



Brockett's Ag Advice

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SILLO - GARBAGE

Don't put garbage or junk in the silo. Every year I work with farmers who put old hay crop material in the silo because they don't know what to do with it. As hay it could be fed to heifers or dry cows in cold weather or used as bedding or fed on pasture. At any rate animals could pick and choose leaving the worst parts. As silage they have to eat it all. In addition, it may be the main forage fed. Poor quality haylage seldom makes you money. It reduces the digestibility of other feeds that are fed with it. It reduces the palatability of the ration. End result it reduces pounds of total feed eaten by a cow as well as reducing the pounds of nutrients consumed in each pound of feed.

Question

Which cow will produce the most milk? The 1,200-pound cow that eats 36 pounds of dry matter (grain and forage) per day averaging 60 percent digestible nutrients and 18 percent protein or the one that eats

48 pounds of dry matter (grain and forage) per day averaging 62 percent digestible nutrients and 18 percent protein? Question two - which cow will produce its milk the most economically? Question three - could something as simple as forage quality really make the difference between a profit and loss situation?

Answers to the first two questions are cow number two of course. Answer to question three is emphatically YES. Practically every dairyman who produced milk for less than \$12 per cwt in 1983 had top quality forage. Practically every dairyman with costs over \$15 per cwt in 1983 had low quality forage.

What To Do

Get that first cutting made now. In central Pennsylvania, hay crops made after June 15 will be going "over the hill". Alfalfa hay should be made before you see any flowers. Grass is way ahead of alfalfa this year. If you put hay crops in the silo for next winter's

feed, don't put any in after June 20 or be reconciled to a rather mediocre forage feed.

Last year those who had the first cutting done by June 10 had a reasonably good crop of hay despite the drought. Those who waited until they were assured of good weather had poor quality plus low yields. Don't make that mistake this year.

There Is A Way

Sometimes farmers become despondent especially when the weather doesn't cooperate. Before this happens sit down and do some thinking. When it comes to idea development, farmers are tops if they will think things out. Where there is a will there is a way. So if the weather is against you, you will have to think a litter harder. Put that crop in the silo - apply acid to it as hay when you bale it - wrap it up as a large round bale and put it in a plastic bag. These are three ways farmers have used to get an edge on the competition.

Competition

Be constantly thinking "I have to do my best because only 80 percent of the farmers who were in business in 1981 will still be here in 1986 - I want to be one of the survivors".

Keep cows comfortable during hot weather

NEWARK, Del. — Hot, humid summer weather usually means production slumps for dairy cows. These drops can be minimized, however, with some management changes, according to University of Delaware extension dairy specialist Dr. George Haenlein.

Haenlein says hot weather can affect milk production in several ways — by its direct physical action on the cows, by reducing pasture quality and by increasing the number of insect pests.

High air temperatures cause a cow's body temperature and respiration rate to rise, make her uncomfortable, slow her down and reduce her appetite. Haenlein says body temperature can be reduced by feeding the cow a lower fiber ration during hot weather. Such a ration is easier to digest. However, be careful not to reduce fiber below 21 percent acid-detergent fiber (17 percent crude fiber) or milk fat levels are likely to drop, he cautions.

The specialist advises changing the feeding schedule if necessary,

so that cows consume most of their feed during cooler evening or early morning hours. Add buffers such as sodium bicarbonate and magnesium oxide to the ration to help keep them eating. Use 20 to 30 pounds of sodium bicarbonate and 10 to 20 pounds of magnesium oxide per ton of grain mix. Be sure to provide plenty of shade and adequate ventilation, especially where the cows normally rest and eat.

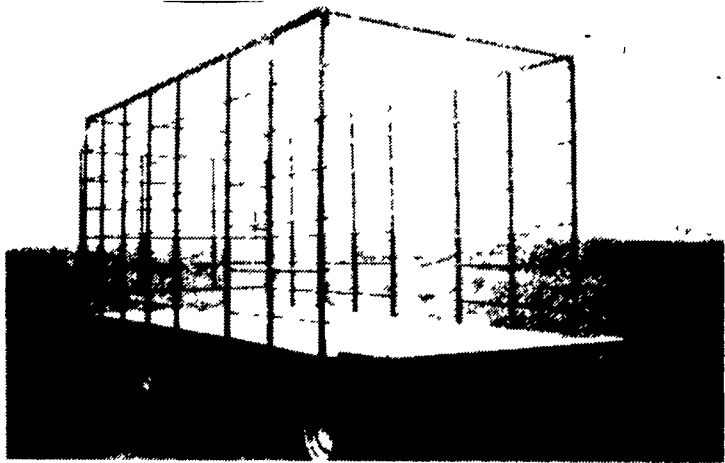
If the herd receives a sizable amount of pasture forage, remember that most forages are cool-season varieties which grow poorly during hot weather. So provide supplemental feed for the better milkers.

Control flies and other irritating insect pests by eliminating breeding places such as accumulated manure around the barn and lots.

