

'If you have time to make money, you have time for proper milking'

Poor milking means 25% milk loss

LANCASTER — Nothing a dairyman does hurts him more than improper milking procedures. The farmer who isn't doing a good job at milking time is losing as much as 25 per cent of his potential milk production. Add other factors to that, such as mastitis, improper feeding and poor breeding, and the dairyman can really be shortchanging himself.

These and other conclusions were revealed recently at Lancaster County's Dairy Day, an event which drew more than 400 people. It was one of the largest turnouts ever for an educational event held at the Farm and Home Center.

The day's programs focused on everything from proper milking to mastitis to marketing and machinery.

"Making Your Cows Worth More," was the title of the first presentation, which came in the form of a feature film produced by Babson Brothers, makers of Surge dairy equipment. The purpose of the film was to make dairymen aware of proper milking procedures and to have them realize how detrimental neglectful milking can be. Evidence included film footage of what goes on inside the cow's udder with the milk machine in action.

"Cows per minute instead of milk per cow has become the objective with many milking systems," the

commentator explained early in the film. A number of dairy specialists from leading universities provided documentation for the merits of the eight simple steps to better milking.

Those eight steps to "make your cows worth more" are:

1. Provide a clean, stress-free environment for your cows.

2. Wash and stimulate the cow's udder for at least 30 seconds, thus allowing the cow's brain to initiate milk flow through the release of the hormone oxytocin. The hormone needs 45 to 60 seconds lead time before the tiny alveoli in the cow's udder are squeezed and milk flow begins.

3. Strip the foremilk and dry the teats. Aside from this act providing extra stimulation to the udder, it eliminates bacteria, helps reduce mastitis, and serves as a visible check for abnormal milk.

4. Apply the milking machine at the proper time, while internal udder pressure is at its highest. That is about one minute after initiation of udder stimulation (washing). A lot of milk is lost if milking is not begun at the proper time. Furthermore, the cow's teats and udder are more susceptible to irritation and injury if this procedure is ignored, the film showed.



Cows milked per hour, rather than milk production per cow has become the standard of too many milking systems, claim dairy scientists at numerous agricultural colleges.

5. Adjust the milker for forward and downward pulling action. It is very important to prevent the teat cups from riding up on the teats. Researchers in the

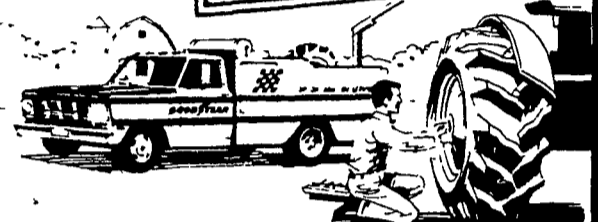
film used a dramatic illustration of this and other potentially damaging milking actions by filming scenes inside the udder.

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