

Ladies' Day Out Combines Fun And Education

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Bedford Co. Correspondent
BEDFORD (Bedford Co.) — It was a "ladies day out," at the Dairy Farm Women's Seminar sponsored by the Bedford County Extension Office at the Arena Restaurant. The offerings were varied enough to please everyone.

Setting the pace for those farm wives actively involved in the farming operation was Susan Fox, Bedford County extension agent, who talked on Raising a Profitable Dairy Herd.

Beginning with healthy calves coming from well-fed, healthy, genetically supervised, and well-managed herds, Susan suggested a good diet following weaning with good quality free-choice grain, high quality forage; leafing hay; and plenty of fresh, clean, and abundant water.

From two to six months of age, calves should have four to six pounds of grain daily with 16% crude protein.

Limited pasturing can begin from four to six months with additional grain and supplemental hay. A healthy herd begins with con-

sulting your veterinarian on vaccinations. Be certain to include fly and lice control as well as worming.

"Young cattle can pick up worms from droplets of water on the grass," Susan explains. "And worms can rob a young cow of a lot of nutrition."

"Calves are a lot like children, more susceptible to disease."

Maturing calves need proper housing and when possible, should be grouped in lots of 3 to 5 animals with an age spread of no more than two months.

A large pen, gated free stall, counter slope barn, and gated bedded pad with 25 feet of square foot space; 18 inches of feed space; and minimal contact with older animals is recommended.

Full pasturing can begin at nine months with an additional trace of mineral sale. In the spring, add one ounce of magnesium oxide, bloat control, and grain.

The cost of raising a heifer can vary from a low of \$892.53 to a high of \$1,514.52 with an average of \$1,225.27.

"Heifers," concluded Susan,



At the conclusion of the meeting each of the 18 ladies present made a "tussy mussy" of dried flowers. Demonstrating the craft is Tony Blith of the Blair County Extension Office.

"are the teenagers on your farm. And, they can't be ignored." Recommended calving weight for those matured heifers is about 1,200 pounds.

Concluding this portion of the program with a survey on group heifer feeding management the following conclusions were reached.

Dietary crude protein level on an as-fed basis should be 16 to 18% for six month old heifers; 14 to 16% for 12 month old heifers; and 12 to 14% for 18 month old heifers.

Average calving age goal should be 24 months with about 2/3 still calving at greater than 22 to 24 months.

Calf-heifer mortality rate should be kept under 5%.

Desirable weights are 400

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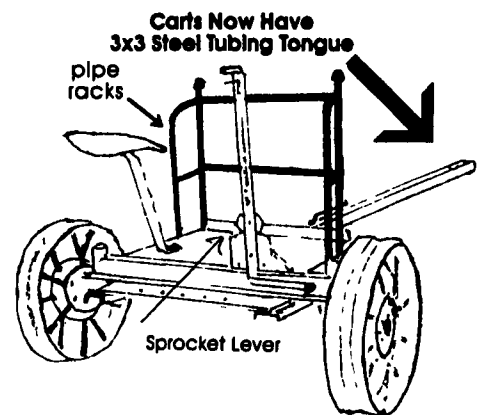
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