

Check Before Plowing Sod

Farmers who plow down sod, including rotational hay, may find themselves ineligible for some U.S. Department of Agriculture programs. According to Robert Heidecker, State Resource Conservationist for the USDA Soil Conservation Service, the plowing of sod on highly erodible land this fall could result in the loss of USDA program benefits.

Heidecker recommends that farmers check with their local Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service or SCS office before plowing any sod this fall.

Plowing sod on highly erodible land not protected with soil conservation practices violates the conservation provisions of the Food Security Act (Farm Bill) of 1985. The farmer would not be eligible for such USDA programs as commodity price supports, crop insurance, Farmers Home Administration loans, farm storage facility loans, Commodity Credit Corporation storage payments, disaster payments and Conservation Reserve annual payments.

Highly erodible soils are generally described by Heidecker as being all Class III, IV, VI and VII and some Class II. Information on the erodibility index of soils is available from Soil Conservation Service offices.

ASCS can provide information on whether your fall plowing of grass and legume fields will place you in violation and if so, define the affects. SCS

can provide advise on what conservation practices are needed.



Dairymen Hear Facts

(Continued from Page A24)

we need to feed the cow accordingly."

In the last discussion of the day, Lancaster County Extension Agent Glenn Shirk gave input into cropping considerations for dairy farms.

The cost of homegrown feeds varies considerably from farm to farm, and is dependent upon many factors. These worksheets are an attempt to help farmers address some of these factors.

Machinery costs are a major item of expense. Some of these dollars are already committed in the form of purchased machinery. The ownership cost of machinery (interest and depreciation) is fixed regardless of the acreage farmed. Thus, there is some merit in farming more acres in an effort to reduce these fixed costs per acre. However, as you farm more acreage, the life expectancy of machinery may be reduced, and there may be need to increase the annual depreciation cost. In some cases it may be more profitable to sell some presently owned machinery, even at a loss, and rely on custom hired services.

The operating cost of machinery (repairs, fuel, etc.), of course, increases with usage.

Custom hiring can reduce both the ownership cost and the operating cost of machinery. It may also reduce labor costs. However, crop yields and crop quality are dependent upon the quality of service available; crop yields and crop quality can be better or worse than what you are now able to attain. The choice of crops will also affect the kind of machinery needed. This has to be considered as you evaluate the costs and savings of custom hiring, or of changing the cropping program.

The cost per unit of feed produced may be less than or greater than the purchase price of these same feeds. The cost will vary with yield, production costs, land costs, etc. The purchase of land is generally looked upon as an investment, but the farm still has to pay for it. So, you may want to include interest and principal payments on land purchases as a land expense. Also include rent and taxes, as appropriate.

The cost of feed per unit may be cheaper on the next 50 acres you farm, compared to first 100 acres already being farmed, especially if you can spread some of the fixed costs over more acreage. But dairymen need to remember that the main source of income and profits is in the barn, with the cows. If field work pulls them away from other important jobs, farmers need to ask themselves, what is the cost of—
Missed heats?

Sick cows not being detected and treated on time?

Calving difficulties left untreated?

Low production resulting from a lack of attention to details?

Not having time to shop for "good deals"?

Not having time to analyze records, manage finances and managing the business for maximum profits?

Cropping programs also determine how many cows the farm can support. If more cows can be fed by changing the cropping program will the added income be offset by—

Increased feed purchases?

Additional housing and feed storage costs?

Additional machinery and equipment expenses?

Additional labor demands, etc.?

The attached worksheets provide the user with the capability of comparing two different options with the present cropping and feeding program. They have the flexibility to compare—

Different crops

Different crop ratios (i.e. less hay, more corn, etc.)

Farming more acreage and purchasing less feed

Custom hiring vs. machine ownership

Land renting vs. land ownership

Effect of different crop yields

Cow carrying potential with different cropping programs

Different cow to heifer ratios, etc.

C.B. HOOBER & SONS, INC.
Intercourse, PA
(717) 768-8231

HOOBER
TWO LOCATIONS

HOOBER EQUIPMENT, INC.
Middletown, DE
(302) 378-9555

The Saving Place

WE SHIP PARTS DAILY

Via UPS - PPSH - BUS - AIR FREIGHT, ETC.



CALL US...
It Could Be We Have It

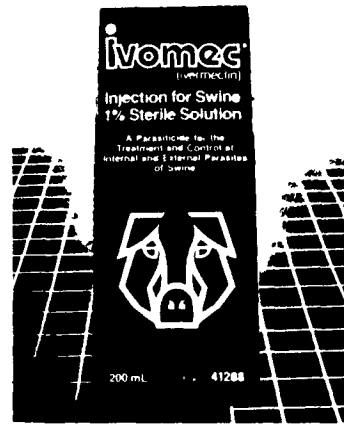
Case
Authorized
UPS Station



IVOMEC

(ivermectin)

for swine is the only single product that provides effective control of worms, mange mites and lice.

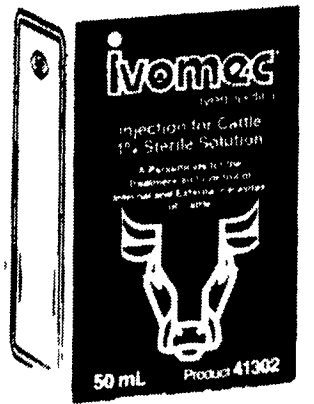


IVOMEC

(ivermectin)

is here.

The one shot that does more than any single wormer, pour-on or dip.



★ Price Is The Same For Either
Cattle Or Swine ★

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| 50 ml. Bottle | \$26.80 |
| 200 ml. Bottle | \$107.25 |
| 500 ml. Bottle | \$268.00 |

\$20 or More And The Freight Is On Us

Key-Aid Distributors

225 Wood Corner Rd.
Lititz, PA 17543

717/738-4241

Call Us Toll Free!

1-800-453-9243

In PA Call 1-800-253-9243