

'Poor doers' may have parasites

RAHWAY, NJ — These cattle are often described as "poor doers" because they just don't gain weight even though they look bright and alert and have a good appetite.

"Poor doers" cost producers money in poor weight gains and reduced feed efficiency, but do you know why they do so poorly?

Dr. Tim Jordan, a feedlot veterinarian/consultant in Canyon, TX, attributes "poor doer" syndrome to *Ostertagia ostertagi*, more commonly known as the brown stomach worm.

"We see a couple of different conditions caused by *Ostertagia* in the feed yard," he says. "The 'poor doer' condition is probably the more common of the two. We see it in cattle that have been on feed for 30 to 60 days.

"This condition is not easily diagnosed," he says, "because the infected cattle do not have worm eggs in the feces. Other than a few cattle having bottlejaw, they do not exhibit the symptoms usually associated with a heavy worm burden. When we do a serum analysis, we find high levels of pepsinogen."

A high level of pepsinogen usually indicates the presence of the fourth larval stage of *Ostertagia*. These immature worms are dormant in the glands of the abomasum, where their presence interferes with the glands that produce hydrochloric acid necessary to convert pepsinogen

into the digestive enzyme pepsin. This reduces the animal's ability to properly digest feed and consequently its ability to utilize feed for bodily maintenance or weight gain.

"The second type of *Ostertagia* we see is in calves that come to Texas in the spring or fall from the Southeast or Midwest," Jordan says. "The calves just abruptly die. They'll have clinical signs that lead us to believe they have respiratory problems, but they do not respond to treatment for this. When we perform a necropsy, we find *Ostertagia* and the damage done in the abomasum."

Jordan says the incidence of these conditions is very sporadic. "We see it occasionally throughout the year and in only one or two pens in a yard. In those pens, one to 10 percent of the animals may have the condition. We have found *Ostertagia* at varying degrees in all the yards for which we consult; in about 100 individual cattle."

Ostertagia is not confined to Texas. During post mortem examinations of cattle that died from Leptospirosis, Dr. David Hahn, Canton, Illinois, found dormant larvae in the abomasum.

Like those in Texas, the Illinois cattle did not exhibit symptoms normally associated with *Ostertagia*—watery diarrhea being the most common.

"We don't diagnose *Ostertagia* in this area a lot," Hahn

says. "But if the cattle we posted had the problem, we could also expect others to be infected with the worms, since all the cattle came from the Southeast."

Regardless of where it is found, *Ostertagia* is a costly problem in the feedlot and often goes unnoticed. Jordan says, "we don't recognize the problem is there. We just think these animals are 'poor doers' so we cull them."

"Until recently," he continues, "we didn't have what we would call a cost effective treatment which would get the animals to respond."

With the introduction of 'Ivomec' (ivermectin), Jordan feels he has a cost-effective drug if used at the proper time. 'Ivomec,' the new parasiticide from MSD AGVET, is the only drug available which controls both the adult and the larval stages of *Ostertagia* at the recommended dose. 'Ivomec' also controls other internal parasites such as stomach worms and lungworms, as well as many external parasites such as grubs, mites and lice.

The animals Jordan has treated with 'Ivomec' have responded favorably, but he does not feel it is profitable to keep animals that have already been on feed for 30 to 60 days. "There is some healing of the abomasum," he says, "but there is not enough compensatory gain to justify keeping them. They will not be ready to market for another 60 days. Every extra day

in the yard decreases your profit."

Rather than waiting for problems to develop and treating at this late stage, Jordan recommends treating all cattle which have the potential to develop *Ostertagia* with 'Ivomec' when they arrive at the feed yard. Warming with other anthelmintics

will control the adult stage of *Ostertagia*, but will not affect the dormant larval stage.

"Cattle which have the potential to develop *Ostertagia* are those from the Southeast that arrive in Texas in late-summer and early fall," Jordan says.

Vermeer adds new hay baler

PELLA, IA. — A giant round hay baler that automatically distributes hay evenly across the full width of the bale is now being offered by Vermeer Manufacturing Co.

The new Vermeer 605J Baler utilizes a computerized monitoring system (VCS System III) that receives sensory data as the bale is being formed and then signals the weave pattern of the baler, the automatic twine tie, "near full" and "full bale" indicator lights and the automatic gate close indicator. As a result, a tractor operator can drive the entire length of a hay field straddling the windrows...without weaving the tractor and without worrying about hay formation, size of bale, start up, unloading, closing the gate or clearing the bale.

"Essentially, what we have designed is a baler that thinks," according to Lyle Borg, Vermeer vice-president in charge of marketing. "We've taken the worry and guesswork out of baling and replaced it with a system that's designed to produce perfectly-formed solid, round bales everytime."

