

Brief answers
to short questions

Sheila's Shorts

By Sheila Miller



The 'real' thing?

With all the imitation this-and-that's floating around the market place these days, it's hard for consumers to know what is real and what is fake

Some times, as long as there is a trace of a natural product included in an otherwise totally synthetic material, the manufacturer labels the product under the guise of Mother Nature

And many times you have to look closely at something, take shoes for instance, to even realize what you're buying is man-made

Just recently, my husband was trying on some work boots which looked and felt like leather. But, when we looked inside the boot we read 'All Man-Made Materials'. I guess we should have been tipped off by the price tag — but, then again, everybody is glad to get a 'real' bargain

In the food department, it gets a

little tougher to actually see what's imitation, unless the manufacturer spells it out in bold letters on the package. As a result, industries, like the dairy industry, have come up with labels, like the ADI's REAL seal, to identify those products that use strictly milk and milk byproducts as ingredients

What about clothing? Manufacturer's labels generally spell out what percent of the material is synthetic. But what about homemade materials — like wool spun and woven into gorgeous yardage?

That was a question I received from Ellen Utermoehlen.

She writes

I weave and use wool from our own flock and would like to use the Woolmark logo on the tag of the finished product.

How would I get permission to use it?

I wrote to the Wool Education

Center in Denver — with no response. I surely wouldn't want to do anything illegal in using it without permission. But how do I go about finding out what is legal and what isn't?

To try and find an answer for you, I checked with Joan Liesau of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to see if she might know where you could get permission. Joan raises sheep and is quite involved in shearing, spinning, and weaving.

She referred me to Gwen Keck of the American Sheep Producers Council (303/399-8130). Gwen, who is with the American Wool Council, informed me the Woolmark is a licensed trademark of the International Wool Secretariat, U.S. Division Wool Bureau.

In order to use the trademark, your business must be licensed with the Wool Bureau. For more information on how to obtain a license, contact Tom Haas, vice president, 360 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York, 10017, 212/986-6222.

I hope you have more luck reaching him than I had — he must be a busy man.

Clean up your act

Normally, I don't bother to answer anonymous questions from readers. But this week I'm making an exception.

The letter, written March 11 on a

sheet of yellow paper, read

On Wednesday, March 11, I visited the Leesport Auction.

As I was sitting there for about one hour, I saw calves being dragged across the ring. A 100-pound pig was dragged into the ring and nobody would buy it because it was 90 percent dead.

All kinds of deformed and ruptured pigs — one 500 pound steer with its rectum hanging out — the ring floor was so dirty, it wasn't cleaned for a couple of weeks.

Farmers were buying heifer calves to take back to the farm. God knows what disease they took back.

How come there is no state inspection of these places?

After what you saw that Wednesday, I can understand why you feel there is no inspection being done. But actually there is — both state and federal — obviously with room for improvement.

I spoke to Dr. John Moore, chief veterinarian of the federal Animal Plant Health Inspection Service in Harrisburg concerning the letter. He informed me the APHIS field personnel support the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's staff in carrying out inspections of local livestock markets.

Unfortunately, he pointed out, there are far more auction barns than inspectors.

Auction yards operate at a fast

tempo — there's a lot of scurrying around and slamming of gates, Moore said. And, some farmers attempt to salvage their animals that are sick or worn out with callous disregard.

It's like the old machine that starts balking when you go to start it — it soon goes to the junk yard if it takes too much time to fix. It's the same in the livestock industry — we have good and poor mechanics.

Dr. Max VanBuskirk, chief veterinarian for the state's Bureau of Animal Industries, explained there are regional employees assigned to inspect the auction yards throughout the state. But, he added, they can't be at every auction, every day.

When our inspector sees animals like those described in the letter, they're supposed to tag them and see they are disposed of properly, he said.

Both veterinarians encouraged anyone noticing these conditions at auction barns to report the incidents to either their regional offices or to the state offices in Harrisburg.

In the case of auctions in southeast Pennsylvania, reports should be called into the Lansdale Regional Office at 215/368-3000. The Bureau of Animal Industries telephone number is 717/783-5301, and the APHIS office can be reached by telephoning 717/787-5101.

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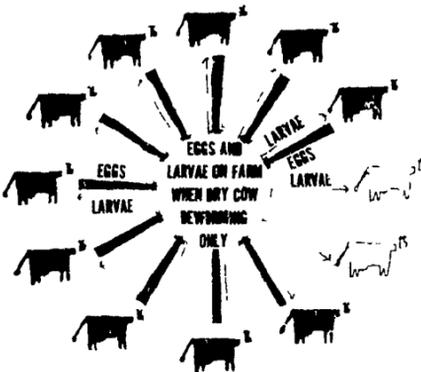
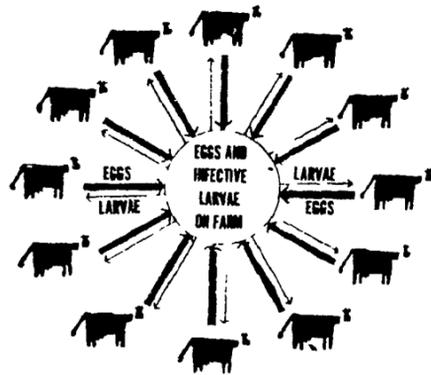
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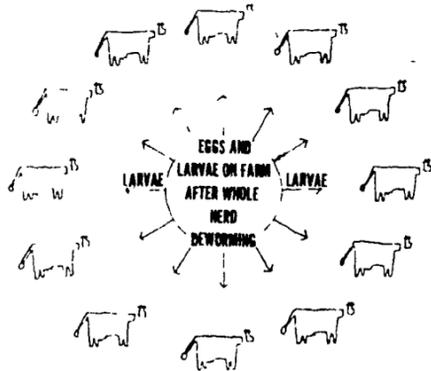
THE LOGIC BEHIND WHOLE HERD DEWORMING

In an unwormed dairy herd, all animals deposit worm eggs on the farm and all animals are subject to further recontamination from infective larvae as herd parasitism continues unchecked.



In a herd dewormed only at freshening, an average of 10 out of 12 animals have not been dewormed. Because egg deposition has not been significantly reduced, and because of infective larvae already present on the farm, all animals are subject to heavy further recontamination.

After whole herd deworming with Baymix, egg deposition is dramatically reduced, and as a result herd recontamination is also significantly reduced with herd productive efficiency maintained. In fact, a recent study shows a benefit of 4.8 lbs./milk/cow/day average when cows are dewormed as late as 200 days into lactation despite the fact they were dewormed at freshening.



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