

Multiple Feeds Make This Jersey Herd Tops In State

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— Using multiple feed — and keeping it in front of the cows to eat all the time — were contributing factors to improving the Jersey herd at Spruce Row Farms.

Plus, going to wrapped 50 percent moisture bales contributed to overall herd improvement and better milking for the 110 (50 replacement stock) all-registered Jerseys at Spruce Row, according to business partner Jeffrey Peters. Switching to the baylage system was "one of the best things I ever did," said Peters.

Peters, in partnership since 1982 with Charles Hotson, farms 359 acres (220 tillable). The dairy farm uses a 48-stall barn to pipeline. The latest milking averages are 17,337 lbs., 810f, 632p. Spruce Row Farms was honored by the

state DHIA as number one managed herd in the Jersey breed recently.

Also, keeping the cows clean and healthy are important to the farm managers. Jeffrey said that when they switched to using newspaper a short while ago, cow clean-

liness improved dramatically.

Newspaper bedding "is the greatest bedding product I've ever used, hands down," said Peters. "The cows inherently stay clean... it's an ideal environment for them."

The multiple feed, used on the

farm since 1984, includes 20 percent haylage, corn silage, high moisture corn, rolled ear corn, and a 32 percent protein/mineral/vitamin mix. The cows are fed 10-12 times a day. "The cows almost always have feed in front of them," he said. Using these man-

agement methods, according to the dairyman, have "kept us one of the top Jersey herds in the state the last six years running."

The breedstock has been built up since the farm became a Jersey herd in the late 1800s, according to Peters.

Plan Now For Successful Spring Calving

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — A successful spring calving season is one of the most rewarding successes of the efforts of commercial cattlemen. Quality calves and a good calf crop are not a happenstance, they're the result of careful planning, superb herd health care, and good breeding practices.

If you have a spring calving program in place, there are steps you can take now that will help ensure a successful calving season and healthier newborns and brood cows that recuperate more quickly after birth.

Dr. John Hough, director of education and research for the American Polled Hereford Association said that by taking a little extra time with your herd in winter, you can potentially increase profits come spring.

"If possible, it's best to separate cows and heifers in advanced stages of pregnancy from the rest of the herd," Hough said. "This helps avoid injuries and possible abortions from riding, butting, and fighting."

He recommends sorting pregnant cows and heifers about halfway through gestation if there are adequate pens and pastures. This will save a considerable amount of time when calving starts because the rest of the herd will require less intensive monitoring.

Immediately prior to calving, Hough said it's advisable to place the cows and heifers into calving pens or sheds if they're available. If not, the next best alternative is a small, clean pasture.

"Keeping winter rations at recommended nutrition levels during the first stages of pregnancy is essential," Hough said. "During the last 30 to 45 days of pregnancy, however, cows generally need a 10 to 15 percent protein increase in the ration, especially if they're being fed a stored roughage such as hay. This can be an extra two pounds of hay per day, as long as an additional pound of total digestible nutrients (TDN) is provided."

Keeping stresses down is also recommended. Maintaining familiar surroundings, reducing weather stresses with windbreaks, if feasible, and continuing a solid nutrition program will combine to keep prospects of a profitable calf crop high.

Hough said you'll also want to keep an especially watchful eye on the pregnant cows or heifers to be sure they don't contract a threatening illness. While most cows will make it through the winter with little difficulty, the possibilities of sickness exist. If you have any concerns at all, consult your veterinarian for treatment recommendations.

By following these and other "common-sense" precautions, Hough said your prospects for a strong healthy set of calves in the spring will be much greater, thus increasing your profitability. Plus, none of these recommendations involve a significant investment.

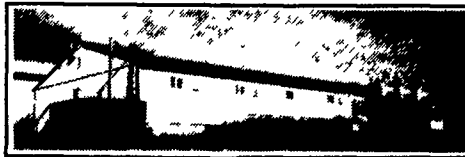
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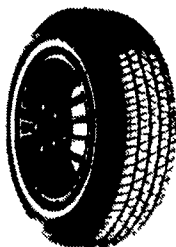
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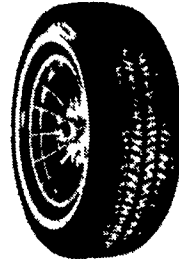
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