

# Numbers speak for themselves in dairy production

LANCASTER — Up until 1980, if you had examined the annual statistics on the number of dairy cows in the U.S., you might have wondered about Bossie's future. The "cow census" showed a steady, long-term decline in population, which was down more than one million in the past decade alone. But last year the trend reversed and milk cow numbers rose to 10.8 million head, up 1 percent from 1979.

Add to this the fact that each cow produced an average of 387 pounds more milk in 1980 than in 1979 and you get 1980's all-time record milk production of 128.4 billion pounds. This total was up almost 4 percent from 1979 and topped the 1964 record production of 127 billion pounds by 1 percent.

Of total milk produced, approximately 51.3 billion pounds were sold as fluid milk. Most of the rest went to make the wide variety of real dairy foods found in stores and restaurants, including the major products, cheese and butter. In 1980, the dairy industry sold more than 3.8 billion pounds of cheese and 874 million pounds of butter.

Once again the leading dairy state was Wisconsin, producing 22.3 billion pounds of milk in 1980. California was second with 13.6 billion pounds, followed by New York, 11.0 billion; Minnesota, 9.5 billion; and Pennsylvania, 8.5 billion.

Pennsylvania ranks near the top in many categories of manufactured dairy products. The Commonwealth is:

Second in milk sherbet with 3 million gallons; third in low fat cottage cheese with 15.3 million pounds; second in total frozen dairy products with 89.8 million gallons; third in ice milk with 18.3 million gallons.

Also, second in ice cream with 71.3 million gallons; third in unsweetened condensed skim milk with 70.8 million pounds; sixth in

creamed cottage cheese with 46 million pounds and fifth in Italian cheese with 26.2 million pounds.

Figures on average output per cow over the past several years indicate that dairy farmers' animal husbandry practices have produced a consistent rise in cows' milk-making efficiency. Contributing significantly to U.S. agricultural productivity, average milk produced per cow rose more than 3 percent as compared to 1979, to an average of 11,875 pounds per cow. Just since 1970, per-cow

production has increased 2,124 pounds or 22 percent.

In keeping with the trend in U.S. agriculture in general, the total number of operations with one or more milk cows (other than cows used to nurse calves) fell 4 percent in 1980 to 335,270 from 349,970 in 1979.

With this and the much-discussed rise in the number of large farms, one could expect that 1980's increases in total and per-cow milk production came from giant operations with hundreds of

cows, and that the small dairy farm with a few peacefully grazing cows was becoming part of America's past. A look at United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) figures about dairy operations for 1980 shows that neither expectation is accurate.

Farms with 1 to 29 head of milk cows made up 60.7 percent of all U.S. operations with milk cows, while those with 100 or more head were only 5.4 percent of such farms. Those with 30 to 49 head only made up 18.9 percent of the

total, and operations with 50 to 99 milk cows represented 15 percent. However, the smallest farms also accounted for the smallest portion of total U.S. cow numbers: 13.5 percent. The 30-to-49-cow group accounted for 22.9 percent of the cows; 50-to-99-cow operations, for 30.4 percent. Despite their small representation in total number of milk cow operations, the 100-and-over group of farms accounted for 33.2 percent or the largest percentage of 1980 total milk cow inventory.

## Pullet, pig scours reports available

LANCASTER — Several management reports — ranging from information on breeder pullets and progress on controlling baby pig scours to use of selective herbicide applicators — are available free from various agricultural companies.

A management report from Cobb, Incorporated, explains the breeder pullet's genetic development and outlines performance trial data on the bird. Also, the report discusses characteristics of the Cobb male, which with the improved pullet make up the breeder package for 1980's. Trial data comparing broiler mortality, weight gain, feed conversion and condemnation rates with those of competing birds is featured.

The breeder pullet report is available by writing to Cobb, Incorporated, P.O. Box 280, Concord, Mass. 01742.

A new management report on baby pig scours — its causes, economic effects and ways to control it — has been published by TUCO, division of the Upjohn Company.

