

New 'tool' eases beef management

LANCASTER - Although calculators have been around for a while, a fairly recent use of them is now being incorporated into the livestock industry. Dr. Lester Burdette, livestock Extension specialist at Penn State, discussed the features

of a hand held programable calculator in determining the feasibility of a beef and swine feeding ration analysis. Burdette spoke at the Lancaster Cattle Feeder's Day held January 23 at the Farm and Home Center, Lancaster.

By programming the calculator, Burdette said you could determine things such as ration analysis, protein and mineral analysis, net energy, various costs, income tax, etc. After programming the calculator, he said it would take one man, one half hour, to run an analysis. Without the calculator, it would take all day to run. "It has the potential for you to consider it as a management tool" he said.

When speaking of nutrients, Burdette said that natural protein is broken down into amino acids. You can influence the break up of amino acids in the rumen by how the animal is fed. When the protein is relatively non-destructive, it can be absorbed better in the rumen.

If some soluble proteins are fed too much, the animal will build up too much ammonia in the rumen. This is wasted protein because the animal will belch, and it

will be lost. This is one of the reasons animals will not gain as much as expected.

Burdette suggested that in the future, a better balance in types of protein for cattle rations be used.

Studies showed that using a 9.1 and 10.5 per cent protein ration on cattle showed "no difference between starting and finishing rate of cattle. If you are having a problem with framey cattle that have had the major part of their growth, the problem is probably energy rather than protein, he said.

Burdette added that "as cattle get about 20 per cent fat on their body, they are losing feed efficiency."



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AFBF discusses international wheat and feed grain agreements

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. - Differing views of the potential value to farmers of international commodity agreements highlighted the conference on wheat and feedgrains, at the American Farm Bureau Federation convention here recently.

Initial speaker, Morton Sosland, editor of Milling and Baking News, spoke of growth potential in the domestic consumption of grain in the food industry.

James Layton, president of Farmers Export Company, illustrated the frustration in foreign trade that results from subsidization and protectionism.

Thomas Saylor of the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service, chief grain negotiator for the U.S. in the Tokyo round of GATT negotiations now in

progress, spoke with optimism for an agreement by Spring. He pledged to settle for nothing less than a price range that would not interfere with market functions, yet be acceptable to the American farmers.

Saylor said, "The main point of difference remaining to be resolved in the current negotiations deals with indicator price levels." The levels would trigger actions such as stock accumulation, stock release, production cutbacks or stimulation of production.

In the discussion period, both Sosland and Layton were skeptical of the credibility of international trade agreements.

Sosland said, "I think the American producers would take a chance on three dollar wheat, if they thought there was also a chance for six dollars a bushel."

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