

## Penn Nutrients cites LEB advantages

ROBESONIA — Penn Nutrients Inc., of Robeson, has a suggestion for dairymen seeking to improve the milk production efficiency of their herds.

The suggestion is the supplementary feeding of LEB, Liquid Energy Blend, which includes vegetable oils, including hydrolyzed vegetable oils, fatty acids, lecithin and extracts of micro-protein, according to Penn Nutrients.

LEB, which has been on the market since 1976, is used by more than 200 dairymen in Maryland and Pennsylvania, Chuck Garrett, Penn Nutrients president, said.

One such dairyman is Bob Meredith, of Federalsburg, Md., whose herd has an average of 21,400 lbs. of milk and 853 lbs. of butterfat. Sixty-eight registered Holstein are in his milking choice.

He feeds corn silage and first-cutting alfalfa free choice.

"I prefer feeding first-cutting hay to the milkers because it has a higher ration of stems to leaves," he said.

"The extra-fiber is why the butterfat is so high."

Twice a day at milking the cows receive a 17-percent protein ration geared to production levels. Meredith top dresses the ration with three to four ounces of LEB at each milking. The higher producers receive the higher amounts. He does not feed LEB to cows producing below 55 lbs. of milk.

"This product really works," Meredith said. "I am getting 5 to 10 lbs. more milk production per cow using LEB. What's more the cows love it. They lick it up fast."

Garrett, of Penn Nutrients, explains that "there is no magic to this high energy product."

"Research on the use of various types of fats in dairy rations has been going on at the university level for years. Basically, this product enables the cow to take in more energy which she can utilize

to produce more milk. If you try to increase energy intake by just increasing the corn in a cow's diet, you will have all kinds of problems including ketosis," said Garrett.

Ketosis is the reason Meredith started using LEB. His cows came down with Ketosis and the milk production dropped 40 to 50 lbs. per cow.

"I was willing to try anything," Meredith said, "so I bought LEB through Nagel Farm Supply. At first, the cows didn't seem to want to eat it. But once they tried it, they loved it. In a short time my herd had a 95 percent recovery from Ketosis."

Garrett, of Penn Nutrients emphasizes that just feeling LEB will not insure success. LEB will not appreciably increase butterfat enough to maintain an existing percentage even though the milk increases. Total butterfat produced may go

right up along with the increased milk production or it may not.

"The key is that the intake of fiber in the cow's diets has to be sufficient for insuring a good butterfat increase," he said. "That's why we offer, through out dealers or for those farmers who buy directly from us, advise on their feeding program so both butterfat and milk production increase. I would not suggest a dairyman feeding any high energy product such as LEB without consulting first with the manufacturer."

D.L. Palmquist, of the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center in Wooster, has made studies using various high energy blends of fats and has found good results. His studies have demonstrated hydrolyzed fats consistently have given the best results. Unlike the hydrolyzed

fats, tallow fed at high levels depressed milk production. Hydrolyzed fats continued to increase milk production. Likewise, his studies revealed that the high energy fats allowed some removal of starch from the diet without losing digestible energy intake. The fats replaced it. This in turn helps to reduce some of the detrimental effects associated with high starch (corn) intake. Feeding too much fat is not advised.

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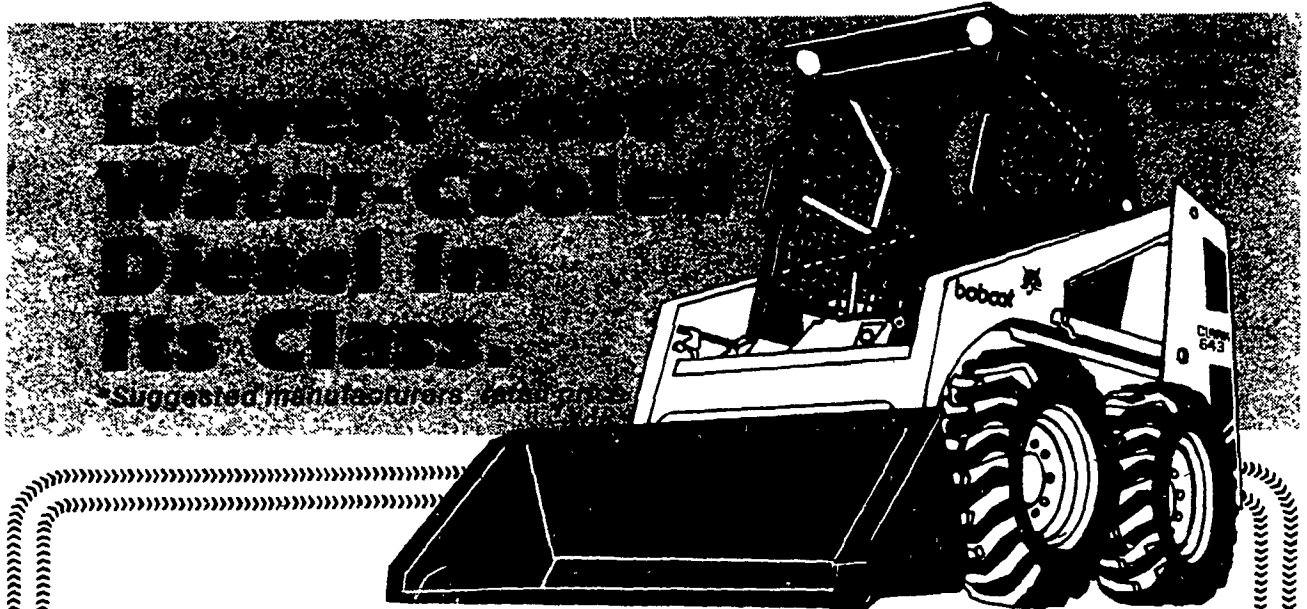
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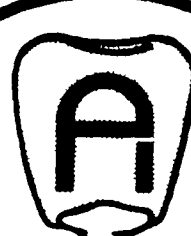
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