

## Dry cow housing

(Continued from Page A21)

waste water in the receiving pit. This semi-solid mix is pumped through an underground 12-inch pipe to the 48 x 52 x 12 storage, neatly camouflaged by an attractive wooden structure built around it.

Chopping the wastes keeps it fairly liquid, and emptying is simplified by having the slurry simply gravity flow into a "semi-solid" spreader, backed under the unloader mechanism built into the hill.

Rodney, his wife, Joyce, and their children live on the home farm, where the milking and dry cow barns are located. Robert and his wife, Lisa, make their home on the adjoining farm, where calves and heifers are raised.

Calves go into plywood and wire-fronted hutches, then during the summer, are moved at six weeks of age to a section of the pole-barn heifer building put up in 1976.

In winter, though, a different weaning housing is used. Calves go from their individual hutches into a "super-hutch," a Penn State conception praised by the Smysers for its effectiveness in calf housing.

Their super-hutch is a former chicken house, divided into two pens sizeable enough to hold five or six young heifers. The front of each side is open to the south, but covered with a wire door that swings out for access. This wire-covered door allows winter sun to shine on calves, but remains tight enough to keep birds from roosting within. Heated waterers and a trough across the full length of the front keep the super-hutch a low labor, but highly-effective, method of raising weanlings.

Because there is no cross-ventilation, however, the super hutch will heat quickly in hot weather, and is vacated from spring through fall.

## USDA sets regulations for rabies vaccination

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A revised regulation sets uniform age and dosage requirements for vaccinating dogs against rabies, a U.S. Department of Agriculture official said. The regulation becomes effective July 13.

"Licensed vaccine manufacturers, along with federal, state and local regulatory authorities and interested scientists met with us on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 1984," said Bert Hawkins, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. "We concluded that uniform age and dose recommendations would help state and local rabies control officials conduct more effective programs."

According to Hawkins, the new rule requires that dogs be vaccinated at 3 months of age or older, with a repeat dose one year later for all rabies vaccines. Subsequent vaccination intervals may vary, depending on the duration of immunity established for the individual product.

"In the past, revaccination was

required every year in high risk areas. We feel that this requirement is now unnecessary," Hawkins said. "Regardless of the risk of exposure, products that confer immunity for more than one year have proven as effective as those that must be repeated annually."

This change also simplifies rabies control efforts, he said.

In addition, the new rule allows inactivated rabies vaccines to be administered by any method

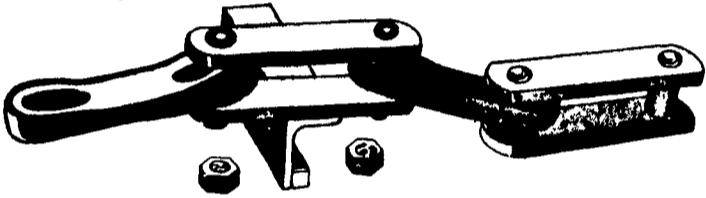
recommended by the manufacturer on a USDA-approved product label. Previously, USDA required all such products be administered at a specific site in the thigh muscle.

Hawkins said that according to recent tests, other injections sites for certain killed-virus vaccines are equally effective and offer the advantage of making the product easier to administer and less painful to the dog being vaccinated.

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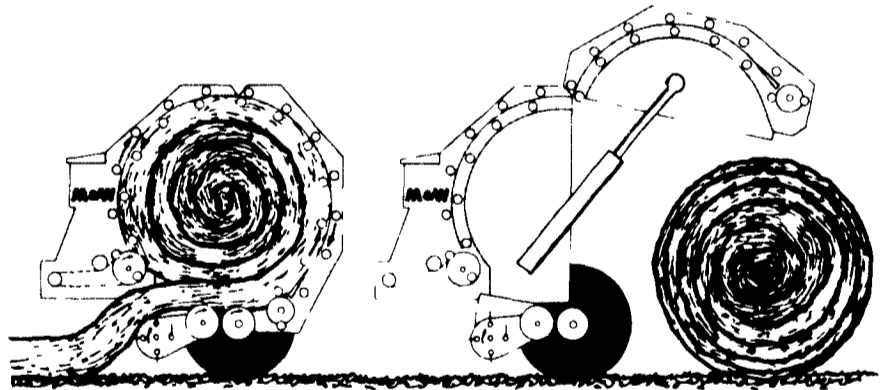
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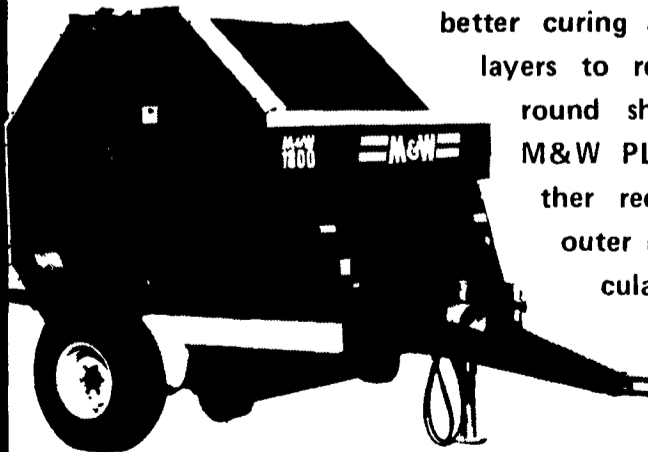
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