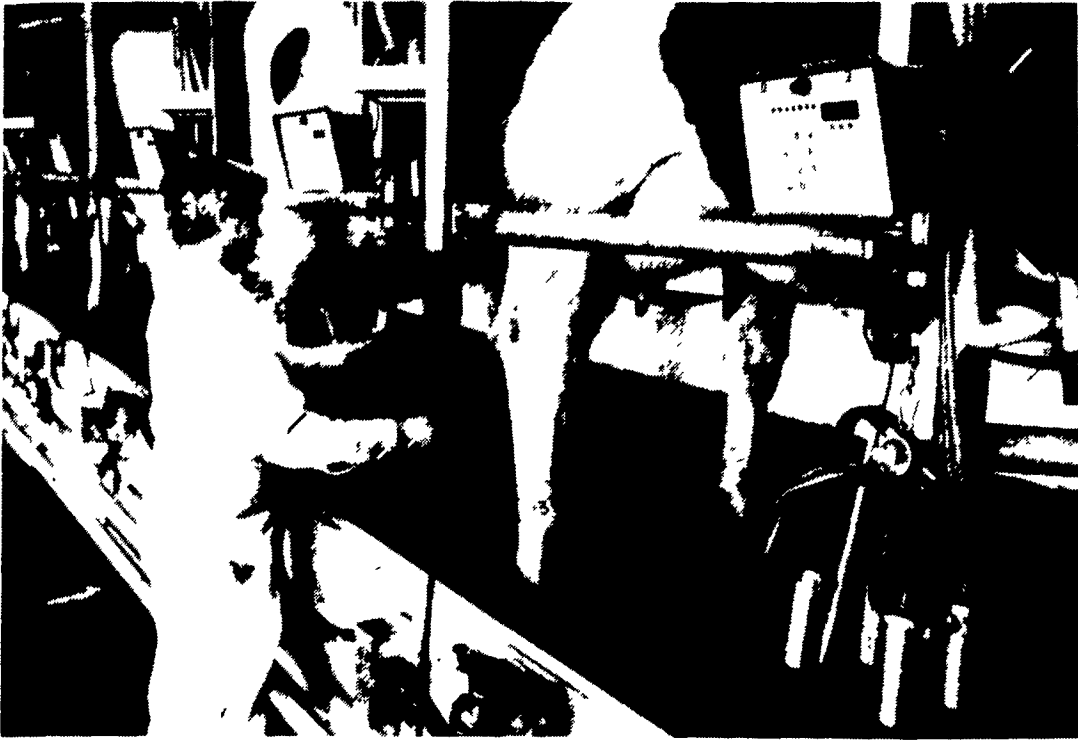


Computerized milking system unveiled



Wallace Earl Stoner, herdsman, uses the new electronic milking and feeding system recently installed by the University of Delaware Agricultural Experiment Station. A transponder on each cow automatically identifies her in the milking parlor, controls her access to feed supplements and provides a continuous record of her performance and activity.

According to Extension dairy specialist Dr. George Haenlein, the new system features the latest technology in electronic milk metering, milker back-flushing, automatic milker take-off, milk precooling and milk monitoring. Flashing signal lights in the milking parlor tell personnel if a cow has been treated, if her milk shows signs of mastitis, if she is off feed, or if she is coming into estrus.

"Positive identification of the cows is the key to a whole new step forward in dairy production," says Haenlein. The overall advantages of an identification system are higher efficiency in milk production and better milk qualities, including less contamination of the product, he adds.

Corn, sorghum payments to total \$1.7 billion

GREEN BAY, WI. — Eligible corn and sorghum producers will receive an estimated \$1.7 billion in deficiency payments for their 1984 crops, Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block said.

Most of the 760,000 deficiency payment checks should be in farmers' hands between April 10 and 15, Secretary Block said. Corn producers will receive about \$1.55 billion and sorghum producers around \$150 million, he said.

Deficiency payment rates are calculated as the differences between an established target price and the higher of the price support loan rate, or the national average price received by farmers during the first five months of the marketing year. For corn and sorghum, the first five months of the marketing year are October through February.

National weighted average market prices for the first five months of the marketing year are

\$2.60 per bushel for corn and \$2.30 per bushel for sorghum.

Eligible corn producers will be paid a deficiency payment rate of 43 cents per bushel for their 1984 crop, based on the difference between the \$3.03 target price and the \$2.60 farm price.

The eligible sorghum producers' deficiency payment rate will be 46 cents per bushel, based on the difference between the \$2.88 target price and the \$2.42 loan rate.

Producers can estimate their individual deficiency payments by multiplying their planted acreage times their farm program yield times the deficiency payment rate.

For example, a corn producer who planted 100 acres in the program and had a farm program yield of 100 bushels per acre would receive a deficiency payment of \$4,300 (100 acres x 100 bushels x 43 cents per bushel).

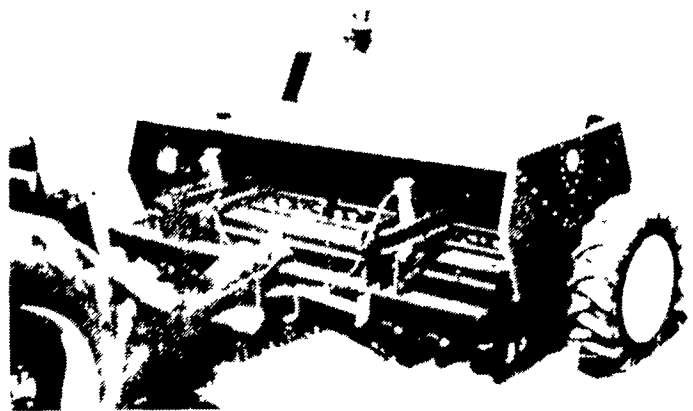
Rank said payments will be issued through local ABCS offices.

4-H

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