

Egg Board suspends assessments

WASHINGTON — The American Egg Board, with approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, has suspended assessments on egg production for the months of June and July.

Thomas H. Porter, an official with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the board's action is intended to provide relief to egg producers suffering income losses due to current marketing conditions.

Porter said the American Egg Board uses assessment revenues to conduct national advertising, promotion, research and consumer education on eggs. He said the scheduled advertising program

will be continued through 1981. Suspension of assessments, estimated to amount to a loss of about a million dollars in revenues, will require a cut back or elimination of less essential activities this year and in 1982.

The American Egg Board operates a program authorized by The Egg Research and Consumer Information Act. The act provides for an assessment of up to 5 cents per 30-dozen case of eggs to be paid for egg producers. The 5 cent rate

was approved in a producer referendum in 1975 and has been in effect since August 1976. The board has the authority to set the assessment rate at any level from zero to five cents per case, subject to USDA's approval.

Although assessments will not be collected for June and July, recordkeeping and other administrative requirements will be carried out during the suspension period.

Milking hygiene

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Backflushing simply means that water, sanitizer and air are moved backwards through the milking unit to flush hoses, claws and liners. An automatic backflush system using 25 ppm iodine as the flush solution with a pre- and post water rinse and air drying results in a 99 percent reduction in bacterial contamination on liners. Theoretically, this means that an infected cow milked first in a parlor should have little influence on subsequent cows.

Backflush systems are used on several farms on the West Coast to aid in prevention of Coliform and Mycoplasma mastitis. However, the 25 ppm iodine solution also reduces 'Staph' by 100 percent, so backflushing may have an in-

fluence on the spread of 'Strep' and 'Staph' infections as well as Coliform.

Automatic backflush systems are being installed on Michigan dairy farms. The full automatic backflush system is costly and somewhat noisy. The cost of the first backflush systems in Michigan was approximately \$20,000 - 30,000 for 12 units. This does not cover additional costs for water, sanitizer and air.

Dairy producers considering backflush systems should visit ongoing installations during milking time to get a better understanding of the system. They should then consider the cost and potential benefits of such a system. A large dairy herd milked with hired labor may be one justification.

Milking time hygiene is a major key to mastitis control. Opportunity for the spread of infections and contamination of the milk supply is highest during milking. Dairy producers using excellent pre- and post milking sanitation programs find prevention of mastitis can be easy. Despite high costs, backflush systems could be of benefit.

Techniques and mechanical devices cannot substitute for clean cows and good management, but a full milking hygiene program can aid in prevention of mammary gland infections.

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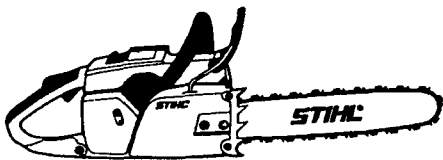
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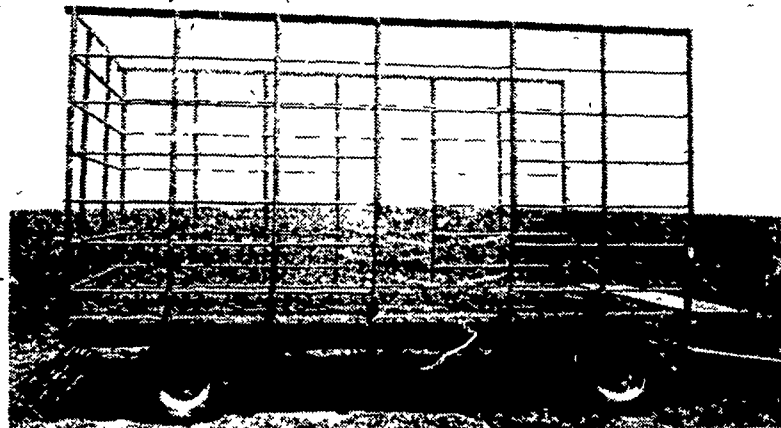
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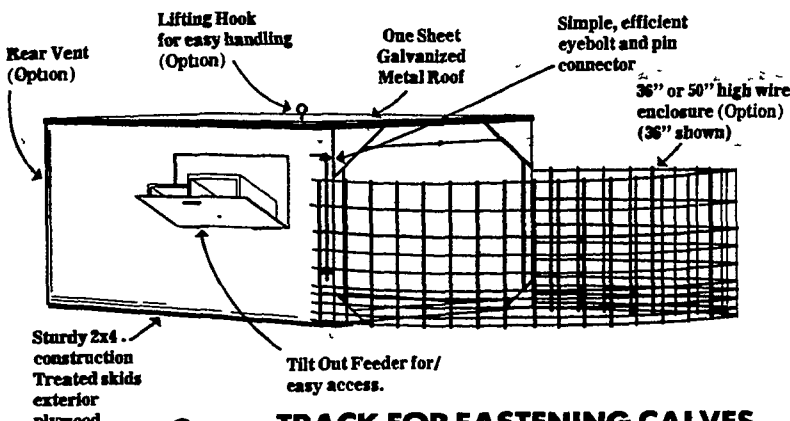


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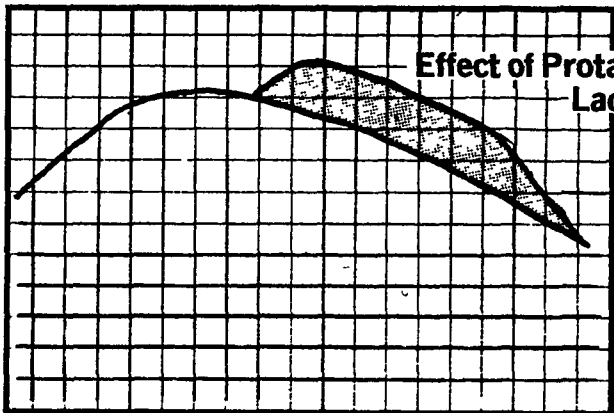
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