

Mastitis, prostaglandin featured at York dairy day

BY PATRICIA GREEK
DOVER — The annual York County Dairy Day program was held Thursday, February 21 at the Dover Fire Hall.

The program began with Steve Spencer, Penn State extension dairyman, speaking on mastitis control.

According to Spencer, the most prevalent form of bacterial mastitis is Strep A. This type is highly contagious and immune to many mastitis treatments.

All forms of bacteria that cause mastitis enter the udder through the teat end. They normally live only in a cow's udder, but can live on a human's hands for 48 hours.

Thus, the infection can be transmitted from one cow to the next.

Spencer noted that teat dipping does influence mastitis control. A study was made using 19 herds that used teat dip and 10 that did not. There were fewer cases of mastitis in the dipper herds than in the herds that were not dipped.

Dry treating a cow also helps, Spencer said.

The next speakers talked about a milestone reached in breeding heifers, the prostaglandin injection.

Speakers on this subject were Kevin Williams and Carol Reese, both of the Upjohn Company.

Prostaglandin was first discovered in the 1930's by a Swedish scientist. The real breakthrough didn't come until the late 1960's when it was discovered how to make man-made prostaglandin.

According to Williams, the Upjohn Company has Federal clearance to use this drug on dairy and beef heifers, but not on lactating dairy cows as of yet.

There are many benefits for the use of this program. The dairy farmer can reduce or eliminate heat detection



Kevin Williams, of the Upjohn Corporation, outlined the advantages and cautions farmers should consider when using prostaglandins.

in heifers. Artificial insemination can be used more efficiently, with genetically superior calves being produced.

Farmers, therefore, can choose the exact time they want their heifer to enter the milking string.

Williams then told the audience the basics needed in the use of prostaglandin. First off, a farmer needs a normally cycling heifer. If she isn't cycling every month, then it's just a waste of money," he said.

Good nutrition and herd health are also essential.

The heifers are given an injection while in the 6 to 16 days of the heat cycle when there is a corpus luteum on the ovary. Then comes a wait of 11 days.

After the 11 days, the

heifer gets another injection. After waiting another 80 hours, the farmer breeds the heifer.

The drug is not a fertility drug. Farmers should expect the normal conception rates for their herd.

Williams stated there was no meat residue with the use of this product, but there is one side effect. If the animal is already pregnant when the shot is given, she will abort.

Anyone who intends to use this prostaglandin injection, should get in touch with their veterinarian first, he advised.

The Upjohn trade name for prostaglandin is Lutalyse. The product comes in 10cc vials.

The usual dose is 5c per animal per treatment. The average cost is \$5 per dose.

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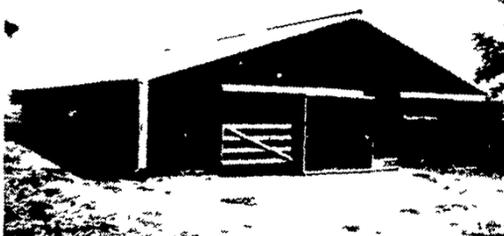
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