

June is Dairy Month

Supplement to the Winchester Press
Wednesday, June 4, 1997



Cover photo

This year's cover photo , taken by Agricultural reporter Dianne Fetterly, features Vreisdale Skychief Candy owned by Henry and Rita Velthuis of Mountain.

Washing pesticide contaminated clothing

Cotton and polyamide coveralls and clothing normally worn under any protective garments should be laundered after each day of spraying.

The following procedure is suggested to ensure thorough cleaning by the Farm Safety Association:

1. Store pesticide-contaminated clothes in disposable plastic garbage bags prior to washing.

2. Use rubber gloves to handle the clothing.

3. Treat contaminated areas of the clothes with a pre-wash additive.

4. Avoid overcrowding of clothes in the washing machine.

5. Pre-rinse clothing, using the pre-soak cycle.

6. Use hot water.

7. Use the full water level and set the machine for the normal wash cycle.

8. Use a heavy duty detergent.

9. If clothes are heavily contaminated, repeat the wash cycle two or three times.

10. To prevent contamination of the dryer, hang clothes out to dry.

11. Run the washing machine through a full cycle with hot water after use to ensure thorough rinsing of contaminants.

Creditor loan insurance

submitted by
The Bank of Montreal,
Winchester

The farm is your investment. You've worked hard to build it and had your financial partners assist you on the way.

One financial toll that is often overlooked is Creditor Loan Insurance. It can be very important in balancing your financial commitments and guarding against possible financial disaster.

You can have peace of mind and convenience when you purchase creditor loan insurance, knowing your farm operations can continue free of any insured loans in the event of death, or in the event of dismemberment with specified amounts available for payment towards insured loans. And it's easy to apply for.

Coverage is available to borrowers, guarantors and any participating members of a Feeder Association.

Premiums are generally based on the age of the applicant and type of financing facility. It is a small price to pay when considering the financial hardships faced without having adequate coverage.

Creditor loan insurance is especially important if you play a major role in the operation of your farm. Coverage may be purchased for operating lines, term loans and mortgages.

In most cases, if you are in satisfactory health, an in depth health questionnaire is not necessary and upon making an application, you will qualify for coverage automatically.

There are various providers of creditor insurance, so it pays to shop around. Some insurance companies will provide group plans through financial institutions, others will offer insurance directly to individuals.

Usually, the cost of group insurance is lower than individual coverage. Also, some insurance companies offer more competitive rates if you are a non-smoker and some even provide more competitive rates based on whether you are male or female.

You've worked hard to build your investment, so protect yourself against unforeseen circumstances. Consider creditor loan insurance. Speak to your banker or insurance broker for more details.



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Fixed or floating rate loans?

submitted by the Bank of Montreal, Winchester

With interest rates at historically low levels, many borrowers are asking themselves whether they should lock in floating rate loans at fixed interest rates. The answer depends on a number of factors and is unique to each situation.

The first factor to consider is: "Does the loan have the option to fix the interest rate?" Most loans do have this option, or it can usually be added if requested. Some operating loans also have the option to fix interest rates, although usually for terms of under one year.

Loans under the Farm Improvement and Marketing Loan Cooperatives Act (FIMCLA) can have the interest rate fixed as well for one to five-year terms.

The second consideration would be the rate at which the loan could be fixed. Because you are requesting a commitment for a specific period of time, a premium over the floating rate is usually required.

Thirdly, the ability to prepay the loan beyond the agreed normal payments. In most cases, when the interest rate is fixed, you are also limited or unable to prepay the loan in full or in part.

Fixed rate loans are available, however, they may require a higher premium over prime than a closed fixed rate loan. Some lenders do allow the prepayment of 10 to 15 per cent of the original loan amount, so it is wise to discuss this option with your financial institution.Another consideration is that in some cases additional fees may be incurred for revision of legal documents, to commit to the financing, or to offset the cost of establishing fixed rate facilities.

The final major consideration is how an increase in interest rates would effect the financial stability of your business. If interest rates move significantly upwards, will that affect your debt servicing ability to the point where financial commitments could not be met? If this is the case, serious consideration should be given to fixing some or all of the loans.

It is not an easy decision to make as there may be other factors involved in addition to the ones we have mentioned. It is best to sit down with your banker to make an informed decision that will best suit your circumstances.

Penn State particle size separator

by Bill Van Loo, Dairy Advisor, Avonmore

At the outset let me say that this is a tool and not a total solution for determining the fiber and forage needs of the rumen. It is a tool that should be used by dairymen at harvesting as well as when feeding roughages.

