No Question About It: Dairy Industry Has The Answer

TOWSON, Md. — There's no dairy question too tough, or trival, for the staff of Dairy Management, Inc.'s (DMI) Information Resources Center in Rosemont. III.

Mary Van Sickle and Karin Rausert field hundreds of questions every year - mostly from local DAIRY COUNCILS® across the country which, in turn, have received calls from everyone from authors to homemakers to home economists. What do people ask most often about dairy products? Here is a sampling of questions Van Sickle and Rausert have received in the past few months,

JUNE IS DAIRY MONTH

along with the answers.

Q: How much calcium do nurtitionists recommend in our daily diets? Besides building strong bones, are there any other health benefits to calcium?

A: The National Institutes of Health expert panel recommends 1,000 milligrams a day for adult men (25-65) and women (25-50); 1,000-1,500 for women after menopause; 1,500 mg for men and . women over 65, and 1,200-1,500 mg for males and females age 11-24: A calcium-rich diet has also been found to prevent high blood pressure and reduce the risk of colon cancer and kidney stones.

Milk and dairy foods are clearly with a cold. the easiest and most popular sources of calcium, so drinking three glasses (or more) of milk a day is good advise for people of all ages. The beta-carotene in milk has been linked to deceased incidences of heart attacks and deaths due to heart disease.

Q: Does drinking milk really make a cold worse?

A: That's an old wives' tale. Drinking milk does not cause an increase in congestion or nasal secretions, according to Australian researchers. A milk allergy can produce a stuffy or runny nose, which might be confused

Q: What does the "REAL" logo on dairy products really mean?

A: The "REAL"® Seal is a registered trademark of the United Dairy Industry Association. It identifies genuine dairy products that meet Food and Drug Administration (FDA) standards of identity regulating product uniformity, value and wholesomeness. Standards of identity govern such things as the moisture content of cheese, the weight per gallon of ice cream and the milkfat content of cream.

Q: Can my ice cream be refro-

zen once it has thawed? A: Yes, but you may not like the taste of it. As ice cream thaws, some of its water content, in the form of tiny ice crystals, will separate from the fat content and reform into larger ice crystals giving the ice cream an icy (grainy) texture.

Q: How do I go about making butter, cheese or ice cream at home?

A: Ask your local public library to help you find books on the subject and check them out. Other sources of information are home economists at local colleges and county agricultural extension services.

Q: How can I make sure my milk and other dairy products are fresh when I buy them?

A: Dairy products are highly perishable, so consumers have to be extra careful — in the store and at home. Check the "sell-by" date after which the product should be withdrawn from retail sale. Generally, products remain fresh and usable for a few days after the sellby date. In the store, check containers for leaks and other damage and put dairy products in your cart at the end of your shopping trip just before checking out, especially in hot weather. Once home, refrigerate products at once.

Callers to the DMI Information Resources Center don't always have weighty questions. Consider these:

Q: Is it really true that drinking milk is the best way to cool my tongue after eating hot peppers?

A: Yes, this is not an old wives' tale. Casein, the main protein in milk, acts like a detergent, washing away capsaicin, the substance that gives hot peppers their "fire."

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Q: Why does a milking stool have three legs?

A: If it had two legs, it would fall over. Seriously, a reliable dairy source claims that it is easier to balance three legs (as opposed to four) on an uneven surface such as a barn floor.

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