

Adams County dairymen trade ideas

NEW CHESTER, Pa. - The Adams County Dairy Day program sponsored jointly by the Cooperative Extension Service and Atlantic Breeders Cooperative was held Friday, Feb. 18, 1977 in St. John's United Church of Christ, here.

"Chaos or Cooperation" a movie on the development and role of marketing cooperatives in bringing stability to the dairy industry opened the program.

Beginning with the commercial development of the milk production - distribution system, the movie revealed how dairymen banded together in cooperatives have been successful in bargaining for fair prices, provided facilities for processing milk into storable products and encouraged the constant production needed by consumers across the country.

Attention to the calving

interval of problem cows will improve breeding efficiency and herd production said Harvey Shaffer, Extension dairy specialist from Penn State. Some cows are not bred back soon enough after calving, resulting in a prolonged dry period void of milk production. He cautioned against breeding back too soon and said that dairymen should direct their attention to the problem cows in the herd.

Before deciding that a cow is not coming into heat, dairymen should take every step to observe for heat symptoms. A high percentage of problem cows are really bred when they are not in heat. Presence of standing heat is the sure signal. Proper time for breeding is from 10 to 12 hours after the onset of standing heat, up to 6-8 hours after the end of standing heat. Shaffer encouraged the keeping of permanent heat and breeding records as a valuable guide in breeding.

Proper mineral balance in the ration is important to the health of the reproductive system in dairy animals.

A panel of dairymen shared experiences of how they observe and report the presence of heat in their dairy herds. Robert Keller, technician supervisor for Atlantic Breeders Cooperative was first speaker reviewing for the dairymen the steps they take in training A. I. technicians and the improvements made to assure strong line semen delivered to the farms. Efficiency reports on the bulls and the technicians provide a guide to improving services.

Keeping records chronologically of freshening date and heat periods plus individual

health cards on each cow has been of greatest help to me, said Samuel Stoner, East Berlin. He makes frequent visits to the barn for observation and finds a late evening observation especially valuable. Occasionally we'll breed a problem cow on two consecutive days.

"We use a breeding wheel for record keeping, have regular veterinarian check-ups on cows and breed only when he reports them clear," said Stanley Weimer, New Oxford. "We also use heat detector devices attached to cows as they approach breeding time."

"The veterinarian checks problem cows for us then we attach the heat detector after a 50 day reat period following calving," reported Alan Zepp, New Oxford. "We also use the breeding wheel for records and make frequent observation of the

herd throughout the day and evening."

"When we see a cow in standing heat we call the breeding technician immediately," said Roy Weaner, Gettysburg. "Since they have an answering service in constant use, we do this promptly before we forget. Use of good breeding records is vital although sound nutrition and good health must come first," he said. "When a cow is a high producer and producing well we fight nature to have her bred."

In response to a question, Weimer said that keeping daily milk weights provides a good clue to the onset of heat as this usually causes a depression in milk production.

The panel revealed that some cows, mostly first calf heifers, have been bred at 45 days following freshening although most cows care bred after 50 to 60 days rest.



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Mile-a-thon planned

LANCASTER, Pa. - United Cerebral Palsy of Lancaster County has announced plans for a Spring "Mile-A-Thon," scheduled for May 1 at the Lancaster County Park.

Like other "thons," the purpose is to have participants obtain sponsors for each mile they travel. The event has been dubbed a "mile-a-thon" this year to indicate that each entrant may choose his own means of completing the course around the County Park, which runs for five miles. Participants will be walking, jogging, running, biking, skating, beginning at 2:00 p.m., and they are encouraged to complete the course as many times as they are able, for a total of up to 20 miles. The mile-a-thon is open to interested persons of all ages. As in past years, school, business, and professional groups will enter and compete against each other for special

awards, and an award will also go to the most unusual method of covering the course.

Enrollment sheets are available through the U.C.P. office, 226 W. Chestnut Street.

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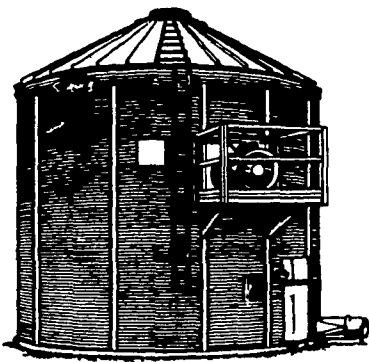
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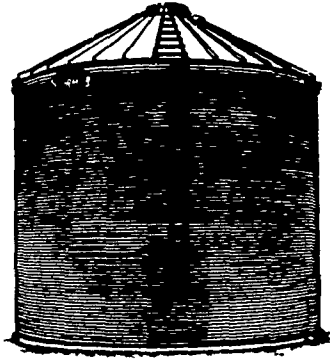
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