

At Berks Cattlemen's Field Day

Producers hear beef management advice

BY LAUREL SCHAEFFER
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DOUGLASSVILLE — Cattle

producers from southeastern Pennsylvania had the opportunity to visit two top-line cattle operations and hear updates on beef management practices from several county agents and

professionals in the livestock industry last Saturday.

Sponsored by the Berks County Cattlemen's Association and Cooperative Extension Service, the field day was held on the farms of Henry Eyrich, Yellow House, and Jesse Terry, Douglassville.

Tours were given at both operations, located within a few miles of each other in southern Berks County. Eyrich's operation is a 300-acre farm on which 800 head of steers are finished annually. In addition, Eyrich farms another 600 acres.

Terry, owner of JV Farm Polled Herefords, operates a 300-acre cow-calf operation, with 82 brood cows and a total of 310 head.

Clyde Myers, Berks County agent, discussed feeding for profit and pasture management. Myers reviewed the necessary feed nutrients in beef cattle diets, reviewed ration formulation and balancing, and discussed growth enhancers. Myers stated that any beef producers not using growth enhancers and non-protein-nitrogen (NPN) as part of their feeding program are losing as much as \$50 per head on finished beef.

Rumensin was one additive discussed. It is a feed additive

widely used to improve feed efficiency and increase rate of gain. Myers explained that it is a methane inhibitor, increasing the amount of propionic acid produced from the feed stuffs by rumen microorganisms. He cautioned however that Rumensin should be fed only to cattle over 400 pounds, and that it is fatal to horses.

Another additive, Melengestrol Acetate or (MGA) is for use on heifers only, and can not be fed with Rumensin. It inhibits estrous in heifers and will increase gains by 7-10 percent, saving 6-10 percent on feed consumption as well. Ralgro and Synovex implants were discussed briefly.

Discussing pasture management, Myers noted that poor permanent pasture occurring or unmanaged land can support only one cow and calf for every one to five acres of pasture. If improved by fertilization and liming, production can be easily doubled. By contrast good permanent pasture can support one cow and calf per every 1/4-3/4 acre.

Dr. Dennis Hoshall, V.M.D., discussed the importance of deworming and preconditioning beef cattle. Stating that internal

(Turn to Page A18)



Chester County Agent Cheryl Moran explains the benefits of performance testing to the group of cattlemen who took part in the Berks County beef cattle workshop last

Saturday. The group visited JV Polled Herefords, a Berks County beef farm owned by Jesse Terry, Douglassville.

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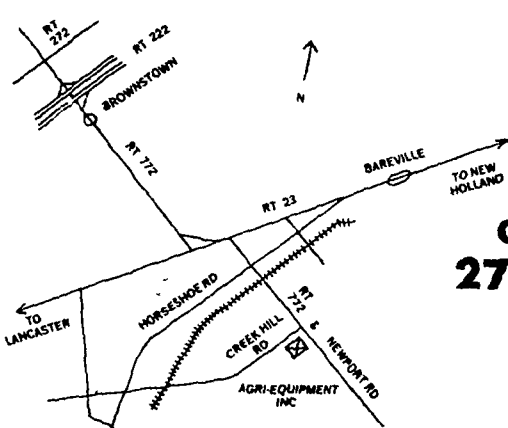
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