

Dairymen can grind hay to replace cereal grains

UNIVERSITY PARK — Scientists at Penn State have come to the aid of dairy farmers paying inflated prices for cereal grains and oilmeal protein supplements needed to keep their herds producing high milk yields.

The scientists found they could use high quality alfalfa-grass hay, after it was run through a grinder, to replace up to 33 per cent of the more costly cereal grains and oilmeal normally fed to dairy cows.

This use of high quality hay to partially replace what dairymen call feed concentrates could be quite beneficial to dairy farmers if feed prices continue upward, says Earl M. Kesler, professor of dairy science at University Park.

He indicated the Penn State experiments are among the first in the U.S. to evaluate alfalfa as a replacement for grain and

oilmeal concentrates in the diets of high producing cows.

Normal levels of milk fat and protein were maintained with the feeding of some long hay. Cow health was unchanged. The ground hay replacement for grain and oilmeal was fed to Holstein cows during the first six months of a 10 month milking cycle.

The findings were reported in the Spring issue of "Science in Agriculture," the quarterly magazine of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Penn State. The studies were carried out by Edward DePeters, former graduate assistant from Albion, NY, and now with the faculty at the University of California at Davis, and Kesler.

The experiment used 30 Holstein cows assigned at random to three groups of 10 each, based on previous milk production. One group

was fed the full concentrate ration.

A second group was fed a 20 per cent ground alfalfa-grass mixture.

The third group received a ration containing 33 per cent alfalfa-grass in place of the grain and oilmeal. The forage component of the diet included long alfalfa hay and corn silage.

There was a trend for dry matter intake of feed to increase and milk and protein yield to decrease as the amount of ground alfalfa hay increased. Milk yields peaked in the fifth week of lactation for cows in all three feeding groups.

DePeters noted that costs of grain and oilmeal were reduced where high quality ground hay was used. He said the average estimated cost for each ton of grain and oilmeal was \$133 where 33 per cent ground hay was substituted, \$137 with 20 per

cent ground hay, and \$140 where no ground hay was fed.

DePeters said dollar return favored not using the ground hay substitute when all rations were bought at market prices current at the

time of the study. However, this relationship could change, he pointed out, if the hay portion were farm grown or if prices of oilmeals and cereal grains increase appreciably.

To be successful with this

feed, the hay must be excellent in quality, Dr. Kesler emphasized. Once included in the grain mixture, the ground alfalfa-grass hay was considered part of the grain concentrate and not as forage.

Cumberland co-op sells fleeces

CARLISLE — The Cumberland Co-op Sheep and Wool Growers announced the sale of the 1980 Wool Pool to A. H. Helmg & Co. Inc., Boston, Mass.

The following are the prices per pound growers will receive from the pool for each grade. A charge will be deducted from each pooler's total pounds of wool for dues and expenses of the pool operations.

3/8 and 1/4 Staple 85 cents; 3/8 and 1/4 Clothing 80 cents; Medium Rejects 80 cents; Low 1/4 82 cents; Fine 82

cents; Fine Rejects 78 cents; Tags 35 cents.

Marlin Rook, president of the co-op reminds all poolers that all fleeces must be tied. Loose fleeces and fleeces tied with binder twine or other string will be sold as rejects, he added.

"Wool must be free of excessive moisture. If wet, dry them in the sun. Store in a dry place — not in the cellar or on concrete. Please do not bring wool to the pool in plastic woven bags. Fleeces that are brought to the pool in plastic woven bags will be severely discounted," Rook explained.

The pool will be held only one day, Wednesday, June 18, from 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. It will be held at the Carlisle Fairgrounds, located along Route 34 in Carlisle.

Producers from nearby counties are welcome, said Rook.

Wool will be graded and weighed in the pooler's presence, and he will get a receipt showing pounds of each grade. Checks for wool will be received within a couple of weeks after the pool.

Penn State specialists will conduct wool grading demonstration as part of the day's activities.

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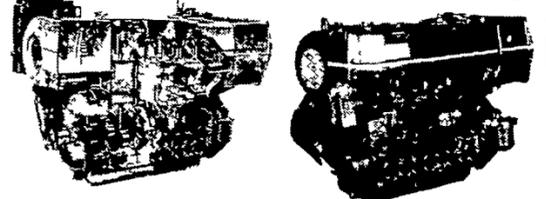
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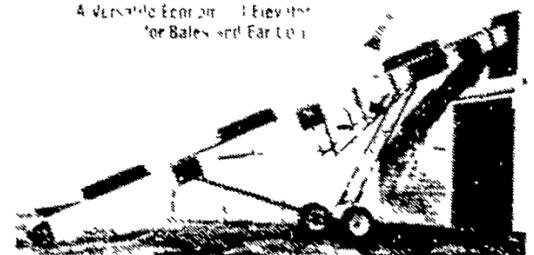


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