

Ask Me A Question, I'll Look It Up

GEORGE F.W. HAENLEIN
Extension Dairy Specialist
University of Delaware
NEWARK, Del. — On the nutrition, feeds and feeding at least. This is not a commercial or an endorsement.

It's simply a review of probably the most comprehensive and up-to-date source of information dairy producers can find anywhere, and at a bargain price of only \$15.

I am looking at the 1993 Feedstuffs Reference that was just issued as volume 65, number 30. Published by the Miller Publishing Co. in Des Moines, Iowa (P.O. Box 11652, 50340-1652), the reference contains 278 pages.

Four sections of this volume

deal with all possible and related aspects of animal feeding: feed marketing and distribution, animal nutrition and health, feed milling, buyers guide and directory. Like most dairy farmers, I am most interested in the nutrition and health section.

It contains chapters and extensive tables on the latest feed analyses, covering 12 minerals including copper, zinc and selenium; gross nutrients; specific energy values for ruminants, poultry, swine; 10 vitamins; and 12 amino acids in 368 feeds.

The feeds section will be of particular interest for dairy farmers who try to formulate their least-cost rations with maybe unusual but sometimes bargain feeds such as bakery byproducts, canola

meal, vegetable fat, feathermeal, poultry manure and sorghum.

There are even browse feeds that dairy goat farmers want to know more about, such as acorns, apples, apple pomace, banana skins, cabbage, grape pomace, pumpkins, sagebrush, sunflower seeds and tree leaves.

The tables and discussions are logically followed by chapters and tables on the nutrient requirements of swine, beef cattle, dairy cattle, poultry, goats and sheep, horses, dogs and cats, as elaborated on in National Research Council bulletins and other recent research publications. Also covered are diseases of swine, cattle, poultry and cultured finfish.

Each chapter is authored by internationally known experts in their respective fields, like Drs. D. Bath, University of California; T.W. Perry, Purdue University; D. Hillman, Michigan State University; E.A. Ott, University of Florida.

The marketing section furnishes valuable details about trends in feed prices, feed consumption, production and animal statistics both in the United States (by state and region) and worldwide.

Do you know which livestock in the United States eats the most commercial feed?

In 1992, poultry consumed 25.3 million metric tons; hogs, 23.3; and beef 19.2. Dairy cattle consumed only 11.1 metric tons, even though 152 billion pounds of milk were produced, measured against 41 million pounds of red meat and 25 million pounds of poultry.

Any more arguments on who is most efficient in the conversion from non-edible feeds to human foods?

Which state has the most milk cows? Wisconsin, with 1.7 million head followed by California, 1.2

million.

Which state has the most dairy farms? Wisconsin, followed by Pennsylvania and Minnesota.

The farm product that also interests Delaware, Maryland and Pennsylvania farmers is broilers, but Arkansas has the most, with 1 billion. Maryland is 7th, with 280 million broilers; Delaware is 8th, with 246 million; and Pennsylvania ranks 14th, with 117 million.

However, Pennsylvania comes in 2nd, behind California, for laying hens — 20 million — and is 8th in turkey production, with 8 million. Delaware and Maryland don't rank in the top 15 leading states for layers or turkeys.

The feed milling section of the 1993 Feedstuffs Reference offers abundant information on terminology, ingredient definitions, federal and state feed regulations, feed labeling, custom feed mixing, medicated feed regulations, quality control and mycotoxins in feeds — an extremely important chapter for today's dairy producer.

This section also contains conversion formulae for metric to bushels, inches, pounds, gallons,

and apparent densities of dry feed ingredients in pounds per cubic foot. The latter chapter is very useful for dairy farmers who must formulate rations for high-milking dairy cows. These cows require a much greater nutrient density than the usual farm ration composed of hay, silage and pasture.

Finally, section 4 has extensive directories on every possible feed supply company, association, product, service and equipment, with only a minimum of advertisement.

