

Match Hay Quality To Herd Needs

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — It's likely you'll be feeding your herd a substantial amount of hay this winter. You can be assured of keeping feeding costs lower by being certain the hay is high-quality and provides adequate nutritional value.

Dr. John Hough director of education and research for the American Polled Hereford Association, said quality of hay is influenced by a number of conditions. The most prevalent factors are forage species, available moisture during the growing season, fertility level of the soil on which it was produced, maturity stage at harvest, harvesting/handling damage, and the amount of weeds of other foreign material.

"Since there are so many factors which affect hay quality, it's likely your hay supply has a wide quality variation," Hough said. "Fortunately, your herd has a variety of nutritional needs. So, if you've stored the hay by quality levels, you can easily match the nutritional needs of your cattle to the type of hay."

For example, cows needing only a maintenance ration for the winter can generally be fed a lower-quality hay. For cows with calves, or pregnant heifers, you

should feed hay of higher quality.

"Whatever the quality level of the feed, be sure to feed enough," Hough said. "Hay losses during feeding can be expected with any feeding method and the amount of loss varies. Your major objective should be to keep losses at a minimum — permitting animals to use the majority of hay given at a specific feeding."

Hough said that a feeding loss of three percent to six percent is common, and in general, is an acceptable hay loss amount.

There are several methods used to feed hay. Conventional rectangular bales are still fairly common in many parts of the country. If you use this type of bale, you'll save more hay if you only feed a one-day supply and make sure all animals have easy access to the hay.

If you use large, round, or square bales, the herd will more effectively use proper amounts of hay if you restrict access. A barrier around the large bale can be a feeding rack, panels, or gates.

Feeding racks can work well, but should be kept clean of spoiled hay and should be maintained regularly.

Hough said if you remember the following items, your hay

feeding will be more cost effective and provide greater benefits for your herd:

- Try to produce, harvest, and store the highest quality hay possible.
- Match hay quality to animal needs.
- Feed on a well-drained site to

reduce spoilage.

- Restrict access with racks, panels, and length of feeding period.
- Restrict access to bales left in the field.
- Force cleanup of hay by animals with low nutrient requirements before feeding more.
- Reseed the area of sod killed

as a result of feeding.

Your hay requirements may amount to a substantial investment. By taking care to provide the greatest quality possible and following proven feeding practices, your long-term costs will be more beneficial to your bottom line.

Miller To Head USMEF Board

MEXICO CITY, Mexico — Stanley Miller of Excel Corporation was elected chairman of the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF) for 1993 at USMEF's annual board of directors meeting.

Miller is vice president of International Sales with Excel Corp. in Wichita, Kan., and is widely recognized for his pioneer work during the early 1980s in establishing U.S. meat trade in Japan and other Far East countries.

Having served on the USMEF board of directors for 10 years, Miller has been a member of the USMEF executive committee since 1985. In his inaugural address, Miller stressed the need for USMEF to avoid distractions and remain focused on its number one goal — selling more U.S. red meat to foreign customers, and doing it

profitably.

"Everything we do should support this goal," Miller said. "With all the changes around us — the GATT, Korean beef negotiations, changes in Washington and talk about industry structure — we really have to keep our eye on the ball and not lose sight of what we're all about."

The full slate of officers elected to the USMEF Board of Directors at the annual meeting is: chairman: Stanley Miller, vice president International Sales, Excel Corp.; chairman-elect: Jim Mullins, Cattle Producer, Corwith, Iowa; vice chairman: John Hardin,

Pork Producer, Danville, Indiana; and secretary/treasurer: Rick Allen, cattle producer, Lander, Wyo.

New additions to the USMEF Executive Committee include:

- Roel Andriessen of IBP, Inc., representing the packer/processor sector
- Steve Raftopoulos of the American Sheep Industry Association, Craig, Colo., representing the sheep and lamb sector.
- Dana Hauck of the Kansas Beef Council, Delphos, Kan., appointed as a director at large
- Clark Willingham of the Texas Beef Industry Council, Dallas, Texas, appointed as a director at large

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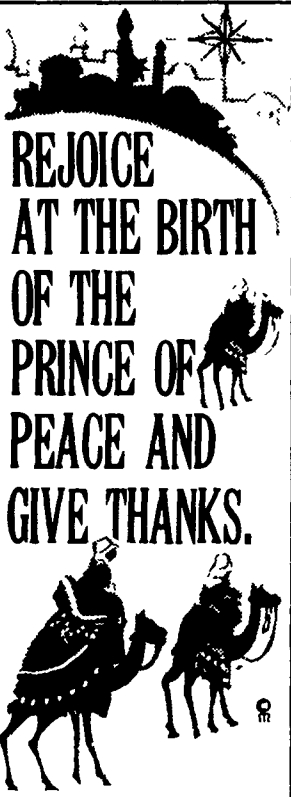


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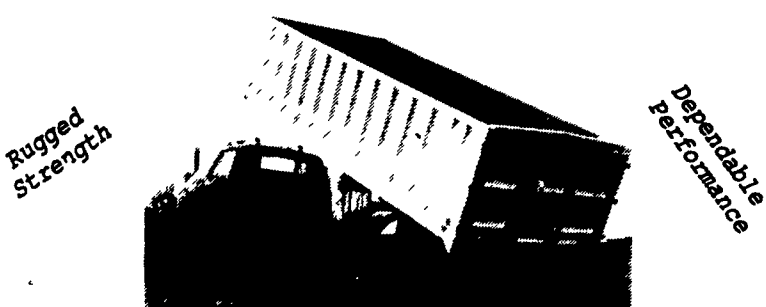
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And so it was that, while they were there the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

LUKE 2:7



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