

Electric shock used on steak

BELTSVILLE, Md. - Beef carcasses that have been given a shock treatment produce more tender meat than traditionally chilled carcasses, says Dr. H. Russell Cross, of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Science and Education Administration.

Meat that has been electrically shocked can also be removed from the carcass in less than four hours, versus 16 to 24 hours for carcasses that are chilled in the traditional manner. This can mean huge savings in labor, chilling costs, and storage space, and fresher meat for consumers. Meat that has received a shock treatment also has a brighter, more uniform color, says Cross, a research food technologist with SEA's Meat Science Research Laboratory here.

At the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center in Maryland, Cross applies the shock treatment to carcasses by passing electricity between probes in each end of the carcass. A two to three minute shock

applied shortly after slaughter accelerates the onset of muscle stiffening and prevents the excessive shortening of muscle fibers that results in tougher meat. However, if cattle are frightened or stressed in some other way before slaughter, electric shock has no effect on meat tenderness.

Water Weight

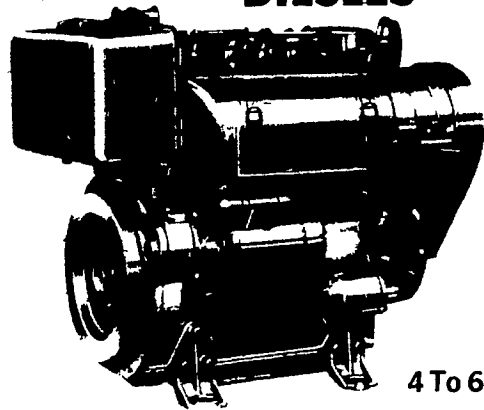
About 59 per cent of a child's body weight is water and an adult's can range between 45 and 69 per cent—depending on the age of the person. Water is inside and outside every cell in the body. The blood that carries nutrients and waste products away from those cells is composed largely of water. Every food contains some water. Tomatoes, for example, are 93 per cent water.



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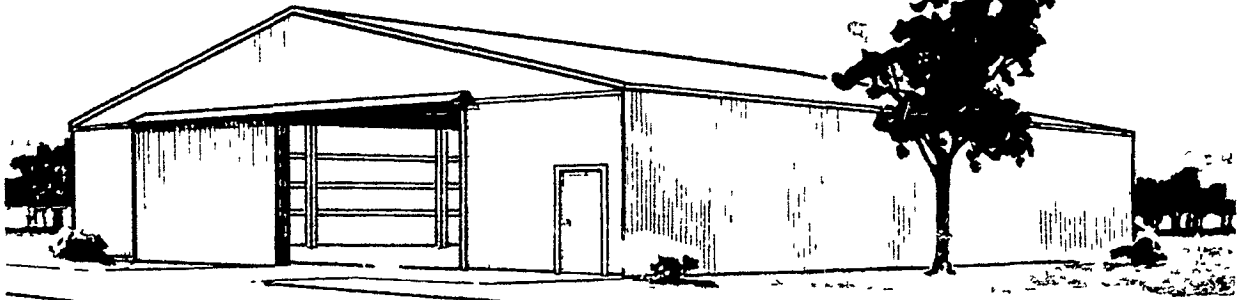


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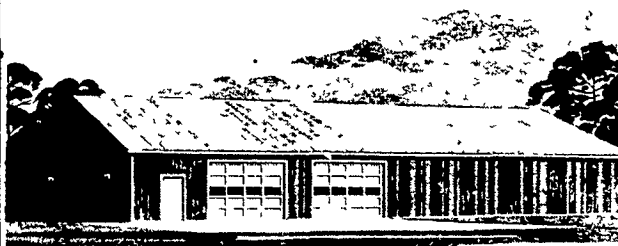
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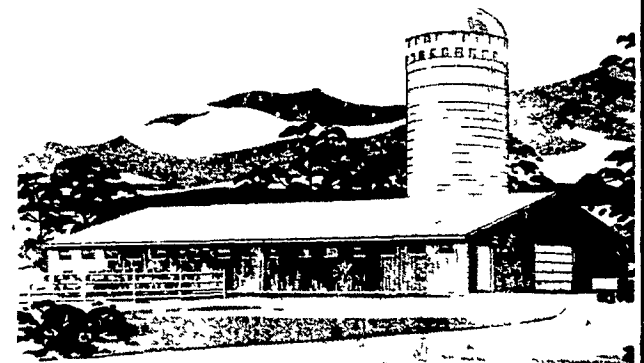
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