

## Livestock Notes

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hours) and use of antiprostaglandins and oxytocin may be your best assets. One must question the use of any antibiotics and anti-inflammatory agents. Frequent milking is essential. The rumen has also stopped functioning, so restarting the rumen with another cow's cud or similar products may be valuable to restoring appetite.

The acute infection occurred because of an unsanitary environment. Use of drugs will never solve an environment problem, but new bedding and an active manure removal program may prevent the problem.

Certainly, the three examples do not come close to covering all possible situations, but I did not intend to cover all situations. My point is very simple. If it is not a Strep. ag. infection, why are you treating it? Why keep looking for a magic drug? There are none. Instead, identify the organism causing the problem and change your management program to prevent the problem.

The cost of lactation therapy is very high with little or no benefit. Lactation therapy also results in a false security as clinical signs seem to disappear after therapy but the bacteria is still present. A CMT testor DHI SCC run 2-3 weeks after treatment will tell farmers of the high failure rate of lactation therapy.

The extensive use of antibiotics not only increases risk of additional mammary gland infections, but also increases the risk of antibiotic residues in milk and meat. The dairy industry has and will be more closely monitoring milk supplies for residues starting January 1, 1992.

In summary, lactation therapy for organisms other than Strep. ag. is not cost effective nor efficacious. Reliance on therapy only delays implementation of a mastitis prevention and control program. Mastitis problems can be solved through good management. Lactation therapy should be used as a management tool and not to hide management problems. Next time you grab a syringe containing antibiotics to treat mastitis ask yourself why am I doing this and will it benefit the cow and my cash flow?

### Lamb and Wool Marketing

A new resource is available to aid sheep producers in the direct marketing of lamb and wool. Dr. Steve Umberger, Sheep Specialist at VPI and SU has recently published a guide entitled "Direct Marketing Lambs and Wool to the Public."

If you are interested in this publication, call or write Umberger at: VPI & SU, Department of Animal Science, Blacksburg, VA 24061, (703) 231-9159.

### William R. Henning

#### Penn State Animal Services

A new anti-beef book entitled "Beyond Beef" by Jeremy Rifkin will be released soon. The fact that Rifkin is the author increases the chances that the media will quote from the book. He is a well-known activist and a compelling spokesperson. You may recall his previous efforts to prevent the use of BST. Now, he has attacked the cattle industry and the cattle culture.

The book certainly supports the premise of many activists that Americans should "eat lower on

the food chain." If one word could be used to describe the motive of the book, it is vegetarianism. "Beyond Beef," subtitled "The Rise and Fall of the Cattle Culture," represents a total and complete elimination of the cattle industry worldwide. Cattle are referred to as the second most destructive force on earth — second only to the automobile.

"Cattle literally threaten the future of the earth," asserts the author.

The book is highly critical of USDA meat inspection, concluding that their Seal of approval offers no protection to the public from contaminated meat. It also contains a section on the diet-disease allegations surrounding fat and cholesterol. It doesn't con-

tain any new material on these subjects, although the section on meat inspection is quite vivid and will probably be effective in creating a negative image among readers.

### Endangered Livestock: Swine

Swine provide more animal protein for human diets globally than any other animal except poultry. Yet swine breeds (along with poultry) are the most endangered of all livestock, both in North America and around the world.

Some dramatic facts have been turned up by the 1990-1991 American Minor Breeds Conservancy (AMBC) livestock census. There is only one North American herd of Gloucester Old Spot pigs, and only three herds of Large Blacks. Both breeds are globally threatened.

Two herds of Saddleback swine, a breed thought extinct, were discovered as part of the census research.

Other facts:

• There may be as few as five breeders of traditional Berkshires in the United States and Canada.

• The number of Ossabow Island pigs has increased on the mainland, but the future of the Island population is far from secure.

• Red Wattle/Waddle pigs have three registries, but only one would give information to the telephone census inquiry. The response was not encouraging. Fewer than 50 pigs were registered last year, but fainting goat registrations are doing real good.

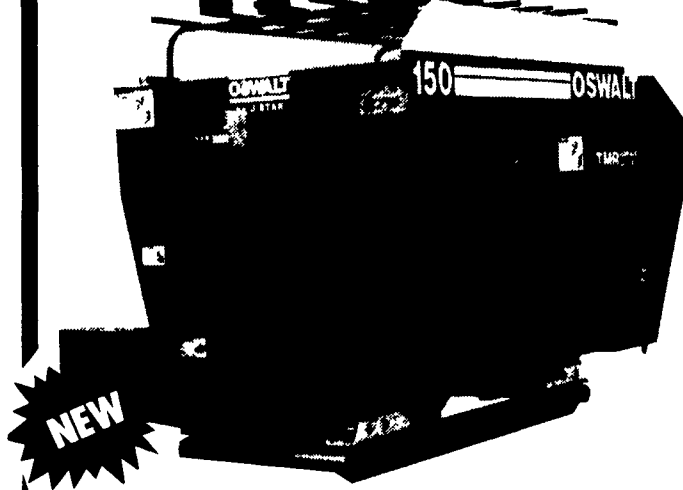
The very small number of breeders for several breeds of pigs is even more compelling when received in the context of the information gathered in the AMBC member-funded extinction project published in 1991. Of the dozen breeds which have disappeared in the last century, eight were breeds of swine.

As the pork industry becomes even more specialized and intensive, the variability between breeds is reduced. This means less diversity within breeds and less diversity between breeds.



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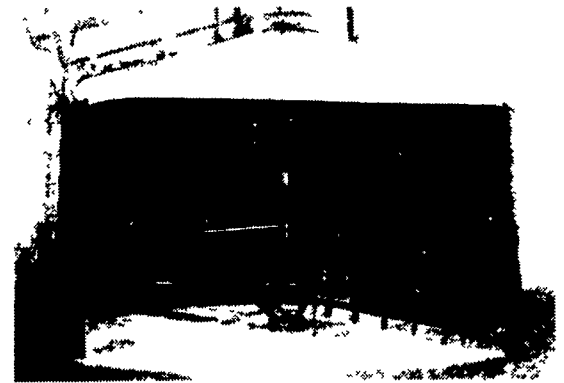
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