

Dairy Pipeline

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Then, the challenge is to prevent the cow from becoming infected or reinfected. Most new udder infections occur during the first week after drying off and at calving time; a cow that is free of infection at drying off time is just as susceptible to new infections as one who is not. This is why it is important to dry treat all cows.

In addition to ridding the udder of any present infections the dry treatment also helps to prevent new infections. Sanitary drying off facilities and sanitary maternity areas are vitally important. You want to take all precautions necessary for assuring that the cows start their lactations free of infections.

Prevention of new infection must continue throughout the lactation. This can be a real challenge the first year or two that you seriously embark on an effective mastitis program.

Once cows are cleaned up you have to protect them from other infected cows that have not yet had the opportunity to respond to dry treatment. That's why it is beneficial to be using a good sanitizer in the udder wash, using disposable cow towels, milking infected cows last and applying a good teat dip as soon as the milker units are removed. This helps reduce the spread of infection from cow to cow.

Proper milking technique and proper machine design can help by preventing inflation leaks, teat end impacts and flooded claws.

It is also beneficial to help cows maintain a strong immune response system and to minimize injury and stress on her system so she is better able to ward off and

fight infections on her own. Good health and nutrition can help. Proper use and design of milking equipment and comfortable facilities are also important.

Not giving organisms an opportunity to thrive is very important. The fewer organisms cows' teat ends are exposed to the lower the risk of infection. You may be tired of hearing this, but nothing beats cleanliness and sanitation — clean stall beds, clean maternity areas, dry lots, etc.

There is nothing more disheartening to me than to see a dairyman with a problem spending a lot of money doing half a job; most of his money and efforts are wasted. Similarly it is disheartening to see a dairyman who has done a thorough job for six months

give up because he sees no benefit and thinks he's not making any progress; he may be just on the verge of starting to reap the benefits if he'd only persisted for another few months.

By slacking up, he's thrown himself back to ground zero, the six month's effort and money he invested is wasted, and he'll have to start the whole process all over from the very beginning.

Mastitis can be kept under reasonable control. A reasonable goal to shoot for is a SCC level of 100,000 to 200,000. Many dairymen are doing this already. There is a pot of gold — actually it's a fuller tank of white liquid — at the end of the rainbow for those who persist and succeed.

Vegetable Field Day Slated

UNIVERSITY PARK — A new prototype tunnel laying machine for setting row covers will be among the machinery featured at a Vegetable Field Day, Monday, July 21, at the Horticulture Research Farm of The Pennsylvania State University.

Plastic mulch, double-row transplanters and seeding equipment will also be featured.

The event is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers' Association and Penn State's Department of Horticulture. The Horticulture Research Farm is on Route 45 at Rock Springs, nine miles southwest of State College.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. at the Horticulture Research Farm; tours to research plots begin at 9 a.m. Tickets for the tours and lunch are \$5 if registered before July 11, \$7.50 for late registration.

Visitors will see and sample a variety of specialty and gourmet

vegetables. Researchers will demonstrate the use of row covers and tunnels for the production of sweet corn, lettuce and cauliflower; tillage (no-till, strip till and conventional till) and planting methods (conventional versus gel seeding) in cabbage and snap beans; and the effects of soil compaction on the growth and yield of several vegetables.

Fertility studies with tomato, pepper, broccoli, melons and beets will also be presented, as well as weed control studies in pepper, carrot and pumpkin. Insect and disease research plots will be viewed during the day.

For an additional \$9 per person, visitors can attend an evening barbecue.

For more information, contact: Michael D. Orzolek, 202 Tyson Building, University Park, PA 16802; or William Troxel, phone 717-473-8468.

Dry Weather Causes Weed Control Problems

NEWARK, Del. — Extended dry weather through corn planting this spring has made chemical weed control performance almost impossible. Commonly used preemergence materials need water for activation. That critical water has not materialized.

"Many corn fields throughout Delaware have serious broadleaf and grass weed problems which will be compounded by continued dry weather," says University of Delaware extension weed specialist Frank Webb. He advises growers to check fields soon and take appropriate control measures.

"Many of our standard postemergence emergency treatments have not worked either, because drought-stressed weeds are harder to kill," Webb says. "For most cornfields with continued grass problems, a post-directed spray of Evik or linuron is now the only salvation. Corn must be at least 12 inches taller than the grass before these materials can be sprayed, so that only the lower 1/3 of the corn plant is contacted and the grasses are thoroughly covered."

These treatments will also control most broadleaves if the spray is applied over the top of the weeds. Where only broadleaf weeds are a problem in corn, Banvel or 2, 4-D can be very effective, the specialist says. And don't forget the cultivator.

As dry weather continues, he warns growers to expect similar herbicide performance problems

in soybeans. "Preemergence chemicals must have rain or irrigation to activate them in the soil. Closely observe fields already planted and sprayed for possible weed breaks. There are some excellent postemergence chemicals for both broadleaf and grassy weed control in soybeans. Cultivation can also be very effective in row soybeans, and it's relatively cheap compared to chemical control."

For best results with either mechanical or chemical control, weed breaks must be detected early so timely action can be taken. Rotary hoeing soybeans—except in no-till plantings—can help activate many preemergence chemicals. It should be done within seven days after the last working of the soil.

Webb advises growers to consult the 1986 edition of the extension bulletin "Delaware Agronomic Herbicide Recommendations" for information on materials available for postemergence weed control in corn and soybeans. Copies are available from county extension offices in Newark, Dover and Georgetown.

"Three new chemicals now cleared for postemergence use in soybeans are not included in that publication," he concludes. "They are Tackle from Rhone-Poulenc, Scepter from American Cyanamid and Classic from DuPont. Check with your county extension office for performance information on these materials."

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