

Alternative Farming Practices May Bring Success

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ens, she will rely on her fat reserves for energy.

Ideally, Heinrichs said, the weight of a cow should fluctuate, with it dropping at the start of lactation until it reaches its lowest point (of not less than 2, but preferably just below 3), then begin

rising again for the breeding period, with the last third of the lactation period used for putting on fat.

All the while, the cow's feed should be changing.

Heinrichs said a high protein diet is good, but a high grain diet is not because it creates a lot of acid which can disturb the diges-

tive tract. Forages such as corn silage, haylage and hay should be 1.6 to 1.8 pounds per hundred pounds of body weight.

While the diet can consist of 50 to 60 percent corn silage, grain should be limited to 3 to 5 pounds. It is important that right before freshening, the corn silage and

legumes should be limited and the grain increased to .5 percent of the body weight.

As Heinrichs stressed, by spending time catering to the changes and feeding needs of dry cows, the farmer should experience a greater success rate in breeding and a higher production in milk.

Other programs at the county's Dairy Day included small group discussions in the afternoon on "What is Low SCC Worth?" by area Farm Management Agent Lehan Power and DHIA area rep. Di-

ane McIlwain; "Where Are The Dollars-Pasture Budgets," with Ford; "Maximizing Dry Matter Intake," with Heinrichs; and a hands-on demonstration recognizing mastitis and dissecting cow udders with Dr. Mark Roberts of the Pine City Veterinary Clinic.

PSU also held a Forage Satellite Program in conjunction with the dairy day at the fairgrounds where farmers learned about forage establishment and pest control, complete with pesticide credits earned by those who watched the program broadcast via satellite.

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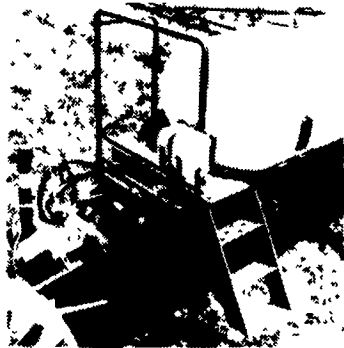
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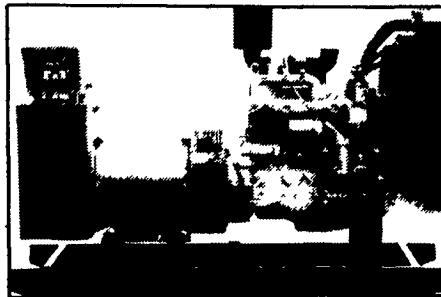
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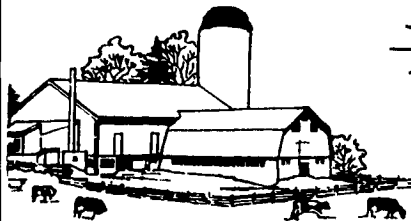
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