

200 Attend Franklin Dairy Day

BY BONNIE BRECHBILL
Franklin Co. Correspondent
KAUFFMAN STATION — Feeding cottonseed and soybeans to your dairy cattle is good for the cottonseed and bean farmers and the trucking industry, according to Dr. Richard Adams, Penn State Extension Dairy Specialist. He said that the use of these natural high-fat sources has been increasing even though most ruminant animals do not utilize fat as well as single stomach animals. Adams directed his remarks to over 200 farmers at the annual Franklin County Extension Dairy Day at Kauffman's Community Center. Cottonseed is high in fiber

and is highly digestible-- about the same as good corn silage, he said. The soybeans are high in protein-- 35-36 percent, while the cottonseed runs about 19-20 percent. Both feeds are low in rumen bypassable protein, however. Half of the protein in properly heat-treated soybeans is rumen bypassable; 23 percent of the cottonseed protein is bypassable. Under research conditions, about 40 percent of the herds fed these feedstuffs had a profitable response to the added fat. In the field, the percent of herds responding profitably is about 33 percent. The protein content of the milk is lowered by high fat in the ration,

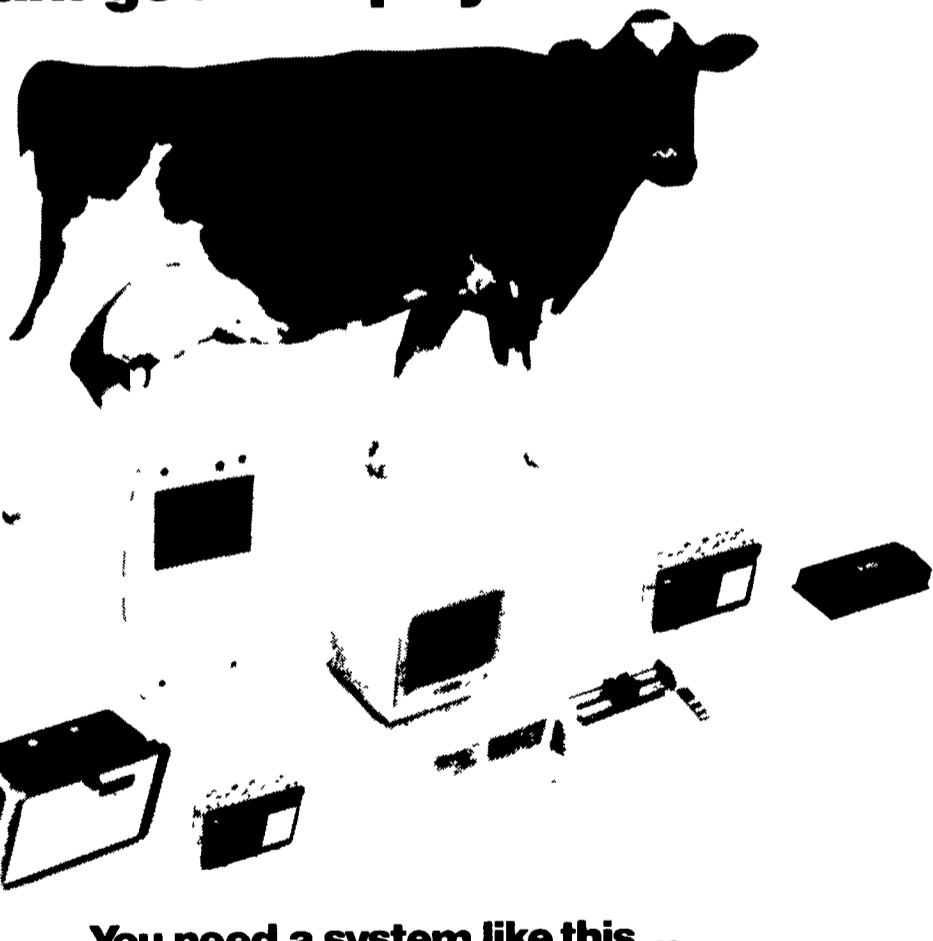
Adams stated. In some herds, the fat test went down, and in others it went up .2-.3 of a percent. "On average, there was no change in the fat test," he said. Adams stressed that the farmer must have a balanced ration first, before adding extra fat. He cautioned that on higher fat rations cows must have more mineral present-- .1 percent more calcium, .05 percent more phosphorus, and .06 percent more magnesium in total ration dry matter. The upper limit for added fat in the ration is 1 1/4 pounds per cow. Roland Freund, PSU Area Farm Management Agent, discussed the

Tax Reform Act. Under the act, dairy farmers must decide whether to deduct or capitalize their pre-production expenses for raising heifers. The former attitude of the U.S. government of "be kind to business" is now "be tough on business," he said. Until now, farmers have been able to expense heifers as ordinary farm expense. Tax had to be paid on only 40 percent, as it was considered a capital gain. "This was a loophole in the old law," he said. "The new law closes it." Anything that takes over two years to come into production, such as dairy cattle and fruit trees,

is treated as a capital item. The two year period does not begin with the birth of heifer, but with its conception, because of the expenses of artificial insemination and embryo transfers. Farmers must decide before filing their 1987 taxes how they are going to treat these pre-production expenses. If the farmer does not capitalize these expenses, there is a penalty. If he does capitalize them, there is no penalty. "But is there?" Freund asked. A farmer may capitalize his expenses by:
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 2. "Farm Price" method-- what
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