

Maryland research confirms

Worming cows at freshening can mean \$4800 extra profit

COLLEGE PARK, Md — To determine just how bad the problem of internal parasites is, the University of Maryland recently conducted examinations of fecal samples from approximately 1500 dairy animals from across the state.

"We tested five cows and five heifers from each of 154 herds," explains Dr. R.C. Hammond, head of the Department of Veterinary Science. "There were at least some roundworm eggs in the feces of almost all the animals. And virtually every herd was infected."

Similar studies in Pennsylvania, Vermont and other states have revealed that the level of parasitism is at least that bad in herds throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic region.

Internal parasites interfere with milk promotion in several ways. Adult worms, which attach themselves to the stomach and intestines, live off the tissue and blood of their host.

The resulting scar tissue makes it harder for a cow to absorb the nutrients and fluids she needs to produce milk at maximum levels.

"Roundworms make an

animal weak and more susceptible to other infections. And a cow with worms is more likely to display poor reproductive performance," says Dr. Robert Miller, senior technical advisor for animal health at Merck & Co.

Parasitologists say the level of infection doesn't have to be very high before milk production is affected. And Dr. Hammond says most of the herds they tested in the Maryland study definitely would benefit from a de-worming program.

"Daily production is greatest in the early stages of lactation," adds Dr. Miller. "A cow can't make that much milk on feed alone, so she draws nutrients from her own bodyweight. Even a few worms at this time can hold the animal back."


Noted dairy parasitologist Dr. A.C. Todd at the University of Wisconsin and other researchers have

shown that the best time to de-worm is at freshening. Depending on how bad the infection was before treatment, they say de-worming at freshening can increase production 500 lbs. per cow or more during a 305-day lactation.

"A dairyman with an average herd in our state — about 80 cows with a herd average of 12,000 to 14,000 pounds of milk — can expect an increase of 500 pounds of

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Avoid mid-morning slump, eat breakfast

YORK — If you don't like breakfast foods, don't have time to eat before work, or are convinced the skipping breakfast is the only way you can control your weight, you are missing the target.

According to Joan Lamberson, home economist, research has repeatedly demonstrated that people who eat breakfast work better and more accurately and avoid mid-morning slump.

They are also less likely to tire easily and, contrary to myth, are able to control their weight better because they have less tendency to overeat later in the day.

Children who have a balanced breakfast before

school are less restless, perform better and are often mentally quicker.

A food breakfast doesn't have to be traditional—an egg nog or a cup of soup and a piece of toast works as well as eggs and toast. Custard or rice pudding, or even reheated macaroni and cheese are good sources of breakfast protein. Add some fruit or juice and some toast, crackers or a muffin and you have a balanced breakfast to start the day.



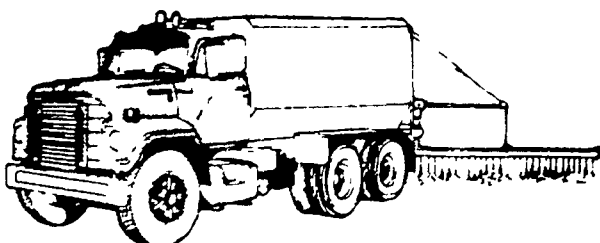
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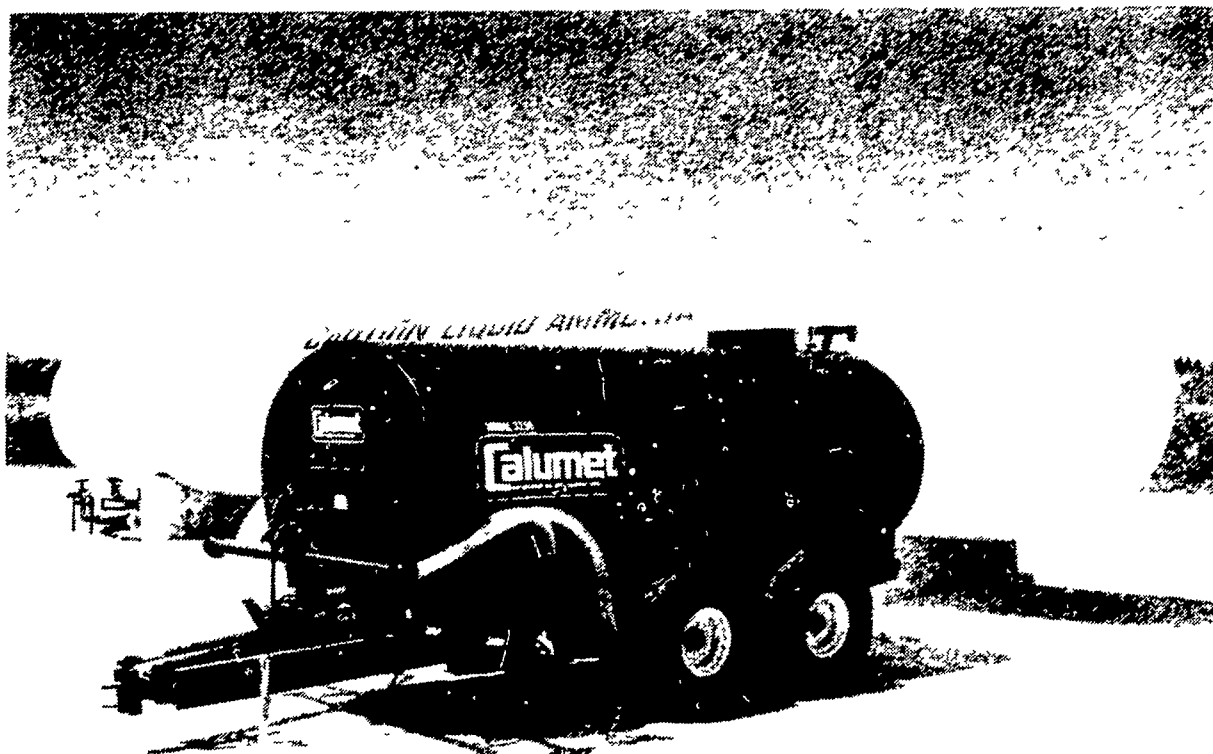
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