

Avoid health problems with purchased cattle

UNIVERSITY PARK — It happens to most dairymen from time to time. More milk is needed to make base, there are a few empty stalls in the barn, or a good-looking springing heifer is for sale; so you purchase one or more animals. What can you do to protect yourself and your herd when you buy a cow?

Purchased cows can introduce disease problems to a herd, says Penn State Extension Veterinarian Dr. L.J. Hutchinson. Even healthy-looking cows can be carrying disease organisms to which your herd has no immunity. There are many possible health concerns when you buy a cow, but there are four that you should always be concerned about: brucellosis, tuberculosis, shipping fever complex, and mastitis.

Brucellosis and tuberculosis have been devastating diseases in the years past, Hutchinson explains. Both diseases, but especially TB, are of very low

incidence now. However, purchased animals are still a major source of spread of both these diseases. To protect your herd know the Bang's and TB status of the herd from which your purchased cow comes.

This information is required for cows coming into Pennsylvania from other states. Find out the status if the herd of origin is in Pennsylvania. Out-of-state cows must have a blood test within 30 days and TB test within 60 days of purchase. The same is true of Pennsylvania-origin cows unless it is a Bang's-TB certified-accredited herd. Purchased cows should be retested about 30 days after arrival.

Shipping fever is a "catch-all" term for several different viral and bacterial infections. After arrival of new cows, they may get shipping fever, your cows may get shipping fever, or both new and resident cows may get shipping fever.

It doesn't do much good to vaccinate purchased or resident animals after the purchased cows arrive. It may be helpful if the purchased cows have been vaccinated at least 2 weeks before shipping. Check with your veterinarian about vaccination of your herd if you're going to be buying cows.

Many good herds that have been on a test-dip dry cow treatment program have a very low level of udder infection. Strep ag and staph infections may be at low levels or absent. Purchase of even one infected cow can reintroduce these infections to your herd. Check purchased cows with a California

Mastitis Test and culture to identify infected cows and quarters. Milk purchased cows last until you know that they're not carrying infections.

When you buy a cow, you're looking to improve your herd. Be alert and avoid buying health problems when you buy her.

'West' wins Star FFA awards

KANSAS CITY, MO. — Star Agribusiness and Star Farmer of America awards Thursday night went to a Wisconsin florist and a Washington State dairy farmer at the 54th annual FFA convention.

Winners of the two top awards presented in FFA went to Dale Wolf Jr., of Baldwin, Wisc., owner of a floral shop and greenhouse, in agribusiness; and Chuck Berry, owner of a 95-cow herd and 144 acres at Elma, Washington.

Among the four finalists for the top agribusiness honors was David

M. Wenger, son of Carl and Margaret Wenger, of Myerstown, Lebanon County, graduate of the ELCOFFFA program.

More than 20,000 FFA'ers,

members of their families and guests attended the Stars Over America Pageant in which 779 FFA members received their American Farmer degrees.



Warren Shearer has been working with corn since the 1930's, when hybrid seed first came along. One of the first farmers in southeast Pa. to use hybrid varieties, he told neighbors who thought \$5 a bushel for his Iowa 939 was far too much, "This is the corn of the future!"

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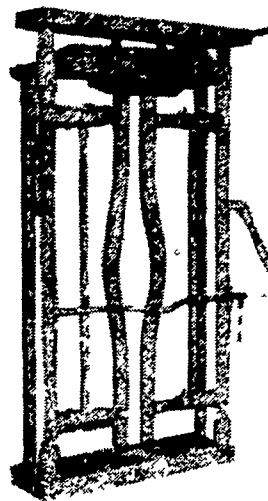
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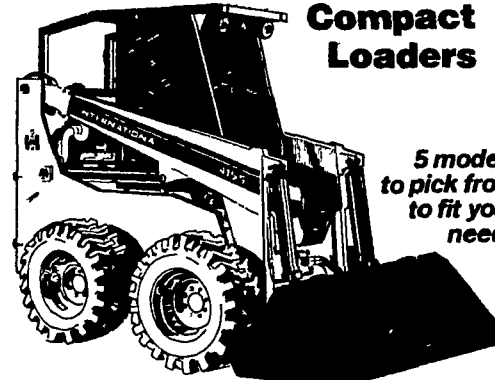
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