

# Mastitis: A Disease Of Man Transmitted To Cows, Vet Says



Dr. Ed Robb addresses the group at the open house at Fisher and Thompson, Inc.

LEOLA — "How we manage our cows and how we house our cows influences the level of mastitis we have," said Dr. Ed Robb, DVM New Bolton Center. Speaking at the "Open House" of Fisher and Thomas, Inc., Leola, Dr. Robb said we either increase the cows' resistance or decrease the exposure to help control the organisms that produce mastitis.

"Wild animals have almost no incidence of mastitis," Dr. Robb said. "But as soon as we enter man, we tend to have a tremendous increase in the incidents of mastitis. Mastitis, therefore, can be thought of as a disease of man that is transmitted to cows. I believe that if your somatic cell count is not less than 400,000 cells, you have a mastitis problem. If you are treating more than five quarters per hundred cows, I think

you are treating too many," he said. "One case per hundred is where it should be. For every quarter you treat there are likely 17 to 35 quarters that are infected. You only treat the tip of the iceberg. It's a noisy baseline level that you don't see that's causing the problem. It's the silent mastitis that really lowers your milk check."

Dr. Robb recommends treatment during the dry period and teat dipping during milking lactation and then treating again for the next dry period.

Jim Wolfer, farm manager University of Delaware, was on the program Friday. The local milking equipment dealership held the two-day open house with a free lunch and numerous educational displays that featured company representatives.

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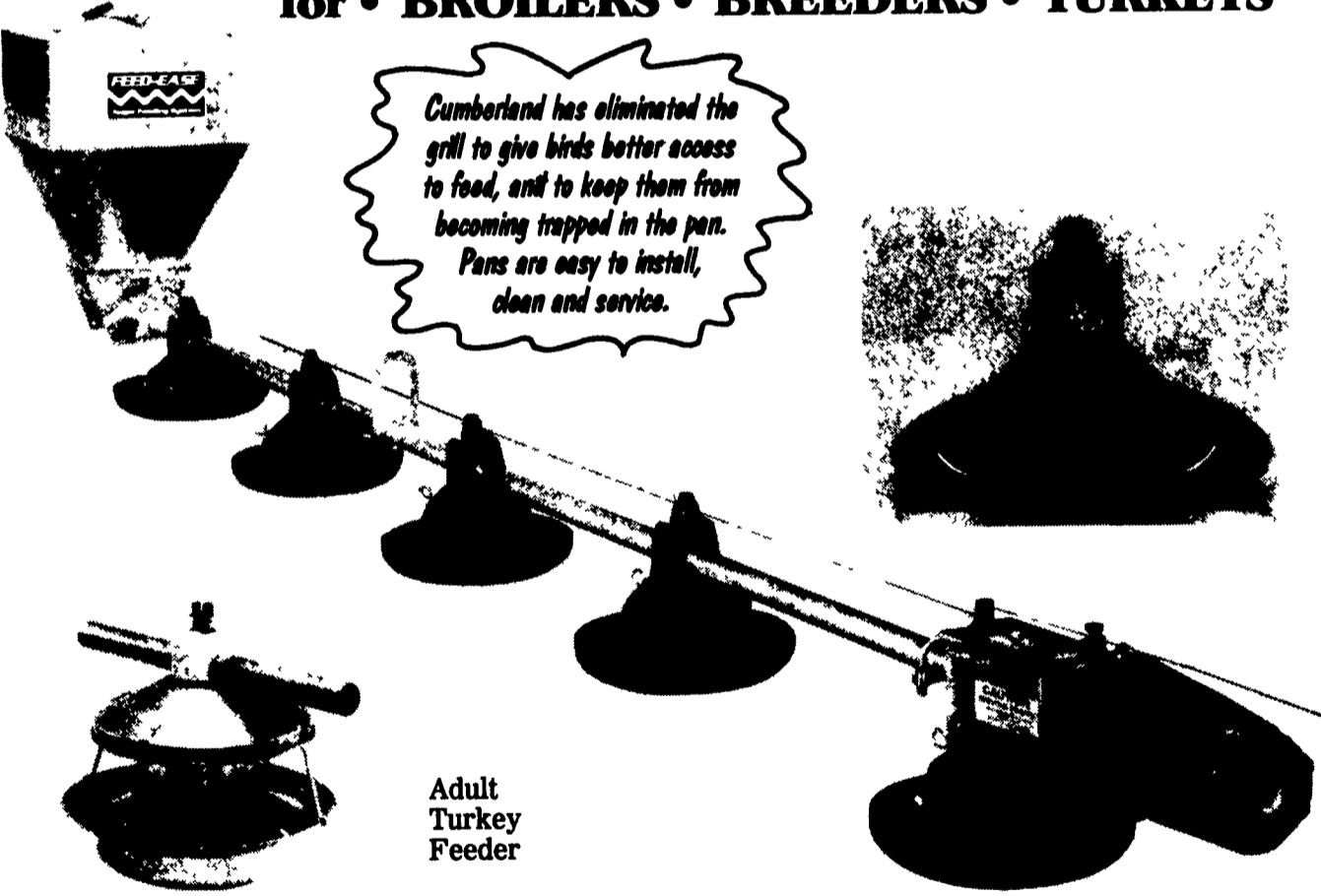
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