



The Dairy Business

By
Newton Bair

DIPPING INTO THE DAIRY BOWL — The dairy bowl referred to here is not necessarily filled with milk punch or other drinkable goodies, but it can pack a real punch when it comes to knowing what goes on in the Dairy Business.

The Bowl I'm talking about is the competitive 4-H event that occupies the attention of many 4-H Dairy Clubs these days.

In case you don't know what is happening, I'll fill you in. The Dairy Bowl is one of the major activities that keeps 4-H club members on their toes participating in local, regional and state 4-H events.

Based on the same idea as the once-popular TV College Bowl competition, teams of 4-H'ers vie against each other to answer questions about farming in general, and cows and dairying in particular. A club team consisting of three or four persons pit their skill and knowledge against another club team.

The moderator asks a

question relating to the Dairy Business, and the first person who thinks he can answer it presses a button. Buzzers buzz and lights flash, and the button pusher proceeds to answer the question. "What is the technical name for a cow's milk vein?" Answer — "subcutaneous abdominal mammary vessel!" Well, (ahem), everybody knows that — almost everybody, anyhow.

Our team gets 10 points for answering correctly, and a bonus question follows.

The official judge places a class of animals 4 3 2 1 with penalty cuts between the placings being 3,4,2. You placed the class 2 1 4 3. What is your score?" Try figuring that out in your head — and you have exactly 10 seconds to get it right!

The answer is, "the score is 24".

It took me several minutes to come up with the answer, which I later verified with the help of scoring tables and a computer.

Not all of the questions

asked are that difficult, but even a simple one can confuse you when the pressure is on. For example, take this one "What crop furnishes the most feed energy per acre: (a) alfalfa (b) corn silage (c) soybeans?"

Tricky, but of course it was answered correctly — "corn silage."

Another version of the same question cost the team 10 points. "Which crop furnishes the most protein per acre?" Someone answered, "soybeans", which is wrong. You knew it was alfalfa, didn't you?

I guess my point in describing the Dairy Bowl competition among 4-H'ers is to let you know how the 4-H program helps to prepare these young people for a useful and profitable life on the farm. The answers to many important questions can be learned in many ways, but the easiest way to learn is then you're having fun. Even though they are dead serious during the game, they are obviously enjoying it.

Meanwhile, wits are sharpened, skills are developed and useful facts are learned. And, of course, young citizens are preparing for productive and happy lives.

The Dairy Bowl game is only one of many 4-H dairy club activities. Raising a dairy calf successfully is the number one project. Grooming, training and showing the animal is also part of the excitement of 4-H.

Good record keeping and management of dairy animals is of vital interest

and importance. Learning to judge and place animals owned by others is also part of the fun and training, not to mention clipping, hoof trimming, selecting sires to breed the 4-H heifers, and all the swimming parties, baseball games and ice cream slurping.

The piece could end with a few select Dairy Bowl questions to test your knowledge of the business. But, to avoid embarrassment for those of us who haven't had 4-H training, let's just sharpen up our dairy know-how by studying the breed journals, reading Hoard's and the other good farm periodicals, and attending the Fairs and Roundups in the next couple of months.

And, if the kids invite us to a "Bowl" contest, we too will know something about the Dairy Business.



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Now Is The Time

(Continued from Page A10) may create more problems than they solve by doing so.

Gasoline stored on a farm or around a house becomes an expensive convenience if the storage period is longer than six months.

First, the fuel contains a blend of several parts, one of which is extremely volatile and provides engines with easy starting. It evaporates rapidly. When the storage tank is exposed to the sun or high temperatures, most of this ingredient is lost in about 60 days.

Secondly, gas becomes gummy — similar to shellac

— after it "ages"! This gum may stop up the carburetor and cause engine deposits. It also may cause damage when mixed in small amounts with gasoline.

In addition, seasonal changes in grades of gasoline can cause trouble if fuel blended for one season is carried over in storage tanks until another season.

For example, winter-grade fuel should not be used during the summer. This gas may cause vapor lock. Summer-grade gasolines are blended to prevent vapor lock while winter grades are blended for cold weather starting.

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