

Workshops Apply Classroom Work

By Jesse Howe
Student Farm Manager

"Workshops let us apply classroom work to practical experience", says Kelly Meckley, pre-vet student at Penn State. Kelly recently attended an artificial insemination (A.I.) workshop at The Circleville Farm, which is Penn State's student demonstration farm.

"Our schedules are filled with studying, paper writing and attending classes, so we don't have much time to get practical farm experience. Workshops really help", says Dave Myers, an ag science major and student farm manager at Circleville Farm.

A day-long artificial insemination workshop was recently sponsored at the Circleville Farm. Combined with video training materials and classroom discussion, students worked patiently in the classroom learning how to pass a breeding straw through preserved reproductive

tracts. Standard procedure to introduce trainees to A.I. Once the procedure was mastered, Dennis Burns, a local dairy farmer from Centre county invited the class to this farm to practice the A.I. competencies on live cattle.

Dennis and his wife milk about 90 registered Holsteins. Both are A.I. certified and have held similar training schools at their farm.

Applying what they learned in the classroom, each of the seven students successfully performed the technique of artificially inseminating a dairy cow.

"Today, so many dairy and beef producers are caught up in the business end of farming that they're finding it difficult to find the time to breed cows themselves," says Myers. "Often it's left up to the herdsman to do the breeding".

Many ag graduates become herdsman and need to know A.I. techniques. "Students can become

more marketable by having the practical experience in A.I., remarks Mary McGowan, ag education major and student farm manager of Circleville Farm.

The Circleville Farm is a student

demonstration farm sponsored in part by the College of Agriculture, The Pennsylvania Legislature and The W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

As on-farm jobs become more competitive, graduates with the

most diversified practical farm experience are more apt to get interesting job offers. Being competent with the artificial insemination technique causes one to be higher in demand.

Brazil To Buy 200 Million Pounds of Beef

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Agriculture Richard E. Lyng today announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has signed a contract to sell Brazil 90,000 metric tons (198,414,000 pounds) of beef.

This sale is part of the 200 million pounds mandated for export by the Food Security Act of 1985 to minimize the adverse effects of the Dairy Termination Program on U.S. livestock producers. These exports are in addition to historical

U.S. beef export levels. Brazil will purchase 63,000 metric tons of steer and heifer beef and 27,000 metric tons of cow beef. Delivery, which is free-on-board vessel, will be from July through October 1986. The product was sold at \$655 per metric ton, or about 30 cents per pound, according to a recent report in the Drovers Journal.

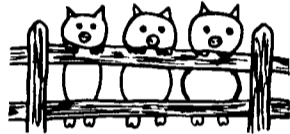
The beef will be purchased according to U.S. specifications.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service will procure the beef on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation through regular procurement invitations. Packers wishing to participate in this program must meet Brazilian import requirements and should contact USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service for detailed information on these requirements. For other information on the sale, call (202) 447-3224.

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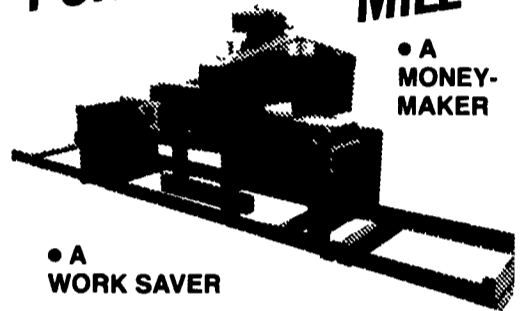
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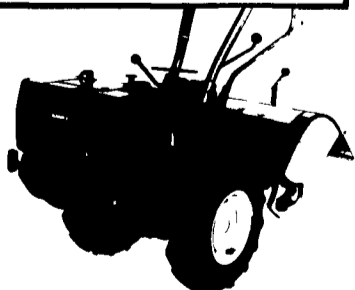
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