

Good Forage Values Evident In Feed For Top-Producing Cows

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — It has been known for some time that the more you give a cow to eat, the more milk it can produce.

But dairy farmers should be aware that the quality of forage fed will greatly contribute to production. That quality has to come in the form of high relative feed value on the forage analysis.

Dr. Tim Snyder, professional animal scientist with Pennfield, spoke to about 100 Pennfield customers and their families at the awards and recognition banquet Wednesday. His talk spoke about setting up the right feeding program for your herd. Snyder introduced a new feed to help improve production while helping to fight "droopy cow syndrome" (also known as subclinical milk fever).

Milk fever can be caused by too much potassium levels (often brought upon by crop fertility programs) in the feed.

By controlling potassium levels, according to Snyder, dairy farmers can keep their cows healthy and free of the syndrome.

One way to fight droopy cow syndrome is through a counterbalance by feeding a diet high in anions (negatively charged elements), available through a special Pennfield feed, the 55500 dry/fresh transition feed. The three weeks prior to freshening is stress-

ful for the cow. Cows in transition from drying to freshening are fed 6 to 8 pounds per head for three weeks pre-fresh.

Snyder outlined the "road map" for nutrient levels for the top herds. The map should be used to develop good rations, he said. Look to your salesman to help fine-tune the feeding program, he told the Pennfield customers.

Feed for a milking cow will depend on how much production is needed. The top seven or eight herds in Pennfield's President Club program, milking 25,000 pounds or more per individual lactation, include a forage NDF that averages to about 22 (the "chewing effect," which relates to how much the cow will finally consume).

It is important is to keep feed in front of the cows at all time. Also, relative feed value (RFV) on a forage analysis in the end is more important than total protein. (An RFV of greater than 151 is desir-

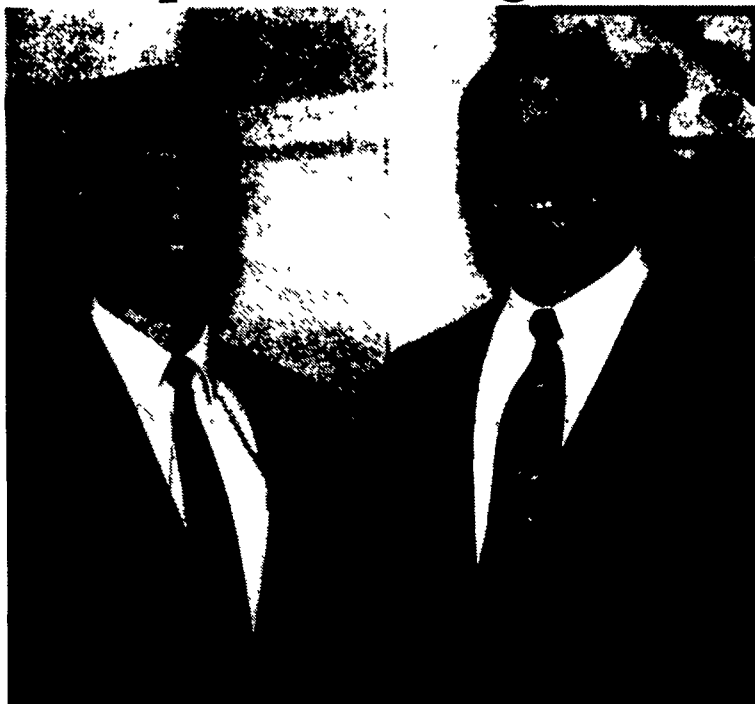
able for prime forage for top-producing cows.)

Snyder outlined Pennfield's ongoing Quality Pledge and their quality assurance programs to maintain the highest quality of feed.

Dr. Normand St-Pierre, professional animal scientist, spoke about the manufacture and use of various types of bypass protein, critical to bolster milk and milk protein levels. St-Pierre spoke about obtaining the best quality bypass protein to ensure palatability, digestibility, and balance for the cows.

Handling and overall management of bypass protein is critical for a feed program. Bypass protein is sensitive to heat.

