

Dairy trend indicators wrong

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Milk prices are off for the fifth straight month, and the milk-feed ration is down for the fourth consecutive month, according to figures released recently by a USDA study. The Agriculture Department also reports that cow

numbers are down. Despite these indicators of downward production, just the reverse has been true, USDA reports.

March production, at 10.56 billion pounds, was up 2 1/2 per cent from a year earlier, nearly six per cent above

that of March 1975, and the highest for the month since 1965. It also marked the 18th consecutive month that production has been above that of a corresponding month a year earlier.

All milk sold to plants hit \$10.00 per cwt. last October then dropped off to \$9.94 in November; to \$9.75 for December. It dropped to \$9.65 in January; to \$9.54 for February. And, finally to \$9.42 for March.

Meanwhile, the milk-feed ration, (pounds of concentrate ration equal in value to 1 pound of milk) hit 1.60 in October, 1.65 in November, then started to tail off. To 1.57 for December, to 1.52 for January; 1.48 for February. It averaged out at 1.47 for March, 10.4 per cent below a year earlier, and the fifth straight month it's been below a year earlier.

Milk cow numbers, which had leveled off at 11,039,000

Rough & Tumble holds sale

KINZERS, Pa. - The Rough and Tumble Engineers Historical Association, Inc., a non profit organization dedicated to the preservation and appreciation of home and farm power equipment of yesteryear, will hold its annual Spring Sale next Saturday, April 30. It will be held at the R&T grounds, 15 miles east of Lancaster along Route 30.

Rough and Tumble also maintains an Engineers' Museum, which is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except Sundays. Among the antique equipment on display are steam traction engines, threshing machines, wagons, saw and shingle mills, old time fire engines, early gas engines and tractors, sweep and tread horse powers, two scaled down railroads, and old-fashioned labor-saving devices. Most of the exhibits are in prime operating condition and are run from time to time throughout the season.

Membership to the R&T Association is open to all. The museum is financed solely by \$5 membership fees, donations, visitors' fees, and proceeds from the Reunion and Gift Shop. Rough and Tumble was founded shortly after World War II by Arthur S. Young of Kinzers. His foundation has given steam and gas engine people a common meeting ground. Some other dates to remember, besides the upcoming Spring Sale on April 30, are: "Spring Steam Up" May 13 and 14; "Whistle Blow" July 4; the 29th Annual Old Threshermen Reunion August 17-20, and the "Enschine-O-Rama" on October 15.

for October and November, dipped slightly to 11,032,000 in December, to 11,023,000 for January, to 11,013,000 in February and to 11,003,000 for March. Milk cow numbers for March were still only 1/2 of one per cent below a year earlier. Production per cow averaged 960 pounds for the month, up 3.1 per cent from a year earlier.

University Park, Pa. - Ground herbs and spices have a limited shelf life for optimum quality even if stored under the best con-

Use and store spices wisely

ditions, points out Extension specialists of Penn State University. The best conditions are storing these products in air-tight containers in a cool, dry place - not next to the stove.

Whole spices such as stick cinnamon, whole cloves and vanilla beans will keep their flavor indefinitely. Herbs generally lose their flavor more quickly than spices. There is no rule for the correct amount of flavoring to use since each is different. But many cooks are either too timid or too enthusiastic about using seasonings. In general, specialists suggest starting with one-quarter teaspoon for each pound of meat or pint of liquid. But be conservative with red pepper, curry, chili, and garlic powders - start with one-eighth teaspoon instead.

Ground spices may be added near the end of the cooking period since their flavor is released immediately. On the other hand, whole spices are best for slow-cooked dishes such as stew. The long simmering brings out their full flavor and aroma.

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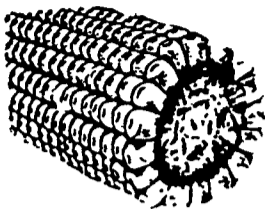
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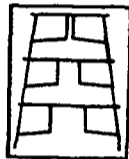
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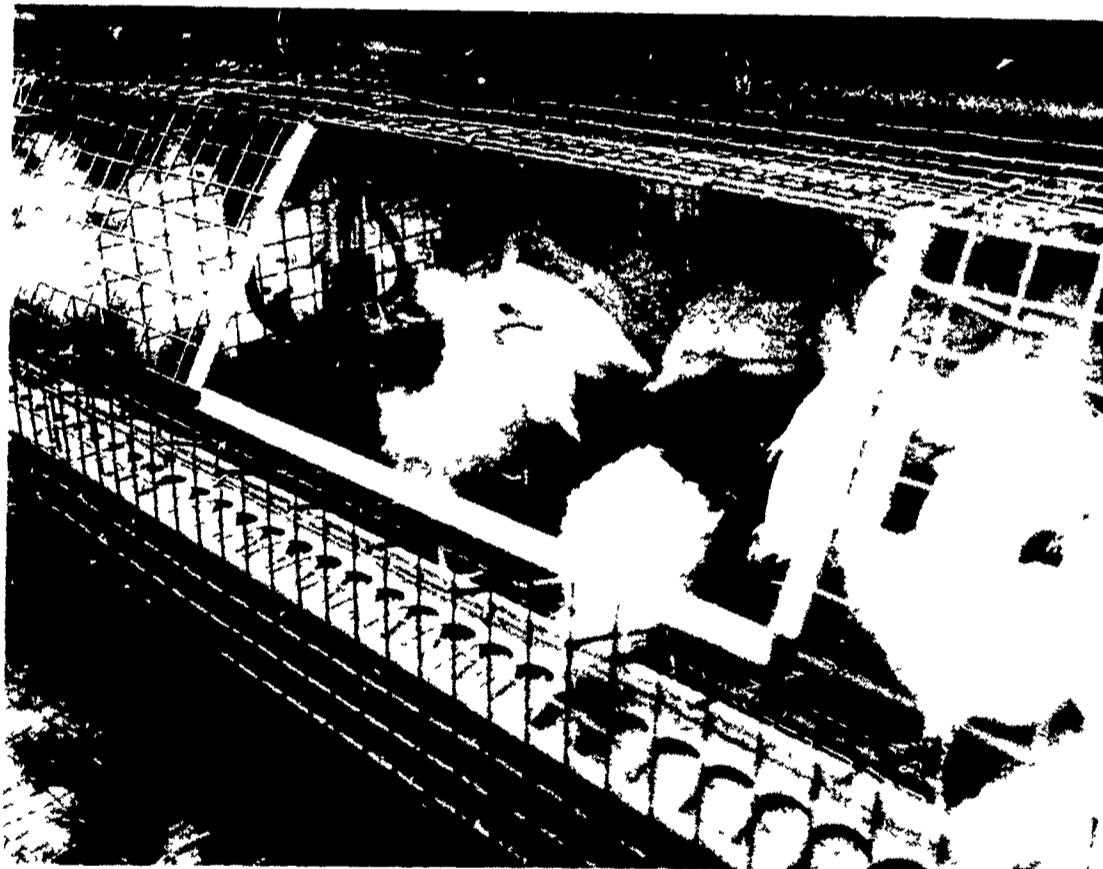
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