The four-page report features information by Dr. James H. Bailey, South Dakota State University Extension Veterinarian, on the cause and

effects of bacterial enteritis in swine, and recommendations from James Van Buren, TUCO researcher, on how to prevent and control the condition.

For a copy, write: Scours in Swine Management Report, TUCO, Division of the Upjohn

Company, 9823-190-45, Kalamazoo, MI. 49001.

A new 16-page guide on ropewicks, rollers, recirculating sprayers and other selective applicators has been compiled by Monsanto Agricultural Products Co. The brochure concentrates on

the most popular of the applicators — the ropewick. It contains instructions on home-made ropewick construction.

For a copy of the brochure, write: Selective Equipment Guide, P. O. Box 15010, Little Rock, Ark. 72231.

## Dela. Soybean Board elects members

DOVER, Dela. — Soybean producers in Sussex and New Castle counties will be selecting representatives to fill expiring terms on the Delaware Soybean Board between June 8 and June 15.

Secretary of Agriculture Donald J. Lynch, explained each year one-third of the nine-member Board's terms expire.

Under the Development order ratified by Delaware soybean producers last summer, the Board's membership is made up of four representatives from Sussex County, three from Kent County and two from New Castle County. This year soybean producers will be electing one representative from New Castle County and two from Sussex County.

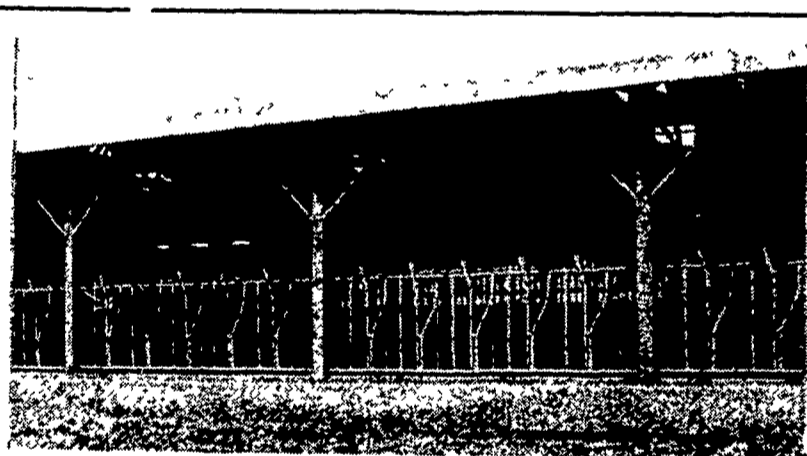
Ballots to select these representatives will be mailed on June 5 according to Secretary

Lynch. Producers in New Castle or Sussex Counties do not receive a

ballot in the mail may obtain one from the Delaware Soybean Board at 302/736-4811.



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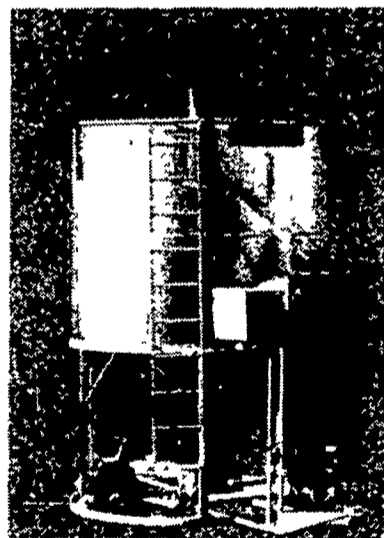


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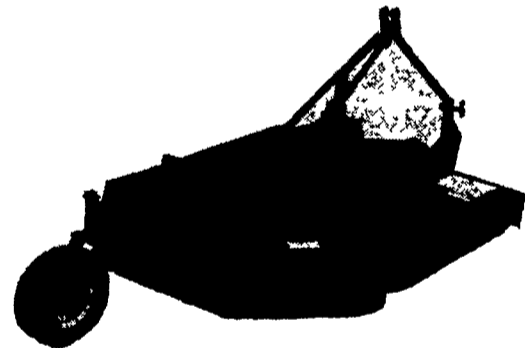
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