

## OUR READERS WRITE

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with our dairy Niagara Mohawk Power Corp in July 1980 converted a nearby power line from 4,800 volts to 13,200. Grounding proved ineffective due to soil conditions and underground water.

Our neighbors received voltage in their water, showers, bathtubs, etc., not to say what we received in our barn. We had to wear rubber gloves to handle stainless steel equipment in our milking parlor.

The power company was consulted, the electrical system was checked, readings were taken and additional groundings were put in. We were told the low voltage wouldn't do any harm.

Further complaints were put off by nothing more could be done until a year, then 6 months, then 2 months. By the end of December, 1981 we strongly asked for something to be done as cows were being affected.

January 1982 and early February, they came to recheck, readings were taken over and over, more groundings were put in. Meanwhile we had high number of mastitis cases, high cell counts, which threatened our market ability, plow cows drying off early, first calf heifers dried off within a month of milking time.

We had to ship cows and couldn't replace in this situation. Our herd health was going downhill before our eyes so that by the end of January we talked seriously of

selling our 65 cow herd.

The meter readings were showing 6 to 11 volts on the milkhouse parlor floor, on top of the rubber cow mats in our station barn, on the concrete floor of the complete barn, on the cows themselves, in the individual water bowls, the pipeline. There wasn't a place that wasn't exposed.

Being desperate, we contacted our Senator Gerald Soloman, and our County Executive Philip Murphy. They applied pressure to the Public Service Commission, and Niagara Mohawk. Finally Feb 12, 1982 the power company came and made corrections on the transformer near our barn. We couldn't get a statement of what they did.

We are still experiencing losses. We had a 16,000 pound average in early 1980 which has dropped to 14,200 pounds. Cows are still being culled, losses in breeding, calves, milk production, interest on bills, and the cost of the climb back. We've had to apply for another loan from FmHA to keep our business going.

We've done some research on stray voltage. A Stray Voltage Research Council is being established. Michigan State Univ., Univ. of Minnesota, and Cornell Univ. are doing research over a two-year period.

Richard H. Stone, Sr.  
Hoosick Falls, N.Y.

## On homemade yogurt

We read with great interest your column of March 20 on making yogurt at home.

We work closely with the makers of Dannon Yogurt and thought you might like to know how they feel about homemade yogurt.

Dannon has never been a great believer in making yogurt at home. They believe it is rare that yogurt made at home comes up to the best standards. If it were as simple as it appears, Dannon and other commercial producers would not need expensive laboratories or highly trained laboratory help to prepare fresh cultures every day. They could simply take yesterday's leftover yogurt from the refrigerator, use it as a "starter" in today's milk and thus make tomorrow's yogurt. There is more to making real yogurt.

The product made at home often looks and tastes quite pleasant, but too often it is not yogurt, but sour milk or clabber. Sometimes, after the first transfer, you will still find living yogurt organisms, but we doubt very much that you will find them after the second transfer.

Temperature controls are also vital. A good yogurt should set in about three hours, give or take a few minutes. If it does not, in our humble opinion, it just isn't yogurt.

Also, several companies pasteurize the end-product to prolong its shelf life. Every yogurt manufacturer probably pasteurizes the milk with which yogurt will be made. This is normal. This is required by law. But

when you pasteurize yogurt (the finished product), you probably kill a lot of the living organisms. If your readers end up buying one of these containers as a starter and make several transfers, they may waste not only a cup of yogurt but also the milk, the time and the trouble. The chances of this homemade product setting up are just not very good.

I hope this information is useful to your readers.

Peter F. Burke  
Vice President  
R.C. Auletta and Company, Inc.

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In the February 6 issue of Lancaster Farming, the article "Collison covers latest in poultry insect control," reference was made to the insecticide Ectiban. It was reported that "the rights for Ectiban were sold last July" and that the product is now marketed by Hess & Clark under the name Insectrin and by Ralston Purina as Hard Hitter.

ICI Americas Inc has written to point out that they have not sold the rights to Ectiban and still continue to market the insecticide. However, they did license the two other companies to market the 5.7 percent emulsified concentrate and 25 percent wettable powder under their own brand names.

## Now is the Time

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when producers could become relaxed in swine disease prevention measures. Control and prevention of pseudorabies in Lancaster County has been very effective through the winter months. Chester D. Hughes, Extension Livestock agent, refreshes swine producers with these pseudorabies prevention guidelines for spring and summer for all herds:

— Isolate pigs from all other livestock.

