

Dairy Conference Reviews

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from a developed rumen.

By maintaining the energy levels calves get in the correct way, increasing protein relative to energy, and providing enough rumen-available carbohydrates early enough could be the keys to lifetime milk production.

Also, when regarding the changes to the NRC book, it's critical to look at complete management issues, including the environment and housing — not just the foodstuffs.

For heifers particularly, Heinrichs noted, the feed component "has a high impact on growth, health, and lifetime milk production."

Terry Etherton, department head of Penn State Dairy and Animal Science, said that in 2-3 years, Pennsylvania could rank as Number 3 in the country in milk production and cows.

In the year 2007 versus 1997, states that will increase production will be located in the west and southwest regions of the country.

Yet science still has some mysteries to uncover, particularly through research, to explain production. One cow in North Carolina generates 72,000 pounds of milk in a year. What makes that cow different from a commonplace 20,000-pound producer?

"They use the same metabolic pathways," said Etherton. But clearly, the North Carolina cow uses nutrients more efficiently — a frontier that scientists "still don't understand very well," he said.

But management of feeds can prove costly. Already Penn State researchers have shown that bad forage quality can cost producers \$100,000 a year in a 100-cow herd, said Etherton.

Nutritionists and herd managers must work together to cope with changes and challenges within the industry.

"If you don't change, you're static," Etherton said. "And if you're static, you're going to be sunk."

At the conference Tuesday afternoon, attendees took part in a hands-on forage analysis workshop.

Tim Beck, regional dairy program coordinator, and Virginia Ishler, extension assistant from State College, conducted the workshop.

Lisa Holden, Penn State associate professor, and Richard Stup, senior extension associate, provided a workshop on "interface areas" regarding managing dairy personnel and providing tools for a happy and productive work environment.



Tim Beck, Penn State regional dairy program coordinator, provides information on silage identification and troubleshooting during the dairy nutrition workshop.

ASA'S 33rd Annual Meeting Convention Set For Denver

BOZEMAN, Mont. — The American Simmental Association (ASA) will conduct its 33rd Annual Meeting and Convention in Denver, Colorado, January 13-17, 2001. It will be held in conjunction the Simmental cattle activities at the prestigious National Western Stock Show and Rodeo.

"We invite all interested members and friends of ASA to participate," said ASA Executive Vice President Jerry Lipsey.

"The most unique aspect of this convention is that all meetings are scheduled for the evening. Our members will have their days free for show activities and other cattle events, while still being able to attend and participate in association meetings." The DoubleTree Hotel at 3203 Quebec Street, near the old Stapleton Airport, will once again serve as Simmental Convention headquarters. Rooms may be reserved by telephoning

303-321-3333 and referring to the "Simmental room block." Reservation deadline is December 30, 2000.

Additional Convention information may be obtained by calling ASA at (406) 587-4531.

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