

Control Mastitis To Earn Quality Bonuses

ARLINGTON, VA. — When it comes to testing milk, it is an old question: "Whose results are correct?"

In the good old days, tests were less involved and there were fewer to compare. For example, it used to be that fat test variation between the plant and DHI was the focal point of controversy. Now there are tests for protein and somatic cells, as well as fat. If you're on some type of quality bonus program, results of those tests are important to whether or not you earn extra money.

To check the accuracy of their testing equipment, many laboratories use a set of standardized sam-

ples from an outside source for fat, protein and somatic cells. In addition, performance of their equipment is monitored continuously, with microscopic counts performed at the lab on high, low and medium range somatic cell milk.

Obviously, the best way to obtain good testing results is for your milk to be low in somatic cells in the first place. Counts of from 100,000 to 200,000 somatic cells per milliliter are possible, and such counts would earn you a bonus under most programs. However, good milking and cow management are required to achieve desired results.

Milking management includes good cow preparation, milking

clean and dry udders, clean environment and good cowside sanitation. Dip teats following milking using a product which has been shown to be effective in preventing new udder infections. Testing by protocols A, B and C are recommended to show effectiveness.

Milking machine management involves maintenance by a professional with the system under load at the time of checking.

Dry cow treatment is recommended for every quarter of every cow at drying off. Use a commercial product designed for dry cow treatment. Obviously, controlling mastitis is one of the first steps in earning quality bonuses. Cull chronic animals that are a reservoir of infection and that are continually raising your bulk tank somatic cell count.

It is rare that high bacteria counts are caused by mastitis. Usually the cause is poorly cleaned and sanitized equipment.

Dairymen sometimes point out that they don't do a particular practice "by the book," but don't have any mastitis problems and make the bonus every time. And it happens. But a general rule of thumb is: The more procedures done cor-

rectly, the stronger your program is and the more difficult it is to get into trouble. The reverse is true, also: The fewer things done cor-

rectly, the easier it is to experience difficulties. Remember, your system is no stronger than your weakest practice.

30 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

- David Lapp, R1 Bareville, was elected president of the New Holland Community 4-H Club at a meeting held April 7 at the New Holland National Bank.

Other officers elected were vice president, Donna Peters; secretary, Anna Lapp; treasurer, Mary Ann Wolgemuth; game leaders, Alvin McQuate and Marie Horning; song leader, Roy Mentzer and reporter, Judith Ann Buch.

- **Headline: Part-Time Farmer Wants to Keep Things the Same.....** A poll taken by Emory J. Brown, rural sociologist from Penn State from 370 part-time farmers showed:

Fifty-nine felt that they are as well off as their full-time neighbors and 43 said they were better off.

Fifty said they were better off

than full-time hourly workers and 30 said they were as well off.

Eighty-one said that they intend to continue farming only on a part-time basis. Only 18 said they are working toward full-time farming and 17 plan to get out of farming entirely.

Eighty-nine per cent said they make more money per hour at their off-farm job.

And 112 own their own farm eight are part owners and an equal number rent.

"I was determined not to lift another bag of feed," said Henry R. Wilson, R2 Nottingham, when explaining his feed mixing and distributing set-up.

The feeding set-up is only one of many features incorporated into a brand new dairy operation that Wilson has built on his 390 acre farm just south of Little Britain

Beekeeping

CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS — The Northwestern Pa Beekeepers Assoc. will host a workshop April 16, at the Northwestern REC building on "Improving Beekeeping Practices." The program will start at 9:30 a.m. and finish around 3:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided. A \$5 fee will be collected at registration. The workshop is designed to improve beekeeping skills of hobbyist beekeepers. Dr. Clarence Collison, Penn State Uni-

Workshop

versity's Bee Specialist will be the featured speaker. He will discuss hive production, bee disease, the Varroa Mite, and Queen rearing techniques. Other concurrent workshops will be held on health benefits of bee products, marketing techniques, swarm collection and wintering tips. Hobbyist beekeepers are encouraged to attend. For more information call Assoc. President Jeff Allio at 814-425-3629.

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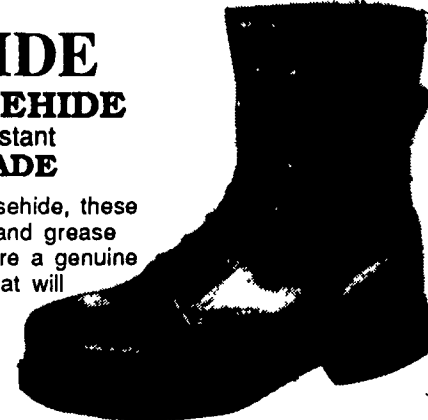
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