The 1993 Feedstuffs Reference is a highly useful resource, even the chapters on disease. These include cattle diseases; the cost per animal for certain treatments and practices, along with the expected return; an annual herd health calendar that lists by month as well as disease organism, including internal and external parasites; a list of drugs approved for milking cows plus minimum hours of withholding times; and formulations for fly and other insect controls.

Every livestock farmer, especially those with dairy animals, would benefit from having this reference within easy reach.

USDA Extends Insurance Deadline

DAUPHIN (Dauphin Co.) — The USDA has extended the deadline until the end of the month for purchasing multiple peril crop insurance for crops grown during the 1994 season.

According to a news release this week from the Dauphin County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), the closing dates have been extended to Oct. 31 for wheat, barley, oats, and rye.

"In order to be eligible for 1993 disaster benefits, Dauphin County producers should purchase 1994 crop insurance if it is possible that the 1993 loss for the commodity for which payments are being sought is greater than 65 percent of the expected production," stated the news release, giving no specific attribution.

However, according to the news

release, buying the insurance does not lock a producer into actually carrying it through.

"Insurance purchased to meet the multiple peril crop insurance requirement can be canceled if it is later determined that crop insurance is not required."

The notice is clear that those who may be considering delaying application for disaster benefits until after the deadline in order to escape the requirement will not find relief.

"Producers cannot avoid the crop insurance requirement by delaying the filing of a request for disaster benefits until after the crop insurance sales closing dates."

Those who feel they may qualify for 1993 crop disaster payments should contact their local ASCS office. In Dauphin County, the telephone number is (717) 921-2378.

NOW OPEN

PENN STATE SEED Co.

224 MAPLE AVENUE, BIRD-IN-HAND, PA 17505

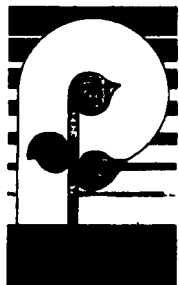
(At The Former Geo. K. Groff Location)

Official Distributor Of:

Kord Containers, Armin Plastics, Sunshine Mix & Other Leading Horticultural Products

- Vegetable Seeds
- Flower Seeds
- Greenhouses
- Containers
- Coverings
- Equipment
- Herbicides
- Fungicides
- Insecticides
- Growing Media
- Fertilizers
- Heaters & Fans

It Will Be Our Privilege To Service All Of Your Greenhouse & Nursery Needs!



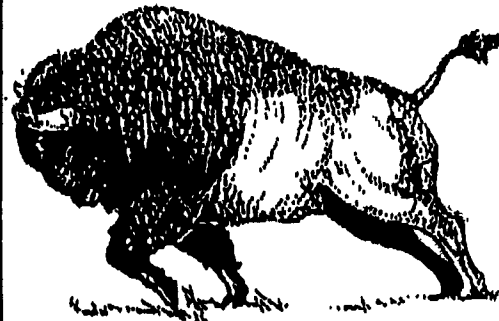
PENN STATE SEED Co.

224 MAPLE AVENUE

BIRD-IN-HAND, PA 17505

717-295-9808 • 800-917-7333

Servicing
Southern PA,
MD, DE,
Northern VA,
and WV
From
Bird-In-Hand



Buffalo
**AUCTION
and
FESTIVAL**

HOLLOW HILL FARM
Paint Bank, VA
(38 miles northwest of
Roanoke, VA 2 miles west of
Paint Bank on Route 600)

**2nd Annual
PURE BUFFALO
Production Sale
October 23, 1993**

Selling 60 BISON at 1 P.M.
Terms: cash or check
(with notarized credit limit)

BUFFALO FESTIVAL includes:
Educational Seminars on
raising buffalo.

MAD ANNE RIFLES
Mountain Man Black Powder
1840 Rendezvous Camp
featuring black powder
shooting, tomahawk and knife
throwing

**Native American
Dancing and Crafts**
Old Time Band Competition
Starting at 9:00 A.M.

Call (703) 897-5786