

PFU

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 effective voluntary associations," he said.

Ray added that farmers must avoid letting professional managers or the top officers in an association do all the work. "In the final analysis, keeping democracy alive and well in a voluntary association is the responsibility of the members," Ray said. "Members must demand to participate."

Members also heard a report from Orville Carver, director of Pennsylvania

Green Thumb. Green Thumb is a group sponsored by Farmers Union and funded by the federal government, which finds work for older citizens.

They also heard a peppy talk by York County Farm Woman Gail McPherson, president of Penn's Agri-Women. She is part of the management team in a York County fruit operation.

Other highlights of the meeting were a legislative breakfast with several state elected officials and closing remarks by William Matson, General Manager of Pennsylvania Rural Electric Cooperatives.


In final action the delegates voted to send Albert Bentz, Thomasville; and Robert Stahl, R6 Somerset, as delegates to the National Convention.

They named as Advisory Committee Chairman James Brown, Jamestown, Mercer County; and as Vice Chairman Irk McConnell, McDonald, Washington County.

PFU's next annual meeting again will be held at the Holiday Inn, Grantville. Dates are February 1 to 3, 1982.




Members attending the ninth annual Pennsylvania Farmers Union meeting in Grantville voted on several policy matters. Here state Director Leonard Zemaitis explains provisions of a resolution to assist young farmers.




Leon Riegel

Ask the VMD



Tim Trayer



Edgar Sheaffer

If you have a question you would like answered by Dr. Leon Riegel, Dr. Edgar Sheaffer, and Dr. Synthea Maas of Valley Animal Hospital, Palmyra and Dr. Tim Trayer, Denver, send it to Ask the VMD, Box 366, Litz, PA 17543. Questions will be kept anonymous on request.

Calf Castration Tips

A reader asks:

What method of calf castration do you recommend — cutting, Burdizzo, or banding? What are the advantages and disadvantages of each?

Dr. Riegel comments:

I use all three methods of castration depending on the age of the calf, the type of cattle operation, the help available, etc.

I recommend cutting in older calves, 4 to 5 months of age, that are to be used for show steers. If calves are to be cut, the area where they are kept must be clean and well bedded.

The advantages to cutting are you can be positive both

testicles are removed at the time of the operation. The disadvantages are the operation only should be done at a time of year when flies are not a problem for fear of the area becoming infested with maggots.

In older calves where I'm concerned with the possibility of infection after castration, I'll use the Burdizzo. With the Burdizzo, you must be careful to crimp each cord separately and must be careful the cord doesn't escape to the side of the crimp when pressure is applied. So the blood supply to the lower part of the scrotum is not cut off, the cords should be crimped on staggered levels.

The advantages to this method are it can be done most any time of year, and there is less chance for infection. The disadvantages are if the blood supply to the testicle and/or the spermatic cord is not severed, the bull remains fertile.

In young calves, banding is by far the quickest and

simplest method of castration, but some definite cautions must be noted.

Before the band is applied, the scrotal area should be cleaned. When the band is applied, make sure both testicles are below the band.

The limiting factor with banding is the size of calf, or more importantly, the size of the scrotum and testicles.

If banding is attempted on a calf where the testicles are too large, the band will not cut off the circulation to the scrotum and testicles completely, resulting in a swollen scrotal area and a sick calf.

The use of an antitoxin against tetanus is important with any type of castration, but probably most important when bands are used.





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