

Mastitis tips

(Continued from Page A34)

Spencer recommended producers keep their bulk tanks and individual cow levels under 300,000

What can a producer do when the count has topped the 500,000 mark?

"Teat dip," Spencer recommended strongly. This practice is the single most important factor in helping to control mastitis, the specialist said.

"Teat dipping never cures mastitis," he pointed out. "It only prevents organisms from colonizing on the skin of the teat."

Another preventative measure is dry cow treatment. Spencer cited statistics which show cows are most susceptible to infection from the day of drying off to 7 days after the last milking. This susceptibility levels off during the dry period and increases again at parturition.

For those producers who find themselves with counts over 1,000,000, Spencer recommended the following management routine be followed:

- Teat dip all cows in the herd
- Dry treat all cows.
- Check milking machines, making sure they're in good operating condition
- Review milking procedures to insure proper sanitation — use only paper towels to prep cows, no

rags or sponges, and put a sanitizer in the water.

— Culture all cows with counts of 1,500,000 and up (DHIA codes 7's, 8's, and 9's)

If a 'staph' infection is found, take measures to prevent spread by isolating, and milk all infected cows last. Mastitis treatment during lactation has a low percentage of success and stringent withdrawal regulations, so dry treatment is recommended, Spencer said.

For cows with strep non ag, treatment to reduce the infection level to an acceptable level is about all the producer can do, he noted.

Spencer cautioned producers to be careful to treat mastitis cases properly. Improper treatment could lead to severe yeast mastitis for which there is no treatment.

The dairy specialist cited the following list, developed by W N Philpot of Louisiana State University, recognizing some teat dips found to be effective against one or more common mastitis organisms:

Bio-dine teat dip and Bio-guard teat dip, manufactured by Bio-Lab, Inc.; Blu-guard, Teat Guard, and Udder Guard, manufactured by Klenzade Products; Bovadine,

Franklin Guernsey breeders tour Maryland farms

CHAMBERSBURG — School was out on Washington's Birthday,

but not for the enthusiastic Franklin County Guernsey Breeders. The group piled into a big yellow school bus and went to Carroll and Frederick Counties, Maryland this year on their annual tour of area Guernsey Breeders. The first stop was at the farm of John Hull, Jr. near Westminster, Maryland. John and his wife farm 150 acres and milk 50 cows in a parlor and free stall set-up. They also have about 50 replacement heifers and raise their calves in hutches. John pointed out the many daughters of Deacon, Choice and Premier he owns. The next stop on the tour was to John's neighbor, Ed Beard. Ed milks around 70 head of Guernseys. His free stall set up has an interesting feature in that the barn is built on a slope which makes the cows all lie in one direction. This minimizes injuries when the cows get up and down. Ed has some big, strong Guernseys with several sired by Choice, Startire, Premier and Hollirex. The farm of Paul Spurrier in Frederick County was the third farm visited.

The Spurriers milk in a stall manufactured by West Agro-Chemical, Inc.; Cutisan teat dip, manufactured by Pennwalt Corporation, De Laval after milking teat dip, by Bonewitz Chemical Services, Hibidip teat dip, ICI Americas, Inc.; IBS FS 104 teat dip, IBA, Inc.; Mastimin, Diversey Chemicals, MKP NO 'Dine teat dip, Masti-Kure Products Co., Inc.; Monarch iodine teat dip (0.5%), Monarch Mix 'N Dip chlorinated teat dip powder, by H. B. Fuller Co.; Nolvasan teat dip, Fort Dodge Laboratories, Purdine, Ralston Purina; Teat Kote, Tegragon, TD-34 cosmetic based teat dip, Babson Bros.; and Tilcon teat dip, BASF Wyandotte Corporation.

A list of FDA dry treatment products is available at the local Extension office.

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The Spurriers milk in a stall

barn with a pipeline but the cows are housed in free stalls. Paul and his family do a lot of showing at local shows where they have won several top placings and also show in Harrisburg at the All-American.

The largest operation visited by the group was the farm of H. Eugene Bendig and William Powell. They milk '60 head, half Holsteins and half Guernseys.

The only part of this farm toured was the new heifer operation consisting of a VPI Counter Slope open heifer shed for smaller calves and a large, loose housing barn with a capacity of 75 head. The dry cows are housed here along with bred heifers. They've also installed a scrapeout feeding area and a well designed manure pit.

The animals were exceptionally thrifty and well grown out.

The Franklin County Guernsey Breeders had an informative and enjoyable day and are looking forward to their next meeting which will be the Annual Banquet to be held on March 27, 7 p.m. at the Edenville Community Center.

The speaker will be Lancaster Countyman Peter Witmer, who will present slides of his recent trip to the Isle of Guernsey.

J. M. HORST

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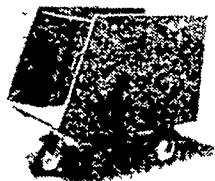


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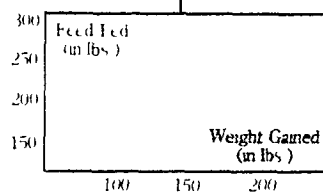
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