

DRINC squeezing to cut waste from whey

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Dairy Research Inc. (DRINC) wants the federal government to support research aimed at finding more uses for whey. Possible and realistic areas for further development and exploration include such areas as gasohol, insulation, and feed. W. Jasper Reaves, vice president of product research for DRINC, submitted the organization's points before the House Agriculture Dairy and Poultry Subcommittee recently to help in the push for federal funding.

The DRINC testimony was made in support of an April 24, 1979 resolution by Congressman Alvin J. Baldus, (D., Wis.) that: "(1) it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the Secretary of Agriculture should assess the whey situation and advise the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives of this findings; and (2) that the Department of Agriculture increase research programs to utilize whey more efficiently for the mutual benefit of both producers and consumers."

DRINC is the product and process research and development arm of the United Dairy Industry Association, headquartered at Rosemont, Ill. Their operations include the advertising and marketing activities of the American Dairy Association and the nutrition research and nutrition education programs of the National Dairy Council.

Reaves pointed out that whey has been DRINC's number one product priority since 1976. The organization has supported 20 whey research projects over the past 10 years and is currently supporting seven. All involve the processing and utilization of whey. The projects cover a broad range of subjects, such as the total use of whey

constituents as a feed supplement, the use of whey in brewing and polyurethane insulation, and as a source for the production of ethyl alcohol, which is used in the blending of gasohol.

Details of the DRINC presentation follow:

It is common in whey processing that during evaporation an unexplained thickening or gel formation occurs. This makes processing difficult and can impair the quality of the final product. DRINC is investigating the factors responsible for the variations in viscosity and to determine methods to correct the thickening effect. This project is being conducted at a land grant University in cooperation with private industry.

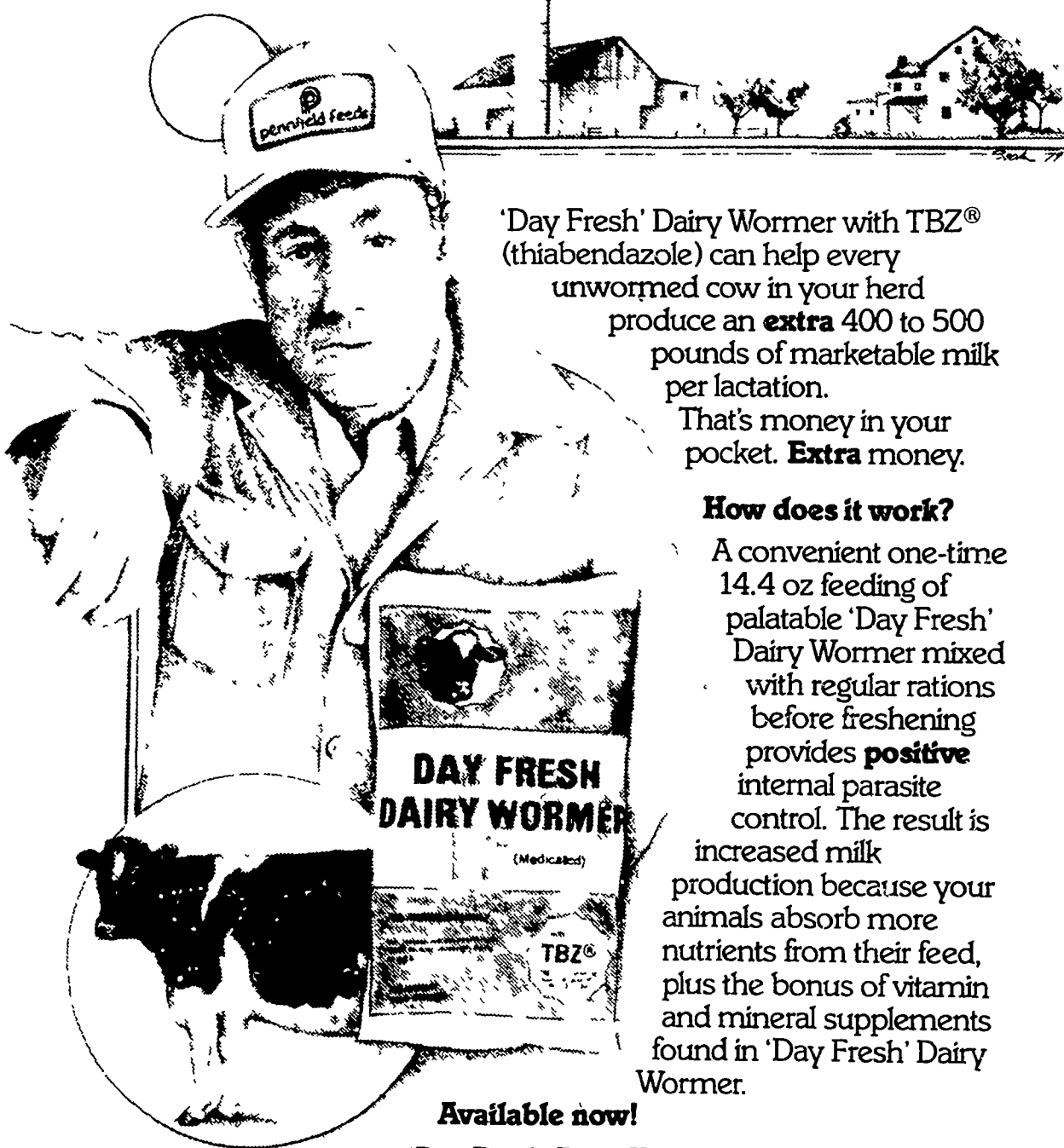
DRINC supports the development of concentrating equipment for use by small cheese manufacturers. The objective of this project is to improve the efficiency of transporting the product to a central processing operation. Since 94 per cent of raw whey is water, just increasing the solids content from the original six per cent to 25 per cent will reduce 100 pounds of raw whey to 24 pounds.

Many older cheese installations do not have the necessary equipment and refrigeration to maintain grade A or human-grade whey. That means that the best which can be expected of these plants is to produce a high-grade animal feed, usually in a dry form which requires a difficult and energy-intensive dehydration process. DRINC research efforts to develop a concentrated liquid feed supplement which upgrades the protein value of whey have shown that this product can be made economically, sold at a profit and have a feed cost advantage over soybean meal. The first plant is currently under construction and production is anticipated by the first quarter of next year.

Because today's consumers are better educated in selecting foods on the basis of their total value, it is important to a food processor to be aware of how dairy-based ingredients can be used to improve their flavor, enhance their nutritional value and add a certain degree of naturalness. For these reasons many new food uses have been developed over the years utilizing dairy ingredients,

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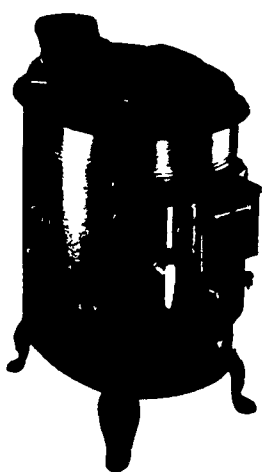
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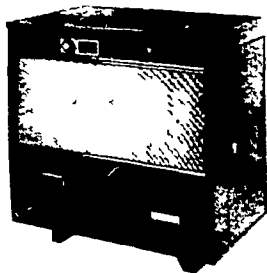
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