTAGE - The Chester and Delaware County 4-H Hog Roundup Show and Sale will be held at the Vintage sales stables, here, next weekend.

On Friday, August 13 at 7 p.m. the show and judging events will be held. Then, on Saturday, August 14, at 9 a.m. the hogs will be auctioned off.

More than half the signers of the Declaration of Independence were farmers by birth or farmers by choice.

When Columbus came to America, there were an estimated 1 million American Indians in the area that was to become the United States.

— NOTICE —

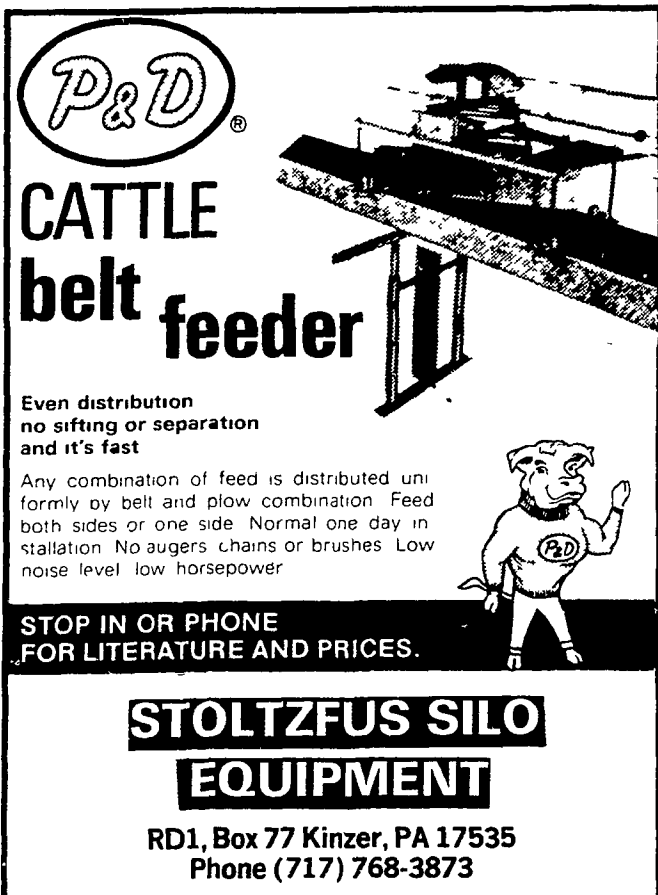
THE MIDDLETOWN GRANGE FAIR WILL BE HELD AT THE FAIR GROUNDS IN WRIGHTSTOWN - JUST OFF RT. 413.

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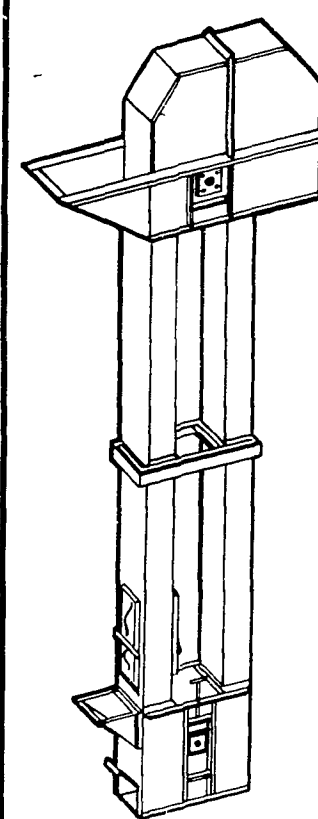
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