At harvest it is wise to use the particle size separator to make sure that the proper proportion of fiber length is being ensiled. If we have extremely fine cut silage we can add hay or a long fiber roughage source to increase cudding and increase the rumen pH.

Rumen pH should be at 5.8 to 6.0 to prevent metabolic disease such as D.A's, acidosis, or laminitis. There is however a problem with the rate of passage. The fine particles pass too quickly in too large a volume from the rumen. Although intakes are excellent, the digestion of this feed is terrible. This of course is very costly.

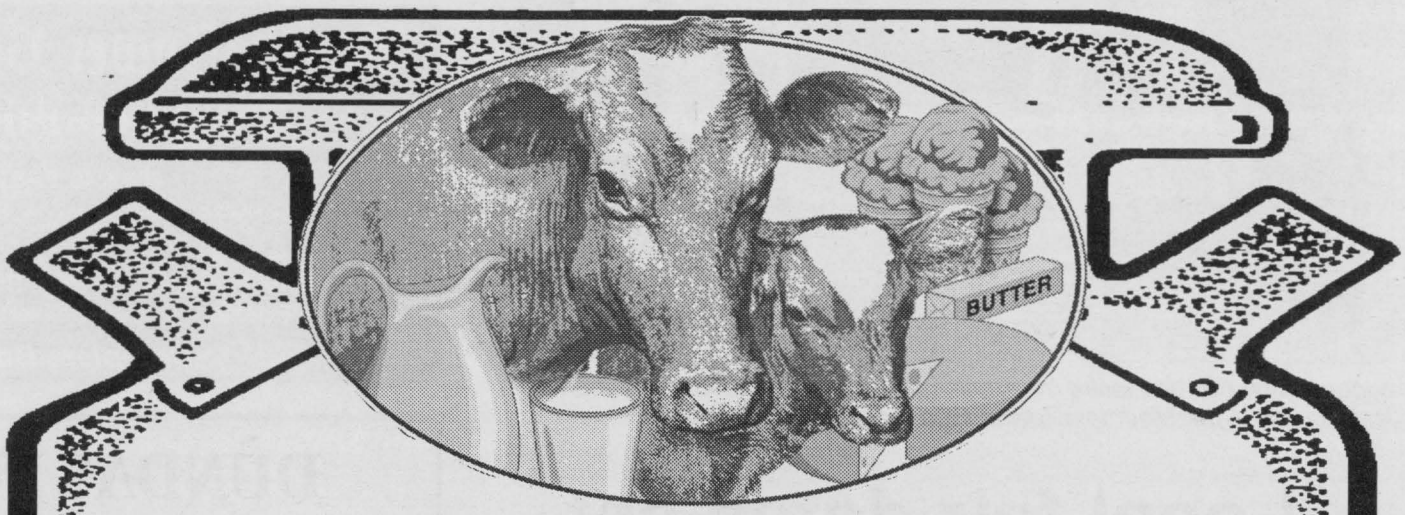
On the flip side, too much long fiber slows the rate of passage too much. Intakes are reduced and this will reduce production. Dairymen in this case will increase concentrates in the ration to increase production. This is also expensive.

In order to prevent problems dairy men should make sure that the theoretical cuts are optimum for the rumen, feed intake, silage fermentation and ease of handling.

There is a lot of interest in increasing corn silage in the ration as it is an excellent source of energy as well as having high production of D.M. per acre. In order to meet the rumen fiber requirements as well as proper fermentation silage processors are being used. These processors allow silage corn cobs and grain to be better digested while preserving the length of the plant fiber. They enable proper packing of the silage and make starches from the grain readily available for the microbes needed to preserve the crop. Ensuring quick fermentation lowers loses of D.M. as well as improving palatability.

The Penn State Separator is available for your use from the Avonmore field office at no cost. It is practical and easy to use. I would be delighted to help you sort out any problems which you might be encountering.

To reiterate, all dairymen should test there forages both at harvest as well as at feeding and adjust what they are doing to achieve the most optimum conditions.



