

Local Dairymen Hear Purina Research Data

The 1987 Purina dairy meeting was held Wednesday at the Plain and Fancy Restaurant with a sizable group of farmers attending when you consider the nice weather for doing spring work.

Wendell Law, Keystone division sales manager, called the meeting to order and said that the purpose of the meeting was to obtain knowledge of the research projects, show how to utilize roughages and provide the economics of feeding high performance products. He showed the relationship between corn production and milk production based on 1940, 1960 and 1980 figures. Over the 40-year period, both corn and milk production doubled and Law suggested what factors caused this increase: genetics, management and nutrition. "But," Law said, "an acre is still an acre. And a cow is still a cow. We have been able to increase the output without increasing the size of the acre or the cow. Some of the nutrients that are required for corn and cows include: energy, nitrogen and protein, potassium and calcium, phosphorus, trace minerals, vitamins and fiber. Our challenge is to find out how you balance these nutrients to get the best production."

Dr. David W. Weakley, senior

nutritionist at the Purina Missouri research center, gave some of the research behind the high-energy line of feeds. "In a typical lactation curve," Weakley said, "cows tend to increase production rapidly. The problem in early lactation is that dry matter intake lags behind the peak production. This generally takes off body weight to get enough energy to produce the large amount of milk. Consequently, you have a problem the first two or three months where intake lags behind production. This is where high-energy feeds come into play. Basically, concentrates with high fat give a high energy value feed."

Weakley showed how the different ingredients such as protein, carbohydrates, fats and fiber effect production and fat test. "It's important to keep a balance of ingredients," Weakley said. "Because some ingredients depress milk fat and others increase it. Vegetable oil tends to depress milk fat tests," Weakley said.

In addition, Weakley showed the Purina research farm facilities with slides that indicated some of the methods and equipment used to monitor feed intake in research projects. Most of the projects are fed by hand. However, Weakley showed one trial out that uses Farmtronix computerized feeding



At the Purina dairy meeting are (left to right): Dr. John Clark, dairy consultant; Larry Wile, district dairy specialist; Rick Hyman, Keystone district sales manager; Wendell Law, Keystone division sales manager; Dr. David Weakley, senior nutritionist, ruminant research department.

system distributed through the Purina dealerships. This feeding system allows the operator to punch in the feed data for each cow and automatically feed the cow the amount she needs when the tripping device hung on her neck chain comes into range of the feed trough unit.

Larry Wile, Purina dairy specialist, discussed how to maximize forage profits through income from milk and fat where cows need to balance energy and

fiber. "The key to pure profits is the forage on your farm," Wile said. "You grow forage on your farm, and the feed person must

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Misty Hollow Jerseys

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high percentage of milk, over 50 percent, which is used for manufacturing. Jersey milk is ideal for manufacturing, he continued, because of its high fat and protein content. He speculated that end-product pricing will become a reality.

"In the future protein pricing has to be a must," Ulrich said. Presently, markets in Federal Order 4 do not pay a protein premium, he added.

For every 100 pounds of Jersey milk, producers can manufacturer 12.35 pounds of cheddar cheese compared to 9.85 pounds from Holstein milk. Jersey milk averages 3.88 percent protein compared to Holstein milk which averages 3.1 percent protein, he explained.

He hopes a decision in the Great Basin marketing order concerning protein-base pricing results in a positive ruling and sets a precedent for the Federal Orders nationwide.

Until that time, he plans to continue to improve in the breeding and management programs of the farm. He credits his entire family with the progress achieved at Misty Hollow Farm. "Everyone works together." Tim

works in the evening and on weekends. His daughters, Jennifer, 12, and Stephanie, 10, as well as his wife, Linda, help on weekends and when needed. His father, retired since 1976, also fills in where needed, Ulrich noted. When Keller takes off every other weekend, "It becomes family day on the farm" with everyone pitching in, he said.

During the week in the daytime the workload falls to Ulrich and Keller. They raise almost all of the feed for the herd on a total of 182 acres. As a time saving measure, they started no-tilling corn into the rye two years ago. In fields where corn follows corn, they employ the conventional moldboard plow to prepare the field, Ulrich explained.

Ulrich double-crops rye for ryelage. He harvests hay and stores it in random stacks. Haylage and high moisture corn are stored in oxygen-free silos and the corn silage is stored in a stave silo. Ulrich prefers to harvest haylage at 50 percent moisture. Grain corn is custom harvested.

Visitors to the Pennsylvania Jersey Cattle Club's annual meeting will be able to see the facilities of Misty Hollow Farms, home of a promoter of the "breed on the move."

PENNFIELD DAIRY MEETINGS

9:30 - Milk, Coffee and Donuts

10:00 to 2:30 Meetings

Lunch

Frederick - West Maryland

Monday, March 23 - New Midway Fire Hall,
New Midway, MD

Mifflin - Central Pa.

Tuesday, March 24 - Holiday Inn,
Lewistown, PA

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