— Allow no visitation in your hog house and don't visit others.

— Sanitizer and footbath, or clean boots and appropriate clothing provided for authorized visitors.

— Control stray animals.

— Pre-sort hogs for shipment to prevent hogs from entering truck and returning to pen.

— Haul pigs in clean sanitized vehicles only.

— Dispose of dead pigs promptly, bury under one foot of cover, incinerate, or seal in bag and give to scavenger.

— Call vet if herd has nervous disorders or unusual problems.

— Eradicate infections - request eradication guidelines from the County Agent.

— Encourage everyone to adopt these practices - farmers and servicemen.

— Consider permanent identification system in your herd.



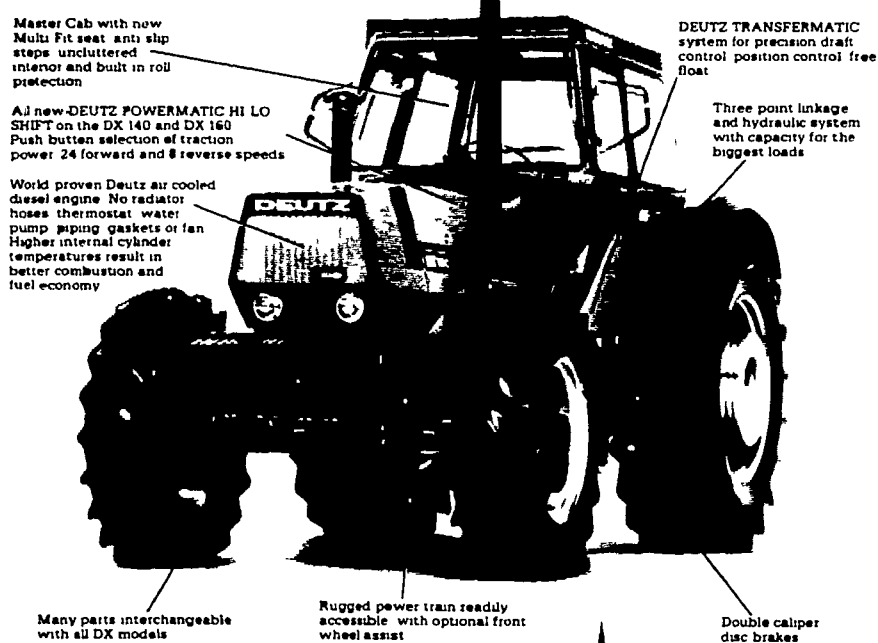
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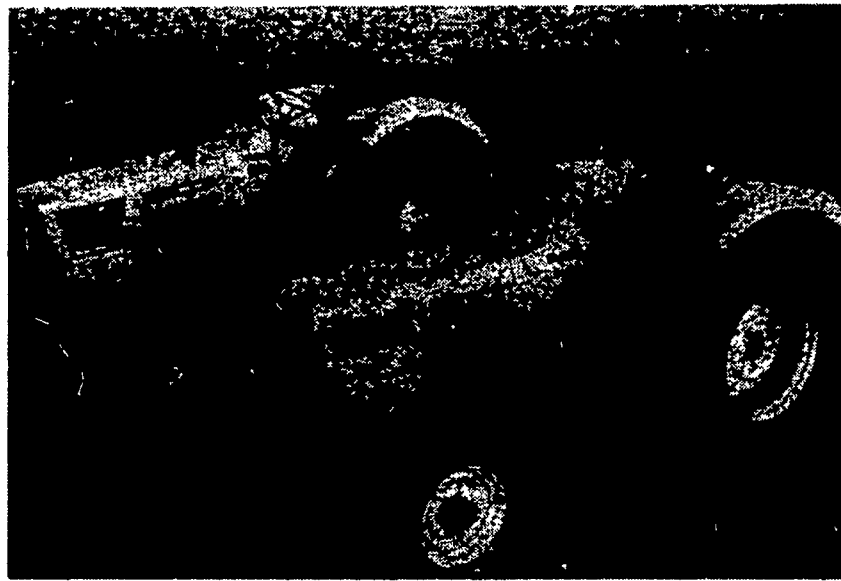
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