

Milk analysis can be backup to heat detection

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN
LANCASTER — Increased emphasis on heat detection and consideration of milk progesterone analysis as a backup to determine if cows are pregnant were stressed by Michael L. O'Conner, Extension dairy specialist, in a concentrated dairy reproduction workshop held at the Farm and Home Center on Monday and Tuesday.

"One of the biggest things that dairymen can do in their reproduction management programs is to improve heat detection practices,"

O'Conner told the audience of 30 predominantly younger dairy farmers.

Research has shown that approximately 45 to 50 percent of heats go undetected, O'Conner said.

The goal of a good reproduction program would be the detection of 80 percent of standing heats, the dairy specialist said.

O'Conner said that research has shown that the best times to check for heat still remain in the early morning and evening. In free-stall housing, the recommended time spent in



Michael O'Conner

detecting heat would be three times a day for about 30-minute intervals.

While observation remains the primary method of heat detection, O'Conner told the dairymen to consider various aids that are available, such as KaMar patches or the use of a testosterone-treated cow.

USDA research in heat detection at Beltsville, Md. includes the use of pedometers strapped to the legs of cows or German shepherd dogs who sniff out the mucous.

Cows in heat do a lot more walking and the pedometer

records this increased activity.

O'Conner reported that a probe equipped with an ohm meter is also being used to check the electrical resistance of fluid in the vagina of cows. A drop in the electrical resistance indicates the cow is in heat.

As a backup to determine if cows have been successfully bred and are pregnant, O'Conner said that milk progesterone analysis is now available.

Progesterone is a hormone that is released into the blood and the milk and is at its highest levels when a cow

is pregnant. Levels drop when a cow is in heat.

Samples for analysis should be taken about 21 days after a cow is bred. The closest location for analysis is Cornell University.

Results of the sampling require careful analysis, O'Conner explained, since high progesterone levels can be caused by factors other than pregnancy.

But the analysis can be quite helpful in determining those cows which return to heat and have not been bred successfully.

Grangers discuss water allocation for farms

HARRISBURG — Members of the Pennsylvania State Grange Legislative and Agriculture Committees met with State Environmental Resources Department officials last Friday in Harrisburg to discuss water allocation and usage and how it would affect agriculture and rural Pennsylvania.

State Grange Master Charles E. Wismer, Jr., of Trappe, Montgomery County, remarked that the

topic of discussion was a growing concern to his 46,000 member organization, especially "in light of the recent drought afflicting eastern Pennsylvania."

John McSparran, of DER's Bureau of Resource Planning, reported DER was in the process of drafting legislation for a "comprehensive water allocation law" to cover both the use of "ground and stream water" in Pennsylvania.

Of special interest to the

Grange was water quality management, water conservation, allocations to agriculture, and the plight of the small community water companies.

The committee members were very concerned how future allocations would be set. Legislative Committee chairman Vernon Cox, of Claysville, Washington County, noted that "historical use should not be used."

If a farm is classed ac-

ording to its use as a grain farm in past years, for example, and its present owner is in the process of changing it over to a poultry operation, there would be no way he would have enough water," he noted.

Another concern voiced by the Grangers dealt with water quality management. Some members were concerned that heavy game populations could create adverse water quality conditions and that adequate

wildlife management techniques should be implemented to correct this situation.

Two instances of these conditions were mentioned. The first involved the increasing duck and goose populations in the southeast lakes and ponds. The second dealt with the beaver defecation that lead to Bradford water consumers becoming ill from a virus in the feces.

Yet another issue discussed at the meeting was the plight of the small community water companies.

The Army Corps of Engineers recently condemned numerous dams owned by a number of small water companies as unsafe.

Since these companies serve so few customers, many are unable to obtain loans to repair their facilities.

DER's McSparran also noted that many of their distribution systems were outdated, as well.

Consideration was given to the possibility of the formation of a National Water Utilities Bank "with the capital and expertise to provide financial services to water utilities."

On water conservation, it was suggested that more emphasis be placed on storm water management, spraying irrigation land with sewage effluent to assist groundwater recharge, and encouraging private citizens to develop cisterns and other measures.

Specialty exports continue increase

NEW ORLEANS, La. — While attention has been focused on expanding export markets for grain and oil crops, export levels for fruits and other specialty crops have been growing just as rapidly, Timothy Regan of the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, said here last week.

