

Ohio dairymen move toward protein testing

POWELL, Ohio — Delegates attending the March annual meeting of Ohio Ag Services, Inc. decided to provide protein testing for all dairy herds on test in Ohio.

The proposal, brought before the members by the Wooster area delegation, will add more than 126,000 protein records to the data for sire summaries. Delegates also expressed the opinion that it might help convince milk marketing agencies to implement a protein pricing program in Ohio.

The testing will be implemented in early 1982 following installation of computerized lab equipment which will automatically transcribe the testing results onto the dairyman's report.

Currently, the protein testing operation is a labor intensive program with the test results being hand transcribed onto the dairyman's report at a cost of four cents per cow.

According to Chuck Baldwin, general manager of OAS, reducing

the labor through computerization will allow OAS to put all herds on protein test for one-half cent per cow.

In other business, delegates turned down the Belle Valley area delegation's proposal requesting somatic cell testing for all herds.

John White, head of the dairy science department at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA., the featured speaker of the day explained how a check-off system, providing funds for research and extension, has greatly increased the production and efficiency of dairy farms in Virginia.

White cited many examples of the effectiveness of this program including:

(1) An 1700 pound increase in the state herd average.

(2) An increase in the cows on test to 54 percent.

(3) The average predicted difference of the bulls used ranks first in the nation.

(4) Extension programs have been developed and implemented to help dairymen.

Glenn Schmidt, chairman of the Ohio State University Dairy Science Department, believes this type of program could be of benefit to Ohio. He proposed a similar check-off program which would be coordinated through the Ohio Farmers Federation.

Funds generated would be used to provide area dairy agents and state extension specialists to disseminate the latest research results and work closely with farm management.

In the area of research, greater emphasis would be placed on developing a control program from coliform-caused mastitis, improving estrus detection methods and new reproductive technology, increasing feed intake with forages and by-product feeds for high producing cows, developing more comprehensive management tools including on-farm computer

programs and conducting more research on preventing exposure of animals to hazardous chemicals.

Long-term service awards were presented to five employees, Hal Pennell, Jerusalem, 51 years of testing; Branson Smith, Kinsman, 31 years testing; Russ Searles, Wellington, 34 year testing; Jim Cawrse, Louisville, 10 years testing; and Burt Oehling, Berlin Heights, 10 years as district manager.

Outstanding supervisors recognized were Myron Arm-

strong, Uhrichsville; Charles and Nancy Hale, Galena; Sherry Stoll, Edgerton; John Wolff, Milford Center; and Ron Hovanec, Wooster.

Richard Sechrist, executive secretary of the National Dairy Herd Improvement Association, recognized Wayne Hostetler, Orrville, as the second place winner in the NDHIA Verified Identification Program. Wayne completed 533 applications for dairymen in the Wooster area during 1980.

Try this hot, new crop

BALTIMORE, Md. — Want a 'hot' alternate cash crop on your farm?

Have you ever thought about growing horseradish? According to Brad Powers of the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Division of Marketing, the Baltimore firm of Tulkoff Company, is actively seeking new growers of the zesty root.

In 1980, some 28 growers signed up to grow for Tulkoff and planted some 15,000 pounds of horseradish roots. Tulkoff wants more growers and, in an effort to acquaint farmers with the crop and its growing requirements, will hold an open house for farmers at their plant on Saturday, April 11 from 10 a. m. to 3 p. m.

Tulkoff will tour the farmers

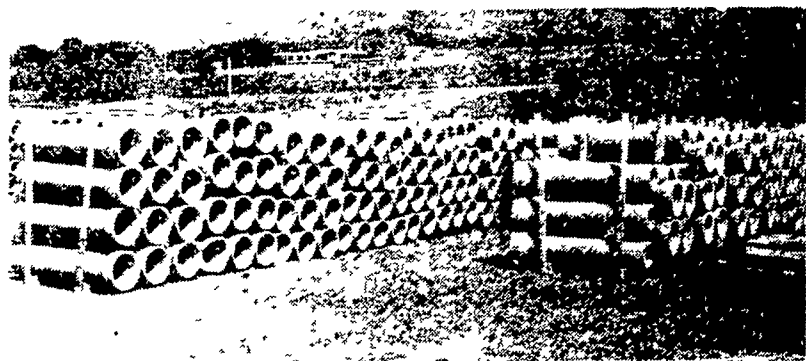
through their plant to show them what products are made from the root and then present a slide illustrated talk by an experienced horseradish grower who can answer the nuts-and-bolts questions about growing and selling the crop.

Horseradish is finding an increase market these days in many of the new tangy sauces and spreads used in fast food restaurants and, in general, from a public that wants a little more zing with things.

The Tulkoff plant is located at 1101 South Conkling Street in Baltimore. For more directions, please call the Maryland Department of Agriculture, Division of Marketing at 301/269-2181.

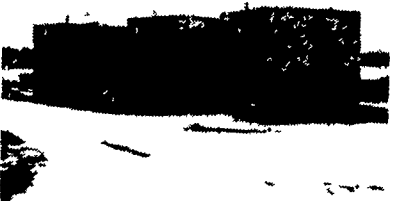


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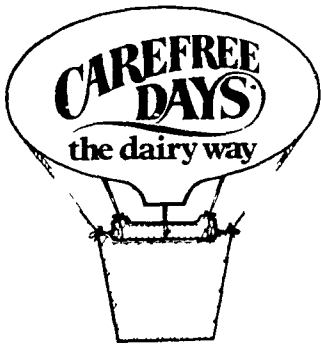


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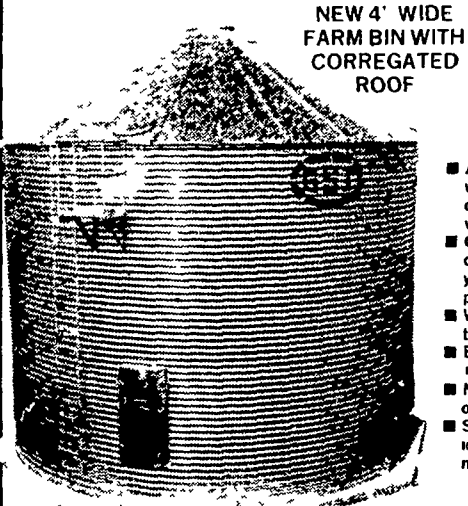
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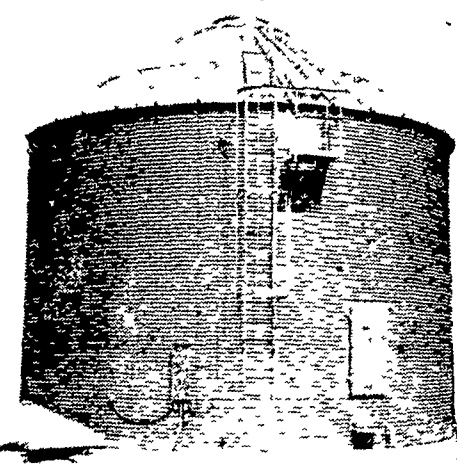


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