

Glenn's Udderings

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tionally. This can increase the yields of worn out permanent pastures 2 to 4 fold while also improving the quality of forages consumed.

In the interest of time, apply about 2 tons of limestone per acre plus some fertilizer. In the future, apply lime and fertilizer according to soil test recommendations.

Clip the pastures as needed to control maturity of the grasses and to control weed growth.

Later in the summer, evaluate the quality of the pastures to determine if more aggressive weed control measures are needed, to determine if new pasture species need to be introduced or if the plots need to be reseeded.

Protecting Cows From Sloppy Areas

Another very important concern is keeping cows out of wet, sloppy areas, in an effort to prevent udder, uterine and foot infections. We also want to supply cows with good quality water and we want to maximize their dry matter intakes.

One of the secrets of preventing areas from becoming sloppy, is to promote good drainage and don't let cows linger too long in any one place.

Rotating sacrifice lots and pasture areas keeps cows on the move and helps to protect the sod. Gating cows in the pasture until it is time for them to go to the barn helps prevent the development of muddy loitering areas close to the barn. A concrete or solid surfaced barnyard also helps. So do elevated, well-drained, hard-surfaced cow lanes.

Cows appreciate water and shade. However, shade areas in pastures often end up as infectious

mud holes. They also discourage cows from grazing. Thus, all things considered, providing shade for cows on pasture may not be a good idea.

Similar comments can be made about providing water to cows on pasture. Water in some streams may be unfit for cows to drink. Because of this, some farmers are fencing cows out of streams, and they are piping water to the pasture.

If the watering sites are stationary, they too can become infectious mud holes. To get around this problem, some farmers are using portable waterers; others are talking about putting drinking cups on "tank wagons" and hauling water to cows on pasture.

The other option is to limit the time cows are pastured and bring them to the barn where they have water, shade, feed and a clean place to lie down. Don't turn cows out to pasture for long periods of time and force them to walk to the barn for water for a number of reasons. Once at the barn they'll stay at the barn and dry matter intakes will suffer unless there is feed at the barn. If cows linger at the barn, they'll turn it into a mud hole.

Some pasture areas contain wet, swampy areas, spring runs, etc. Fence cows away from these areas, so you can control when and how long cows have access to them.

If you are looking for ways to provide more grazing for cows in summer, consider grazing some of your hay fields. Or, plant a summer annual such as sudangrass or a sorghum sudan hybrid.

As you pasture cows, remember that feeds and feed quality are constantly changing. Sharp management of pastures will minimize these changes, but you will still need to watch cows closely. Monitor their intakes, milk production, body condition and conception rates closely, and work closely with your nutritionist and veterinarian.

Regional Veal Convention Set

ROARING BRANCH (Tioga Co.) — The third regional veal convention, sponsored by the Pennsylvania and New York Veal Producer associations is to be held in Williamsport, on April 22 and 23, at the Genetti Hotel and Convention Center.

The agenda has been broadened to include more trade show hours and a variety of speakers who will give their presentations twice for the convenience of the attendees.

Speakers who will be added their expertise to the convention are Cynthia Boyer-Blakeslee, an attorney from Lancaster County, who will speak on "The Farmer Has Rights, Too!", and Ken Cheatham, executive director of the American Veal Association.

The Friday night banquet speaker is Dr. Harry Rozmiarek, DVM, Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Rozmiarek is the director of Academic Programs and External Affairs in Laboratory Animal Medicine for the University of Pennsylvania. He will be speaking on the topic, "Animal Care and Use from Different Viewpoints."

A veterinarian panel is being assembled to discuss vaccinations and preventative medicine fol-

lowed by a question and answer session.

Dr. Donald Redman from Ohio State University, and Dr. Todd Smith and Dr. Richard Sommers, practicing veterinarians specializing in veal from Ohio and Indiana, respectively, are three of the experts who are to be available to answer questions and take part in this panel.

Meals are again a focal point of the convention. The veal for the Friday night banquet will be provided by Venuto Veal and Lamb. San Giorgio Pasta Corporation from Hershey, has donated pasta

for the luncheon on Saturday and Catelli Brothers is providing the veal. A sponsored breakfast buffet is being planned for all attendees.

The traditional quilt and clock will be auctioned, and there will be door prizes, gifts, and much information for anyone interested in the veal industry.

In addition, there will be a grand finale to end the show Saturday with door prizes and special presentations.

The contact person for convention information is Carol Jones, RD#1, Box 144, Roaring Branch, PA 17765; phone: (717) 673-8287.

Spring Plowing Show Set

MERTZTOWN (Berks Co.) — The Old Time Plow Boys Club will present their fifth annual Spring Plowing Show on Saturday and Sunday, April 23 and 24.

The show will run 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. both days at the Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center at Kutztown University.

There will be displays and demonstrations of vintage farm

equipment, wagon rides, tractor pulls for all ages, refreshments, and a bake sale. Parking and admission are free.

The Heritage Center Farm is located on Luckenbill Road just off Main St. (Rt. 222) in Kutztown between the college campus and the airport. Call (610) 682-7621 or 398-0951 for more information.

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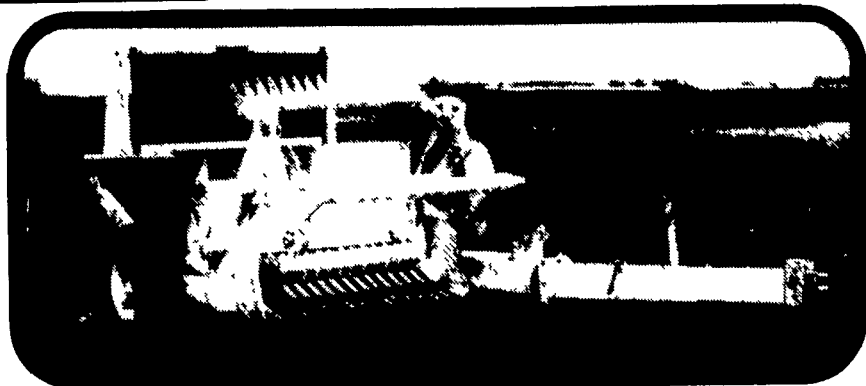
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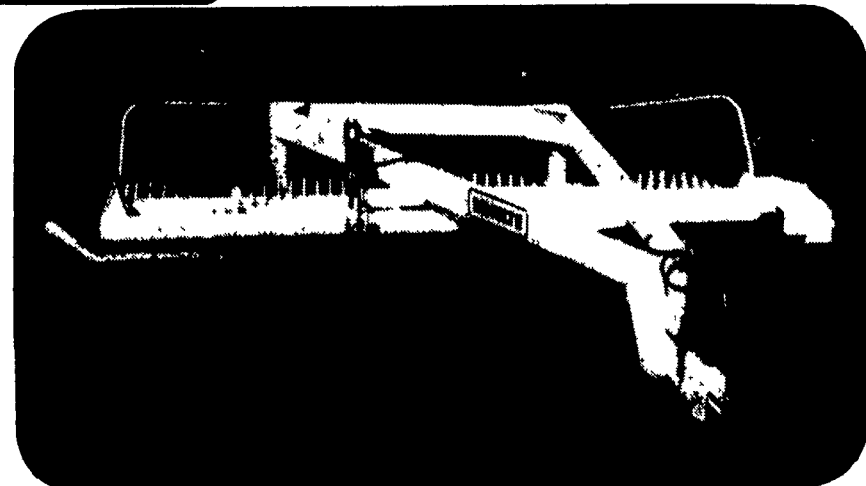
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