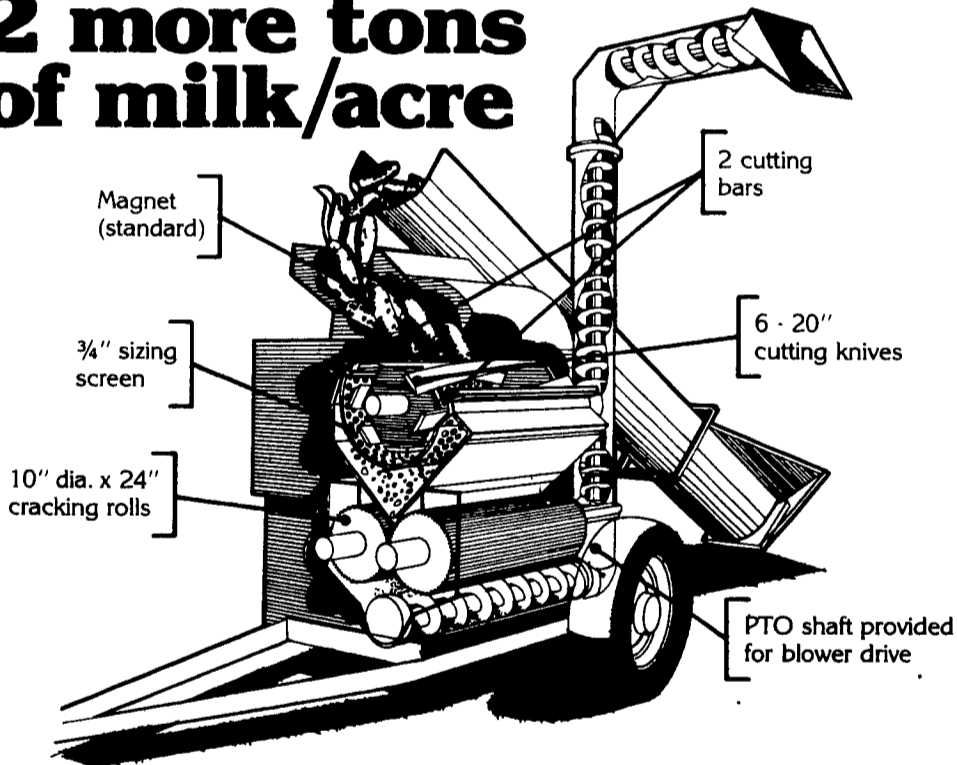
The Vermeer 605J features a

positive drive chain-type kicker that rolls out the package of hay eliminating the need to back up the baler to drop a bale. Air cylinders on both sides of the unit offer an infinite range of pressure settings ensuring uniform density throughout the entire bale. The unit also comes equipped with Waltersshield PTO, 4-ball twine box, rubber-mounted pickup tines, an instant-start feed opening and 6½" wide/2-ply belts that twist to eliminate build up on the ends.

The 5,075 lb. machine is built with heavy gauge unibody side panels, a split tail gate section that's totally reinforced with formed steel channel, 3560 lb. rated axles, and 6-bolt-hubs/spindles. A #80 roller chain runs the mechanical drive; 1½" sealed, radial ball bearings are built into all drive and idler rollers, the bottom drum, the starter roller and pick up pivot (1¼" on the pickup spider). A rugged lower drive knife handles all types of crops, including soybean residue or corn stalks.

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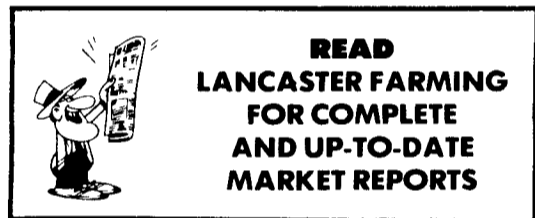
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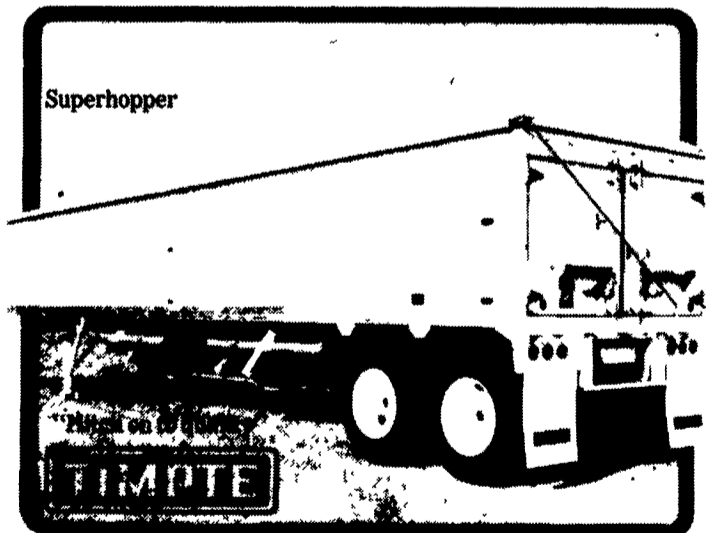
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