Dairy farmers should seek help from various sources in choosing the best type of bypass protein. He told those at the banquet to get help from a nutritionist, or consult the feed salesman "or someone who has delivered results for you on your farm."



Dr. Tim Snyder, right, and Dr. Normand St-Pierre, professional animal scientists with Pennfield, spoke to about 100 Pennfield customers and their families at the awards and recognition banquet Wednesday.

Maryland Grange Opposes Merger

MT. AIRY, Md. — A new bill is being introduced during the 1993 Session of the Maryland General Assembly that would abolish the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Natural Resources and combine

their programs in a new Department of Land and Water Resources, which would become effective July 1, 1994.

The Maryland State Grange is in opposition to such a merger. According to the State

Master—Maurice L. Wiles, "It is our belief that the Department of Agriculture was founded on the principle of service to agriculture. We are concerned that any such merger would, in effect, reduce services to agriculture and take

away the voice of those it was intended to serve, the farmers."

If this bill is passed, it will abolish the Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources, require a comprehensive plan to consolidate the functions, staff and units currently under the two departments, and require a 20 percent reduction in the funds budgeted for fiscal 1994 for the two agencies.

This will result in the elimination of staff and programs. The idea of combining both agencies has been rejected by the governor.

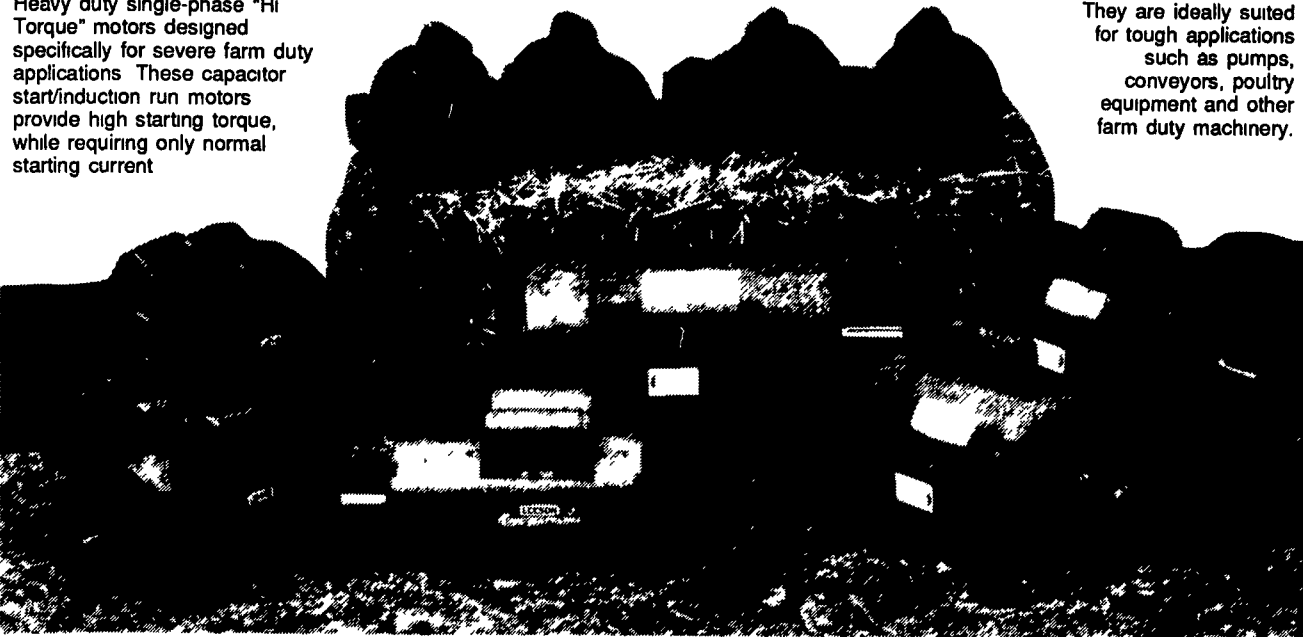
The Grange is encouraging a letter writing campaign to the Speaker of the House, President of the Senate, Chairman of the Environmental Matters Committee and members of the Committee in opposition of this move.

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