

Ask the VMD



Leon Riegel Tim Trayer Edgar Sheaffer

My cow's got the winter blues!

A reader asks:
We were recently advised in our breeder's association newsletter to keep an eye out for winter dysentery in our cattle. That task is difficult to do when you don't know what the symptoms are. Could you please discuss this disease, its symptoms, causes, and cure?

Dr. Riegel comments:
Winter dysentery is a disease of cattle that gets its name because it is seen during the colder months of the year, October through April.

The disease is characterized by a brown, watery diarrhea which may contain flecks of blood. The cattle appear normal in all other respects, including appetite, except for more active intestinal sounds and a drop in milk production.

During an outbreak of the disease, it is not uncommon

to find 20 percent of a herd affected overnight, with as high as 80 percent involved within the next few days.

The disease usually affects older cattle more severely. You will be noticing rough hair coats, sunken eyes, and other signs of dehydration in these animals.

For many years the cause of the disease was thought to be an organism known as *Vibrio jejuni*. But due to its rapid spread, a virus is now thought to be the causative agent.

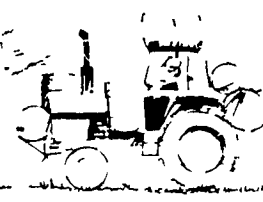
The disease will generally run its course in three to four days. In many cases, no

treatment is needed. But in more severe cases, boluses to stop diarrhea and fluids to help combat dehydration are necessary.

Winter dysentery can be confused with another disease — coccidiosis. Your veterinarian can differentiate between the two by examining a manure sample under the microscope.

If you have a question you would like answered by the team from Valley Animal Hospital, send it to Ask the VMD, Box 366, Lititz, PA 17543. Questions will be kept anonymous on request.

TRACTOR SAFETY HINT



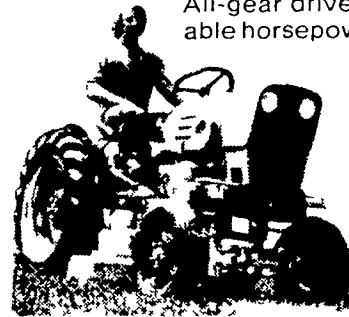
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Berks

4-H elects officers

Northern Berks 4-H held their meeting recently at the home of Patty and Carol Dreisbach.

Jim Shaw gave members some tips on a good dairy cow.

Officers elected recently are: Patty Dreisbach, president; Harold Deitrich, vice-president; Carol Dreisbach, secretary; Chris Deitrich, treasurer; Tammy Schlappich, news reporter; Lee Schlappich, historian; Connie Ohlinger and Scott Naftzinger, game and song leaders.

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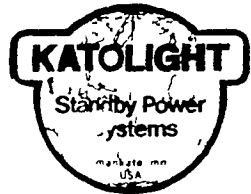
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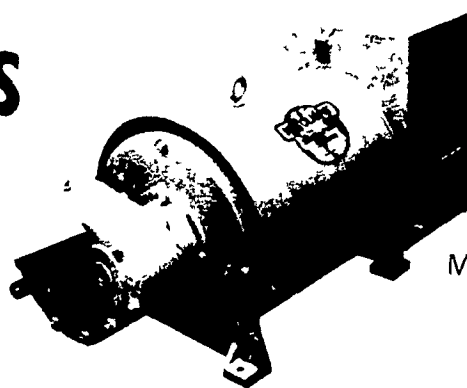


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45LR1	45,000	135,000	70	120/240	175	1	3	670	730
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