

Beef falsely accused as inflation leader says Angus official

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. — "Despite recent price increases, beef is not an inflation leader, and in fact is a bargain compared to other consumer goods," contends Dr. C. K. Allen, executive secretary of the 39,000-member American Angus

Association, headquartered here.

"Since 1973 the price paid to farmers and cattle feeders for beef on the hoof has increased only 18 per cent," Allen reports. "During this same period retail beef prices have increased 30 per

cent, food prices are up 48 per cent and the average price of all consumer goods is up 46 per cent. At the same time per capita disposable income is up 53 per cent.

"It is true that beef prices have gone up dramatically in the last few weeks," Allen said in a letter to USDA officials and national legislators and in a news release to the nation's food editors, "but this price increase is the result of a decreased supply of beef coupled with continued strong demand. The prices of most products such as labor, steel, automobiles, postage and taxes go up continually and are almost never reduced. On the other hand, beef cattle prices go up and down as supply and demand change. Over the years this has resulted in a lower overall price increase for beef than for most other products."

Allen said that he is extremely concerned about adverse publicity the beef

industry is receiving from some analysts and media.

"The headlines indicting beef as the major cause of inflation today are clearly inaccurate. Beef prices are just recovering from a drastic decrease that provided beef to consumers below the cost of producing it on U.S. farms and ranches," he said. "There was no intervention then when cattlemen were losing their lifetime savings at the low part of the beef cattle cycle and there should be none now that prices are recovering."

"While beef prices may seem high in comparison to a year ago, it is in the best interest of consumers to allow the free market, supply and demand situation to function," Allen said. "Consumers are partially dependent on American political leaders to insure a continued adequate supply of high quality, healthful beef. This can be accomplished over the long

run, only if cattle producers are permitted to stay in business, make a profit, and

pay off the debts they accumulated during the few years."

Calf housing plans available

NEWARK, Del. — There's been an unusually large amount of interest in calf and dairy replacement housing this Spring. To meet this need, the Delaware Cooperative Extension Service has made available plan No. 6234, "Dairy Replacement Housing."

According to Delaware Extension agricultural engineer Ernest Walpole, the plan shows several arrangements to suit herd sizes ranging from 50 to 100 milking cows.

The structure is an open-front (to south) shed with several sizes of free stalls to fit calves of various ages. Thought has been given to provide the correct number of stalls of each size for the probable number of animals in each age group.

For example, there are nine crates for new calves; six stalls for calves four to five months old; six stalls for calves six to eight months old; 16 stalls for calves nine to 15 months old; 18 stalls for calves 16 to 20 months old; 16 stalls for calves 21 to 24 months old; and 15 stalls for dry cows.

This would be a good distribution for the dairy farmer with 70 to 80 cows with 60 to 65 milking at all times.

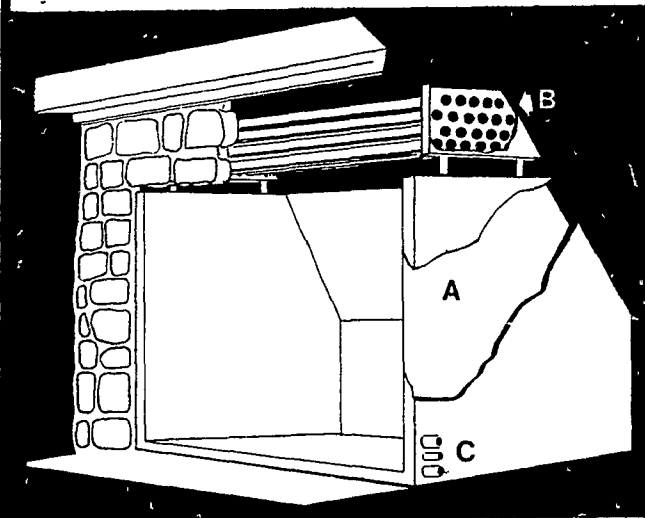
The plan provides for hay and silage feeding while keeping each age group separate. The location of each group is controlled by

gates to facilitate feeding and manure scraping.

This system, featuring loose housing, south facing open sheds and free stalls sized for the animals, is a healthful, convenient, labor-saving way to raise young stock.

Plan No. 6234, "Dairy Replacement Housing," is available free from: E.W. Walpole, Extension Agricultural Engineer, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19711.

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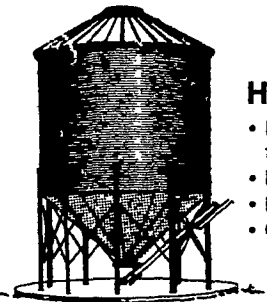
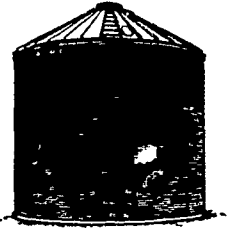
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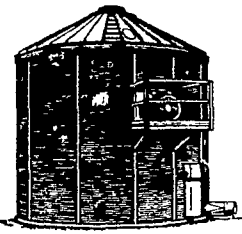


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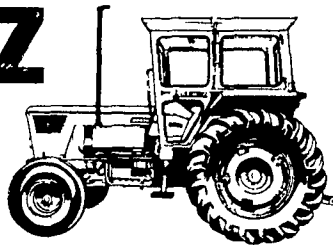
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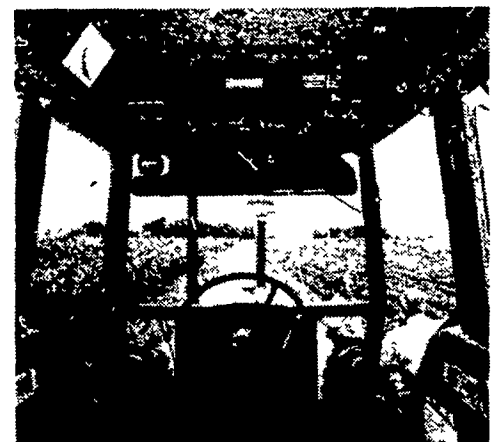
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