

Reproductive Health

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(usually in a 18-24 day window). Once a cow establishes a cycle, the farmer must carefully track that constant cycle on a consistent basis. Calving intervals should be 12-13 months, and breeding dates, 75 days or less.

"A complete herd health program has to go beyond reproduction and mastitis and infectious agents. We can vaccinate. We can deworm the cow. We can evaluate feet and legs.

"But proper nutrient impacts on almost all of the parameters that we deal with as veterinarians," he said. "And we also have to evaluate the management — in other words, the environment. You, as the manager of the farm, impact on the effectiveness of a program that a veterinarian may be trying to put into place."

The farmer must follow good nutrient management from start to finish. Because if a cycling heifer starts out with milk fever, for instance, she has a 2.8 greater chance of having problems in calv-

ing difficulty, a one and a half times greater chance of having uterine infections, and eight-fold possibility of developing mastitis, and a nine times greater chance of developing ketosis later on.

"The problems in dairy cows, especially reproductively, are like dominoes — one falls into another and on it goes," said Prokop. "Too often, the focus is on one problem and we try to fit the solutions into a bottle. What it really is is management."

Prokop said the veterinary industry, nutritionists, and other agribusiness specialities must learn to work together to keep dairy farming a viable industry.

"Today's dairy farmer can't afford anything less, because economic times are the toughest they've been in the last eight years. And in a way, that's terrific, because it's going to make all of us much better at what we're doing. We're going to have to be, in order to survive."

Care and consideration must go into calf care from the moment of

birth, because the calf has special needs. Dr. Norman St. Pierre, Renaissance Nutrition, spoke about the importance of obtaining the right feed constituents for a calf.

Dr. Paul Chandler, Chandler and Associates, spoke about the need to start a heifer feeding and management program "at the day

of birth and stay on it," he said. Farmers must set weight goals and maintain consistency of feeding in their program. The importance of feed at the heifer stage, including the benefits of high quality, degradable, high-bypass protein is essential. Chandler also spoke about the special prep-partum anionic shift program to improve

body condition and overall cow health.

Jesse Weaver, Agri-Basics Soil Service, described the soil testing and crop scouting services offered by Agri-Basics.

In addition, Al Larson, Bio-Techniques Laboratories, Inc., spoke about the Cobactin microbial feed additive program.

Gehl Co. Opens Facility

LEBANON (Lebanon Co.) — Gehl Company employees and their families joined with members of the Future Farmers of America (FFA) to commemorate the completion of Gehl Agriculture's new manufacturing facility and the production of the first Scavenger® II manure spreader in the new facility.

Just a year after the official ground breaking ceremony, production of agricultural equipment is under way at the company's 170,000 square foot world class manufacturing facility in the South Lebanon Industrial Park. The November 23 open house for Gehl employees and families recognized the efforts of the current staff to make this transition.

At the event, representatives from the Lebanon staff, Gehl's headquarters, and the Cedar Crest FFA cut a ribbon surrounding the first Scavenger® II spreader built in the new facility. Tours of the production floor followed the flow of materials in the manufacturing process. Production will be added gradually to this facility throughout 1992. Agricultural equipment that will be produced at the facility was on display.

Cedar Crest FFA hosted a booth showing their involvement in the future of agriculture. A Gehl Company photo history and time

line was on display in the facility's museum.

"The cooperative efforts of private industry, local and state government have resulted in great benefits to the Lebanon community and surrounding area," said Gary Blinka, vice president and general manager, Gehl Agriculture. "Our new facility demonstrates Gehl Company's commitment to our current work force and the future of agriculture, as well as to the people of Lebanon County and the commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We are proud to be a part of this community."

Seedway Adds Red Clover To Line

YORK (York Co.) — Seedway, Inc. announces the addition of Acclaim Red Clover to its forage seed line for 1992. Acclaim will replace MorRed, previously the company's improved red clover variety.

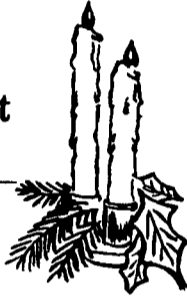
Acclaim was developed to achieve maximum stand life and production of premium quality clover forage in straight stands and mixtures. The variety has

been selected for vigor and stand persistence, achieving high scores for percent of stand in state trials after the first harvest year.

It has been screened for resistance to northern and southern anthracnose, as well as powdery mildew. Acclaim is similar in flowering date to Arlington. Contact Seedway, Inc., 55 Willow Springs Circle, York, PA 17402, (800) 836-3720 for more information.

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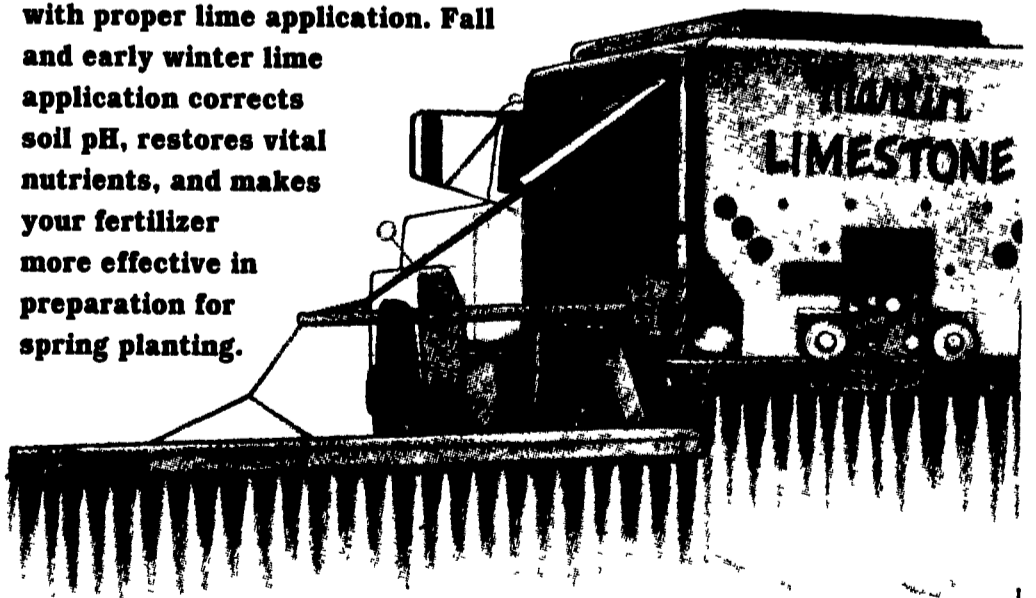
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