

'82 American Cattlemen's conference coming May 19-20

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Plans are being finalized for the 1982 American Cattlemen's Conference, slated for May 19-20 in Stillwater, Okla. Industry-wide interest is growing for the event, co-sponsored by Oklahoma State University and the American Polled Hereford Association.

Working on the theme "Good Moves—Now and Beyond," conference participants will take an in-depth look at the past, present and future of the beef cattle industry. All angles of the business—from cow-calf man to consumer—will be studied, along with the role of Polled Herefords in commercial

and purebred operations. The scheduled line up of speakers, panels and demonstrations contains an impressive array of experts from a cross section of the industry.

One of the special events of the conference will be the live animal and carcass demonstration, "What Kind of Cattle Will it Take?" OSU staff members are putting together a display to demonstrate the extremes in meat animal type along with the ideal. Live animals and carcass cross sections will be studied, as well as the types of brood cows that produced these steers.

Panel discussions will be headed by a powerful line up of experts and will cover timely topics such as reproductive efficiency, tools for genetic improvement and a food panel that will look at the beef industry from producer, packer, retail and consumer perspectives. Discussion, questions and input from conference participants will be a part of the panel

sessions, and plenty of time has been allotted for questions and answers.

Fresh, in-depth data and pertinent, current research results will highlight the schedule of events to present a highly meaningful program.

"We'll be taking a comprehensive look at where Polled Herefords fit into the overall beef

industry," said APHA President T.D. "Dusty" Ruch. "We'll look back at where we've been, analyze where we are, project where we're moving and determine how to get there."

For more information on the 1982 American Cattlemen's Conference, contact the American Polled Hereford Association, 4700 E. 63rd St., Kansas City, Mo. 64130. 816 333-7731.

NMC reviews udder health from experts around U.S.

LOUISVILLE, Ky — Nearly 300 members of the National Mastitis Council took part in a very strong annual meeting program in Louisville, Kentucky during February.

Virginia Poly Technical Institute and State University and the University of Wisconsin presented convincing data which demonstrated that milk production is greatly influenced by an increase in somatic cell counts even at very low levels.

Ohio Agricultural research and development center discussed lactoferrin and other materials in the udder which protect the dry udder from infection. It was pointed out that the bovine mammary gland is more susceptible to new intramammary infections both at the beginning and near the end of the dry period.

At these two times, the gland is undergoing functional change and fluid is accumulated in the gland and the absence of regular milk removal suggests that bacteria can colonize more easily in the canal of the teat. Dry cow therapy can provide adequate control of new infections during the early dry period but there is a need for a method of control during the time just prior to calving.

Antibiotics, a bane or blessing

was the subject of symposium on antibiotics. John Spaulding of the United States Department of Agriculture spoke on the total residue avoidance program. With the aid of a task force, he hopes to develop a basic management guide that includes not only good management practices but also identifies areas where residue still enters the system.

The University of Nebraska shared details of their successful on-the-farm mastitis program which has been underway since 1979. This extremely successful program has now reached 3,500 people in 81 locations around the state of Nebraska and dairymen are now calling the extension for assistance and development of a strong mastitis program on the farm.

Chosen to serve as president of the National Mastitis Council for the coming year is the University of Wisconsin Extension Dairyman, Allan Bringe. Long involved in Wisconsin's mastitis programs, Bringe succeeds Robert Dawson, Babson Brothers of Oak Brook, Illinois, who served as president during 1981. Elected to vice president is Arlan Schwinke of Morrison, Missouri, a dairyman who also serves as treasurer of Mid-America Dairymen, Inc.

The summer meeting of the National Mastitis Council will be held on Thursday, August 26, 1982 at the Gult House in Louisville, Kentucky and the 1983 annual meeting will be held on February 21-24, 1983 at the Executive West in Louisville, Kentucky.

Adams beef meeting Tuesday

GETTYSBURG — Penn State's Lester Burdette will be the featured speaker at the Adams County Beef Producers' meeting. He will be discussing trends in beef production for the 1980s.

The meeting will be held Tuesday, April 13, at 7:30 p.m. in the Adams County Extension Office located along Route 30, two miles west of Gettysburg.

Blood sampling

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not feed. They shouldn't be fed before they're taking water. A day without feed won't hurt them. In fact, a chicken can go as long as 40 days without feed."

A problem in the modern henhouse, in fact, is the same problem that afflicts two-legged Americans of the human species. Obesity. Overfed chickens don't produce any more eggs, but they do consume much more expensive feed than they should, Dr. Marsh said.

He emphasized the need to limit stress, the importance of a clean and comfortable environment and urged constant vigilance of each flock's health.

In an average flock, very few chickens will lay an egg a day during their 12-month stay in the henhouse, Dr. Marsh said after the meeting. A good average is 260 eggs, or a little better than two eggs every three days.

"Even this is a remarkable feat," he said, "considering the bird that is the ancestor for all modern chickens, the jungle fowl, or Gallus gallus to give its scientific name. Gallus gallus lays just about eight eggs a year and all at the same time.

"Poultry scientists have modified the chicken, and made it everything we need it to be. A marvelously efficient food producer. Our geneticists will never run out of things to do, but I think we are close to the physical limits of what a chicken can produce.

"The chicken has only one ovary and one oviduct. So there's been some speculation about what would happen if we were to breed a strain of birds with two ovaries and two oviducts. Could we get them to produce two eggs a day?

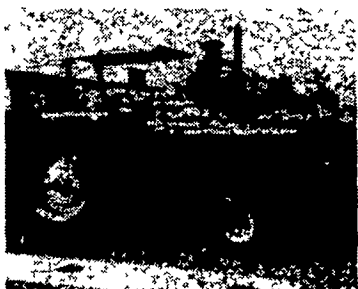
"Probably not. There's a lot more to egg production than ovaries and oviducts. We have found some chickens with two sets of these organs, but they haven't produced any more eggs. The chicken's brain, her liver, her pancreas — her entire endocrine system, in fact — gets into the act. And these are they systems that limit egg production.

"Scientists are working on more efficient strains of birds, but the real secret to better egg production isn't in the hands of laboratory scientists right now. It's in the hands of farmers, the people who own and manage the henhouses."

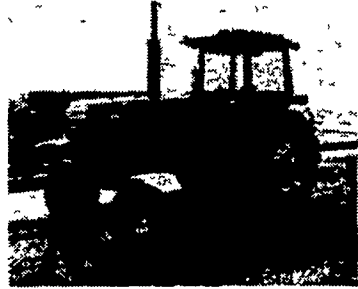
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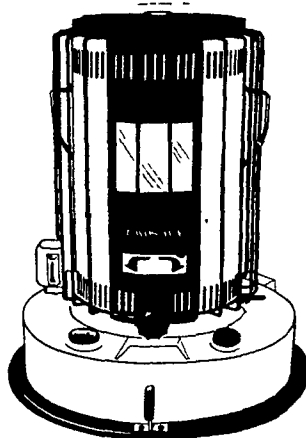
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