



Tunnel out if you have to,

DRUG RESIDUES

The Tissue Residue Branch at the Center for Veterinary Medicine recently performed a study on tissue residues. The purpose was to compile data by slaughter class, residues found, method of administration and primary reasons. From the 134 tissue residue follow-up reports submitted, 151 tissue residues were determined. Some of the tissues studied contained more than one residue. Due to lack of information on some of the reports, only 57% of the samples submitted were used for data analysis.

The common means of administering drugs were IM injection (36%), intramammary infusion (18%), or orally fed (45%) via water, bolus or tablet. When this information was separated by slaughter class, all of the reports for intramammary infusions and 78% of those studied for IM injection resulted in residues found in cull dairy cows. Drugs administered orally resulted in 62% of the residues found in bob veal calves and 24% of the market hogs studied. Sulfamethazine was the drug most commonly found in hog and calf tissues. Other drugs found to be a problem with the calves were neomycin, streptomycin and tetracyclines.

Three reasons were most frequently listed as causes for residues. Failure to observe the withdrawal time attributed to 51% of the residues in tissues. The use of an unapproved drug (17%) and poor or no records (12%) were the other major reasons. Other causes for residues ranged from exceeding the recommended dosage, mistaken use of dry cow treatment during lactation, or accidentally selling known medicated animals for food.

COWS MUST EAT

If cows don't eat they don't give milk! Wintertime problems often affect feed consumption. Typical problems include poor or nonexistent ventilation, slippery floor surfaces, and the lack of high quality drinking water.

Water systems must be protected during the winter. Tubs and troughs exposed to freezing temperatures must be heated or well insulated. Small openings and/or covers, that animals can move, will reduce heat loss from the surface of the water. Ice covered troughs or tubs contaminated with manure do not encourage water consumption. Water lines and pumps that supply cow drinkers must also be protected from freezing. This may include burying, insulating pipes or using heat tapes or heat lamps on pipes or pumps. Use thermostats to automatically operate electric heat devices to save electricity.

High humidity air in poorly ventilated barns will increase chances of pneumonia. Wet foul smelling barns also result in reduced feed palatability. All barns with livestock require air exchange even on the coldest day of the year — this includes your barn! Ammonia released from manure packs on a mild winter day can result in respiratory problems in poorly ventilated barns.

Slips and falls result in injuries and discourage animals from moving to feed and water. Areas of poor footing, such as smooth concrete and sloping yards, are worse during freezing, snowy weather. Use of sand, gravel, or other grit can alleviate these problems for the short term. Particular areas to watch include areas around waterers where spilled water forms ice, north sides of feed bunks, doorways under eaves that drip and entrance and exit areas to parlors. Long range solutions include grooving existing concrete and installing new concrete with grooves. Heating mats embedded in concrete around waterers and parlor doors may also be considered for new construction. Lowering water levels in waterers can reduce spillage.

Details, such as providing good ventilation year round, plenty of water and good footing may be the difference between a profit and a loss on milk production this

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Guernsey Bulls Look Better Than Ever

Guernsey bulls are looking better than ever with January Production Type Index (PTI) figures at an all-time high. In just one year, active-AI Guernsey sires have progressed from no bulls over +250 PTI to five sires ranging from +255 to +309 PTI.

Since the January 1987 sire summary, Guernseys have also made remarkable strides in other areas. Where only one bull was listed as having a 1/87 Predicted Difference for Milk (PDM) over +1,000, now eight bulls are over +1,000 PDM. Eleven Guernsey sires have Predicted Difference for Cheese Yield Dollars over \$100, in contrast to only two from one year ago. Finally, 15 proven sires have PD's for Dollar Value (PD\$) over \$100 as compared to just six last January.

As recorded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the current active-AI predicted difference average for 39 bulls is +789M +31F +\$97 +20P +\$91CY, PDT +0.7, PTI +184.

Although increases from January 1987 figures were noted in all categories, most impressive were the 90-unit increase in PDM, 34-unit rise in PTI and the 16-unit gain in PD\$.

Commenting on the notable genetic gains of the breed, Erick Metzger, executive secretary-treasurer of the American Guernsey Association (AGA), said, "The tremendous improvement is due to increased organized young-sire sampling efforts. This line up of bulls offers Guernsey breeders diverse pedigrees along with high predicted differences. The top five bulls have five different sires and four different maternal grandsires. Also, the top three sires have repeatabilities over 70 percent."

The American Guernsey Association is the national organization for the registration and promotion of Guernsey cattle and is headquartered in Columbus, Ohio.

New Report Offers Information

In today's tight farm economy, dairy farmers must strive to produce the most milk per cow at the least cost to their farm operation. Dairy Herd Improvement (DHI) services are tools farmers can use to track the results of their management tactics to see if their efforts are economical.

DHI and the Dairy Records Processing Laboratory at Cornell University have introduced a completely revised report, called the Dairy Herd Profile, which summarizes and analyzes herd management performance. The analysis can be done either on a monthly basis or twice a year, according to the member's preference.

The report was also developed in conjunction with the NYS Extension Service, specifically through the work of Dr. Terry R. Smith, NYS Extension Dairyman.

This report allows DHI members to analyze their success in areas such as reproductive performance, somatic cell count (a measure of milk quality), and genetic progress, as well as milk, milkfat, and milk protein production.

Problem areas show up clearly on the Dairy Herd Profile, and farmers can then work with consultants, such as feed representatives and veterinarians, to improve their herd performance. Subsequent Dairy Herd Profile reports will chart the progress in this particular area to tell the farmer if his or her herd management changes worked.

The new Dairy Herd Profile not only offers DHI members expanded services, but sets a new level of standards for dairy herd management record in the United States.

make a change if you must,

