

Now is the Time

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long can be a severe stress. An earthen exercise lot will do a lot for these cows. Good stall maintenance can also increase their comfort. When cows are kept in confinement, we have the obligation of providing proper ventilation. This is especially critical during fall and spring when the weather can change quite drastically and quite suddenly. It is a good idea to work closely with your veterinarian to develop a good immunization program for your herd.

To Protect Plants For The Winter

Plants with shallow roots such as azaleas, rhododendrons, mountain laurel and flowering dogwood need frequent watering. And it's a good idea to continue watering these plants on a regular basis until the ground freezes the fall.

A shallow-rooted plant has most of its root system in the upper three to five inches of soil. Since this is the first layer of soil to dry out, it's very important that these plants receive at least an inch of water each week throughout the season.

Also, the more water your plants can take up before the ground freezes, the better they will withstand the severe winter conditions. Keep in mind that once the ground does freeze, there will be no free water for the plants to take up. But even though the ground is frozen, the parts of the plant above the ground will continue to lose water.

The Extension Service is an affirmative action equal opportunity educational institution.

To Prevent Silo Fires

A recent rash of silo fires can probably be attributed to this year's lush growing conditions followed more recently by several weeks of dry weather causing a higher-than-usual amount of silo gas to be given off by this year's corn silage. One of these gases is a yellowish-brown, nitrogen dioxide gas, which is toxic to breathe. Another gas is methane, which is very combustible. Both are heavier than air, and can accumulate in silo chutes and feed rooms. A single spark can ignite the methane, which in turn can ignite accumulations of dried chaff in the silo chute. The smoldering chaff can burn its way through wooden doors and into the silage. Our recommendations are to ventilate the chute and feed room well, using fans as needed, but being careful of any sparks. Keep the silo chute free of debris. When working around the silo, use the buddy system, and contact your physician immediately upon exposure to these gases.

CAUTION: DO NOT use water on a silo fire, this could create an explosion call your fire company.

Milk production down

HARRISBURG — Milk production in Pennsylvania during August 1984 totaled 782 million pounds, two percent below last year's production, according to the Pennsylvania Crop and Livestock Reporting Service. The number of milk cows in the commonwealth during August averaged 731,000 head, the same number of head as last year. Milk production per cow averaged 1,070 pounds in August,

down 20 pounds per cow from a year ago.

Milk production in the nation during August totaled 11.2 billion pounds, three percent less than last month, and four percent less than August 1983. Total milk cows in the nation averaged 10.8 million head, 296,000 less than August 1983. Production per cow averaged 1,038 pounds, 13 pounds less than a year earlier.

Md. Brown Swiss tops Big E

WEST SPRINGFIELD Mass. — Sand Rock R Donta, owned by Allan Bassler, Rock Ridge, Md., was judged Grand Champion female of The Eastern States Exposition Brown Swiss Dairy Cattle Show held recently in West

Springfield, Mass.

Emcee Talisman Maria, owned by George W. Allis, Conway, Mass., was the Reserve Grand Champion Female.

Allis Acres Justin, owned by Faye Allis, Conway, Mass., was Grand Champion Bull. Reserve Grand Champion Bull was Plant

Valley PLD Jamie, Jr., owned by Elmer Johnson, Winchester, N.H.

The Premier Breeder and Premier Exhibitor Banners were presented to George and Gloria Wilber, Beech Hill Farm, Winsted, Connecticut.

Show judge was Louis Maxfield, Hartland, Vt.

Pa. egg

production down

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania's August 1984 egg production totaled 357 million, 10 percent below August 1983, according to the Pennsylvania Crop and Livestock Reporting Service. The average number of layers on hand during August 1984 was 15.9 million compared with 18.4 million on hand a year ago. Egg production per 100 layers was 2,249 compared with 2,173 for last year.

The nation's laying flocks produced 5.75 billion eggs during August, up two percent from the 5.64 billion produced a year ago. The total number of layers during August averaged 276 million, two percent above the 270 million a year ago. August egg production per 100 layers was 2,085 compared with 2,084 eggs for August 1983.

OUR READERS WRITE, AND OTHER OPINIONS

WARNING

Editor

On Sept. 12, the turkey feed truck drove to a neighbor's farm to unload feed. As the driver was blowing feed in, the bin ran over.

The bin is located along a meadow and the dry cows and heifers in the meadow had free access to the spilled feed. The driver went back to the mill for a shovel and bags to gather up the spilled feed. When he left, the cows and heifers apparently ate some of the feed.

The farmer was not home and

when he returned in the evening to milk he didn't notice anything unusual. But the next morning some of the heifers didn't return to the barn. One was lying along the pond and others had problems getting back to the barn.

The vet came and they worked on them until midnight. A dozen or more were sick; four dry cows and two heifers died.

What a loss — overeating, drinking too much water and kidney poisoning.

J.L.S.

Honey Brook

Farm Calendar

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7:30 p.m., Berks - Lehigh Valley Farm Credit Service Building

Thursday, October 4

Adams County Pork Producers meeting on ventilation, 8 p.m., Extension Office.

Friday, October 5

Lamb grading workshop, Greensburg; continues tomorrow

Uniontown Poultry and Farm Show, continues through Sunday

Fall Sale

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