

Livestock Ledger

By
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Grass Is Not Enough

It is extremely tempting to let beef cows go to pasture as soon as the grass begins to green up. However, this is the time in the production cycle for most cows when they continue to need a high level of nutrition because most of them are nursing calves and are into the breeding season or will be going into the breeding season soon.

Suckling cows need to maintain their weight or actually gain some weight at this critical time. Putting cows on immature grass too early will cut the energy level to the point that the cows will possibly lose weight. They may stop cycling and the whole process could disrupt planned conception in the early part of the breeding season. Therefore, even if cows prefer

those first few blades of green grass, we advise that you continue to feed them on hay or silage or a combination until permanent pasture is far enough along to really provide adequate nutrition.

Cattle on real young, early wash grass actually crave some dry matter and you will find that they will eat hay better than you think, even though that grass looks pretty good! If cows are thin, particularly first-calf heifers, it may be a paying proposition to add some grain to the ration right along with the roughage so they will settle quickly when bred A1 or exposed to a bull.

May 1 is usually a good date to keep in mind for turning cattle out to pasture in southeast Pennsylvania.

Chianina Juniors schedule national show

PLATTE CITY, Mo. — The American Junior Chianina Association National Junior Heifer Show will be held August 8 in Oklahoma City. Host of the event will be Ted Davis' Yamaha Summer National.

The 1986 AJCA National Junior Heifer Show will feature four days of activities including the National Chianina queen contest, a national public speaking contest, state

team fitting and fancy pick-up contests.

The Fullblood Italian Chianina Corporation may award as much as \$6,000 in prize money should the grand champion or reserve champion white female be an Italian fullblood.

Entry deadline is July 1, 1986. For more information contact Lea Jensen, American Chianina Association, P.O. Box 890, Platte City, Mo., 64079, Phone: 816-431-2808.

Delmarva Chicken Festival to attract 20,000

GEORGETOWN, Del. — The Delmarva Chicken Festival, an annual celebration honoring the Delmarva Peninsula's well-known bird, made its first appearance in 1948 in Georgetown, Delaware. This year, the 38th festival returns to the county seat of Sussex with activities scheduled for June 6 and 7 at Delaware Technical and Community College, Southern Campus.

Expected to draw an estimated 20,000 visitors, the event will offer attractions ranging from tempting fried chicken to toe-tapping music and children's rides. From the 12

noon opening ceremonies on Friday, June 6, festival goers will enjoy antiques, arts, crafts, a flea market, commercial exhibits and an exhibit depicting the poultry industry past and present.

The Delmarva Chicken Cooking Contest will launch activities on Saturday, June 7. Cooks from 12 northeastern states and the District of Columbia will prepare their prize-winning entries in competition for a 10-day Hawaiian vacation for two, and many other prizes.

Other attractions will include

surrey rides; an antique auto display; Ronald McDonald's magic show; and Chicken Capers, a light-hearted series of competitions including an egg toss, chicken scratch and chicken plucking contest.

The Delmarva Chicken Festival is sponsored by Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc. and is hosted this year by Delaware Technical and Community College and the citizens of Georgetown.

For a complete schedule of events, contact Delmarva Poultry, R.D. 2, Box 47, Georgetown, DE 19947 (302)856-9037.

USDA approves new location for animal exports

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture has approved Wilmington, Ohio, as a port of embarkation for animals undergoing mandatory federal health inspection before they are exported to a foreign country.

"We are taking this action at the request of Wilmington's Airborne Express Animal Export Facility," said Bert W. Hawkins, administrator of USDA's Animal and

Plant Health Inspection Service. "We have determined that this facility meets our regulatory requirements and can provide all the necessary services."

To become an approved port of embarkation, a port must be able to provide accommodations where animals can be boarded and cared for during an inspection process that ensures the animals are in

good condition and meet the health requirements of the receiving country.

The addition of Wilmington brings the number of U.S. ports of embarkation to 26. "We are pleased that we can now provide inspection services more conveniently for those exporting animals from the north-central United States," Hawkins said.

Baby pigs face 'acid test' at weaning

FORT WAYNE, Ind. — The newly-weaned pig faces digestive upsets as its digestive tract adapts from sow's milk to dry feed. But, recent research shows these post-weaning problems can be minimized by acidifying the baby pig's gut.

A more acid stomach in the baby pig is desired to attain the most efficient enzyme activity for improved digestion and nutrient utilization. In addition, a high acid level in the pig's stomach suppresses the growth of *E. coli* bacteria to help prevent scours. Because the baby pig cannot easily regulate the acid level of its gut, problems like poor growth, scours and high mortality are often seen in early-weaned pigs.

"Controlled research studies have indicated that if you acidify

the feed, you'll see a better average daily gain and better feed efficiency in baby pigs," says Dr. Steve Pollmann, director of swine feeds for Central Soya Company, Inc.

"When you wean a pig, you're loading its system with physiological and nutritional challenges that are very difficult to handle. As a result, the pH of the baby pig's gut will increase," Pollmann notes. "By reducing the pH of the baby pig's stomach, you'll face fewer problems."

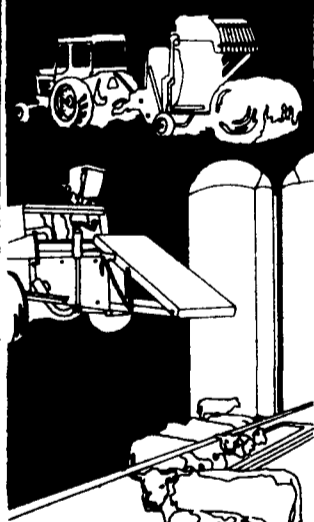
To determine the acidity of a feed, Central Soya has developed "The Acid Test" kit, a simple procedure which can be done in the field with a kit available from Master Mix representatives.

To conduct The Acid Test, soak a

small amount of feed in distilled water. Using distilled water is important because some hard water is alkaline, and will change the results of the test. After a short time, insert a strip of pH-sensitive paper into the sample, then read the result by comparing the color of the strip to the chart included with the test. A lower pH, less than 5.5, would be one indicator of a good baby pig feed.

"We designed this test because our research shows the acidity of a baby pig feed is critical to the growth of the pig," Pollmann says.

More information on "The Acid Test" is available through local Master Mix feed dealers, or by calling Central Soya direct at 1-800-348-1943, and requesting "The Acid Test."



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