

Dairy water

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was recommended, particularly roughage."

"And, we were having some mortality problems in young calves," Ken Stoner added.

The water conditioning system treats the water for the entire farm, which is spring-fed from a single source. It treats the water for all stock, about 190 head with milkers, replacements and bulls raised for breeding sale.

Prior to its installation, the herd average would climb to about 17,000 lbs. and hover around that

level. Last year's top average was 19,400 lbs., which has since dropped back to 18,200, primarily because last year's silage crop was affected by the drought.

"Our herd average had been moving up so we can't say exactly what can be attributed to the water conditioning," Ken Stoner said.

"But we're sure it was a factor and our calf health problems have cleared up."

Martin cites an example of another farm where the milking herd was cut from 87 to 81 cows and the farmer finds about 1,000 lbs. more milk in the tank for every pickup.

The testing procedure has also

included metering the water consumed by cows both before and after conditioning, with increases noted in consumption after treatment.

System costs have ranged from a low of \$1400 to a high of \$6500, depending on the condition of the water and the amount being used. Martin has a 12-month buy-back program for system evaluation.

"And, we have yet to buy any back," Martin said.

Wayne to discuss computers

HONESDALE — A meeting to present information and exchange ideas about the possible use of microcomputers on the farm will be held Thursday at 8 p.m. in the Wayne County Extension meeting room, Court House, Honesdale.

Topics to be discussed will include computer equipment, type of software available, available programs for farm use, the feasibility of an agricultural users group, and a demonstration of how the computer can be used to solve farm problems.



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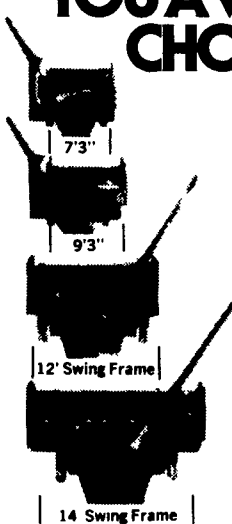
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