A Salute to Dairy Farmers

June Dairy Month is here and there's no "butter" time than now to express our gratitude to dairy farmers everywhere for the role they play in providing us with a healthier diet and economy. Their many contributions are always appreciated, and it is our pleasure to extend a hearty **"Thanks!"**

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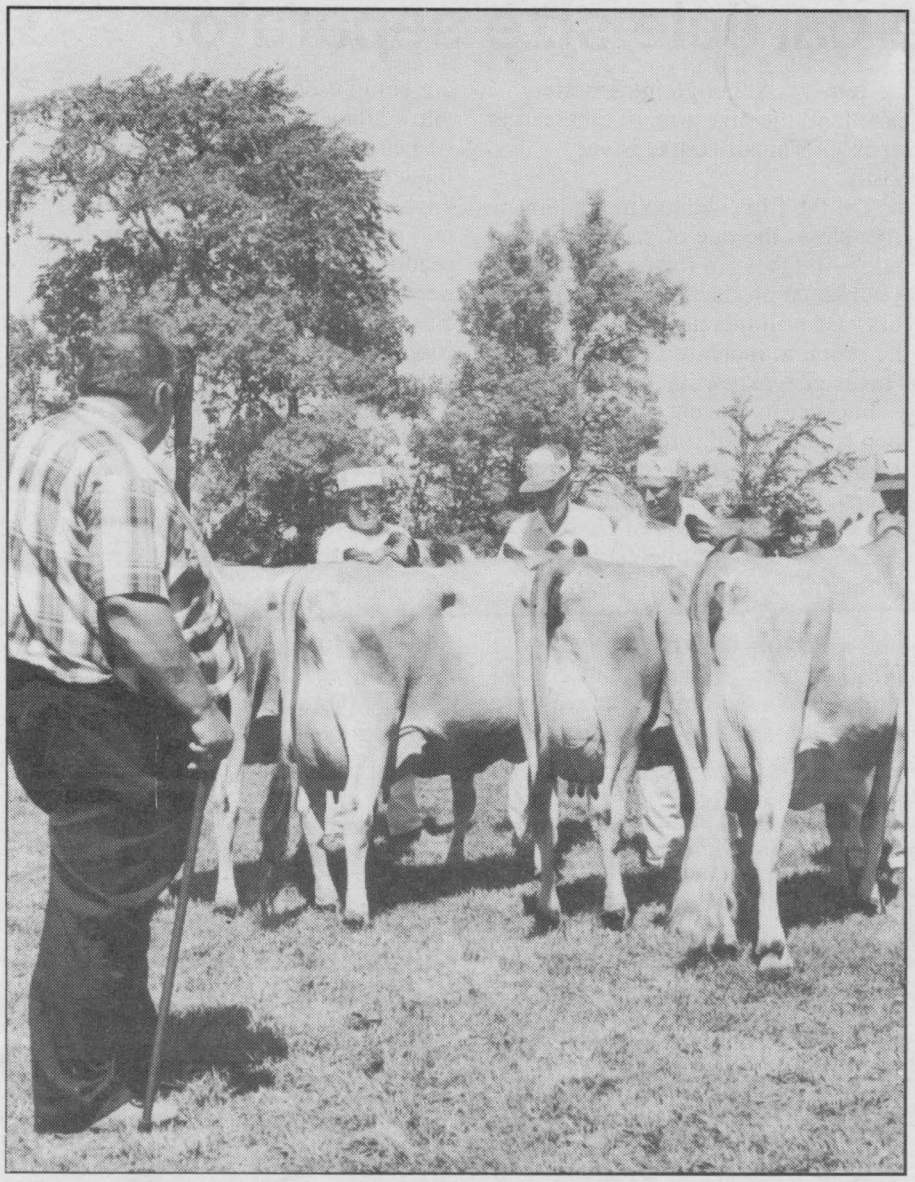

Judge Ralph Fawcett looks over a class of Jersey cows during a show held last August at the Mountain Township Agricultural Society fair.

Press Photo — Fetterly

Local fair dates set

SOUTH MOUNTAIN — Local dairy cattle enthusiasts won't want to miss the cattle shows which are presented at area fairs over the next few months. Most fairs feature shows for Holstein, Jersey and Ayrshire cattle.

The season kicked off May 30 in Maxville with the Spring Show.

Avonmore Fair is set for July 24 - 27, while Merrickville is slated for August 8-10 and Navan for August 7 - 10.

The Mountain Township Agricultural Fair in South Mountain will be held on August 15 - 17 and Chesterville is scheduled for August 22 - 24.

The Stormont County Fair held in Newington is set for August 29 - Sept. 1 and Russell Fair will be held Sept. 5 - 7.

Richmond Fair is scheduled for Sept. 19 - 21, while Metcalfe Fair will be held Oct. 2 - 5.

The fair season finale is the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair slated for Nov. 6 - 15 in Toronto.