Be sure cows have free access to plenty of clean, cool water. If an outdoor trough is used, a small shade on the roof over it will help keep both the water and cows cool.

HAY WAGONS FOR SALE

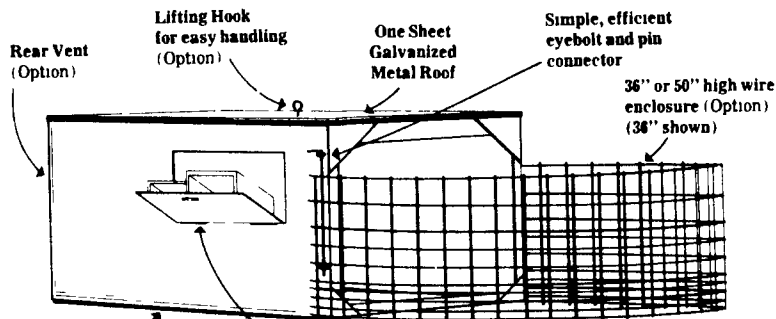
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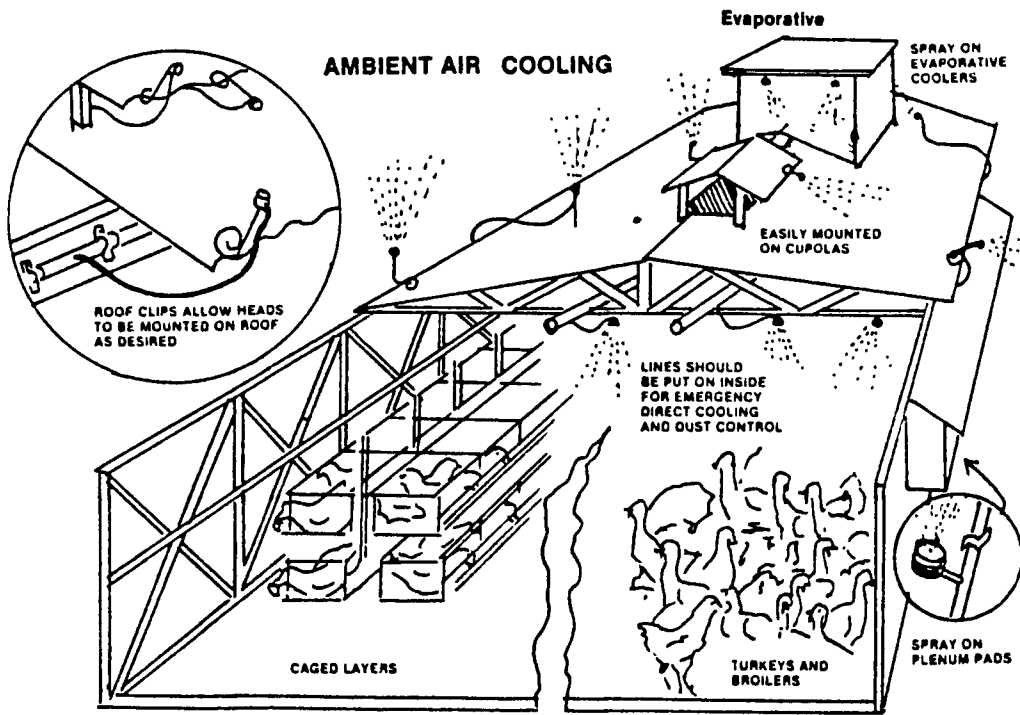
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LIVESTOCK MISTING SYSTEM

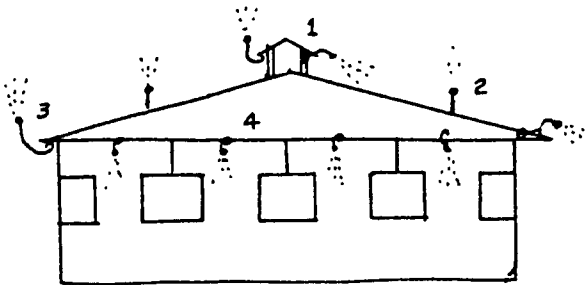
For Poultry And Hogs

COOLS 3 WAYS

1. **AMBIENT AIR** (indirect) — Install along eaves of building to cool the air flow.
2. **DIRECT COOLING** — Install in vicinity of stock for more rapid cooling with direct mist.
3. **EVAPORATIVE COOLING** — Install to spray on roof-top against side curtains or with forced air cooling apparatus.



CONTROLS DUST



1. Can be mounted on cupolas at any angle. Feeder lines may be mounted under roofing or strung inside on wire.
2. Dead spots in middle of roof are covered by running heads from feeder line to holder stake drilled in stringers.
3. Feeder lines can be mounted under eaves with heads mounted on roof clips and attached with 1/4" tubing. Angle of mist is always flexible.

YOUR MISTING SYSTEM CAN BE ADAPTED TO ANY SIZE CONFINEMENT.

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