Regan, speaking at the horticultural crops conference at the 62nd annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation, said the U.S. is not exporting specialty crops to overseas markets that were thought to

be inaccessible ten years ago.

"In 1970, nearly 60 percent of all fruit, vegetable and specialty crops went to one country — Canada," Regan said, noting that 1980 horticultural exports totaled \$2.7 billion — up from \$394 million in 1970.

Regan cited Eastern Europe, the Middle East and dramatic export growth in Japan and the Far East as the primary source of new export growth in Japan and the Far East as the primary source of new export trade. He credited aggressive

marketing and the devaluation of the dollar as principle forces behind the increases.

Regarding imports to the United States, Regan charged that the Trade Act of 1974 is not adequate to protect horticultural producers from injurious import competition. "Unfortunately," he said, "the way the law is written, the (U.S.) government simply cannot act quickly enough to relieve producers of perishable products from injury before producer returns for an entire season

are affected."

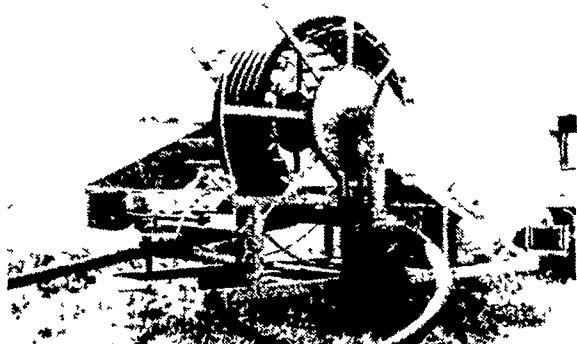
In another presentation, Perry Ellsworth, executive vice president of the National Council of Agricultural Employers, said the period of special exceptions for agriculture in labor matters has passed.

Vincent Giglio of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumers Services also addressed the conference, commenting on the importance of special state registration of minor-use pesticides under Section 24-c of the federal act.

Introducing

Vermeer Irrigation Traveler

Model SR-1000



Now irrigate up to 9 acres of your crops in one setting with the Vermeer Model SR-1000 and up to 20 acres per day with 1" of water or effluent. This combination unit works together as winch and trailer. Set the winch at one end of the area to be irrigated and pull the trailer and position at the other. The trailer with the sprinkler is pulled through the field using the hose. The reel capacity is 1,200 ft. (optional 1,000 ft.) with a capacity of up to 450 gpm. A Wisconsin S-14D gas engine is used to turn the reel. Ease of operation and no hose loop to damage crops are just two reasons to consider the SR-1000 Traveler from Vermeer...innovators of irrigation products.



Also exclusive dealer for Wright Rain Tractor Driven Manurain Pumps and Manurain Sprinklers.
Call For Demonstration

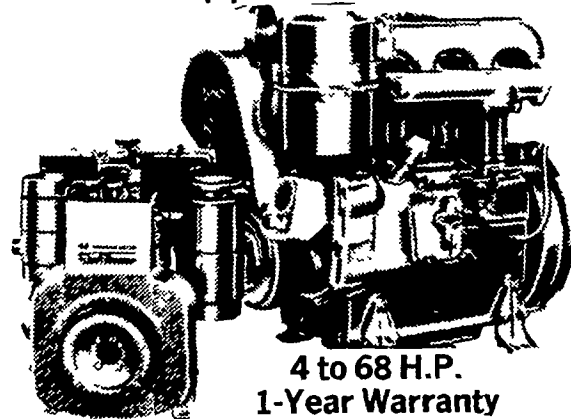
TRIPLE H FARMS

Peach Bottom, Pa.
717-548-2640 or
717-548-2094



THINK DIESEL THINK LOMBARDINI

26 different models
designed to fit most
gasoline engine
applications



4 to 68 H.P.
1-Year Warranty

LOMBARDINI The Powerhouse

The fastest growing line of small,
air-cooled diesels in America.

Authorized sales, service and
parts. Call today for a quotation.

Distributor

HOOVER DIESEL SERVICE

PH: 717-656-6133
2998 West Newport Rd. Ronks, Pa. 17572
2½ miles East of Leola - Along 772
DEALER INQUIRIES INVITED