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DUNDAS FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE

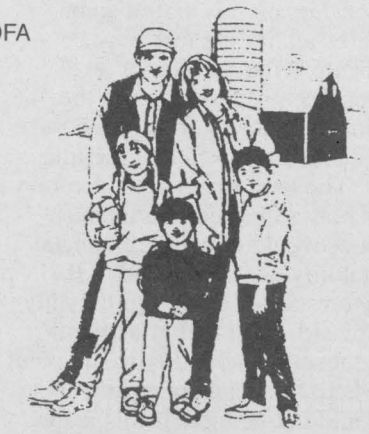
is pleased to take part in celebrating

"June is Dairy Month"

Enjoy a wholesome variety of dairy products and support your local dairy producers.

Dundas County enjoys a wide variety of farming endeavors, including a large percentage of dairy farms.

DFA brings our local issues to the monthly OFA Directors Meetings, ensuring grassroots input. DFA is affiliated with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. Become a member and make our voice stronger.



DFA holds regular monthly meetings in the OMAFRA boardroom, Winchester, the first Wednesday of every month at 8 pm. Please bring any questions or concerns you may have and we will do our best to help.

COMING EVENTS:

July 6 - Family Fun Day, 11 am to 3 pm at the Vanden Bosch Farm, Chesterville. Games and activities for children ages 3 to 12. Visit with your friends and neighbors. Tickets for lunch: ages 12 and up, $5 - under 12 free.

August 15-17 - "Agricultural Experience" tent at Mountain Township Fair

August 22-24 - "Agricultural Experience" tent at Chesterville Fair

October 1 - Regional Meeting, speaker Gerry Gartner, General Manager of OFA

November 24-26 - OFA Convention, theme: "Leading a Growing Community"

EVERYONE WELCOME

"The mission of the OFA is to improve the economic and social well-being of farmers in co-operation with county, commodity and rural farm groups."

Manure management a challenge for farmers

submitted by Henk Huizenga
Ottawa Valley Harvestore

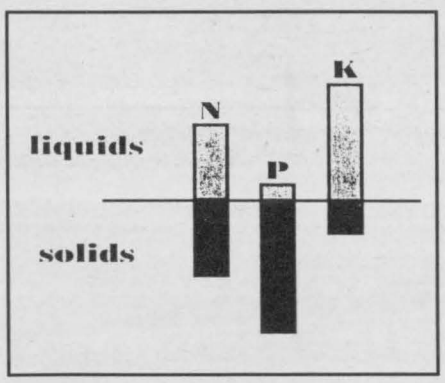
The challenge: What to do with our manure and how to store it in a safe and environmentally friendly manner?

For a livestock farmer, one of the challenges deserving the most attention today is manure management. If you have livestock, you will probably need manure storage and must decide whether it is temporary or permanent. How you store manure will impact your local environment.

You can't pick up a newspaper or magazine today without seeing stories about the environment and new regulations.

So the method you choose is important today and will increase in importance as tougher government regulations are enacted.

If you choose to stock the manure or spread it daily, you are faced with the increased risk of odor, flies, run-off and pollution as well as many of the very nutrients you want to utilize, escape into the area groundwater or surface water.



Fifty per cent of nitrogen and 85 per cent of potash is found in the liquid portion of livestock manure.

If you choose a lagoon or earthen storage, the manure is excessively diluted and the risk of run-off is great. Much of the nitrogen is lost, while phosphorus and potassium are often held in sludge at the bottom since it's hard to get well mixed slurry from a lagoon.

These lost nutrients can also become elements of pollution.

Concrete, in time, deteriorates and cracks.

But manure does not have to be a negative. It can be an important part of a complete nutrient management plan.

A liquid, homogeneous manure blend is slurry. Slurry is a superior way to handle manure as a fertilizer substitute. It's produced by your livestock and it can be a rick source of nitrogen, potassium and phosphorus.

Why collect liquids? Because found in the liquid portion of livestock waste is 50 per cent of the nitrogen and 85 per cent of the potassium as produced by the animal.

Research shows that 30 tons of dairy cow slurry, the amount produced by 1.5 mature cows consuming a balanced diet, in a year's time can provide the total nitrogen fertilizer needs for one acre of 150 bushel per acre corn.

The same is true for 10 hogs weighing 200 pounds or 2.5 beef cows, weighing 1,000 pounds.

Knowing the value of manure does not making handling it any less of a big, messy and difficult chore. Daily spreading is inconvenient, takes a lot of time and lots of hard labor in all kinds of weather. Regularly spreading on your fields, through rain and snow, is tough, time consuming and uses a lot of energy. Run-off can be a significant problem.

A challenge associated with manure management is safety. Fences offer some protection but perhaps not enough. An unprotected lagoon maybe a threat to your family, especially children. Lagoons and other below ground storage methods may be traps for unsuspecting animals.

Faced with these challenges, what is needed for efficient manure management?

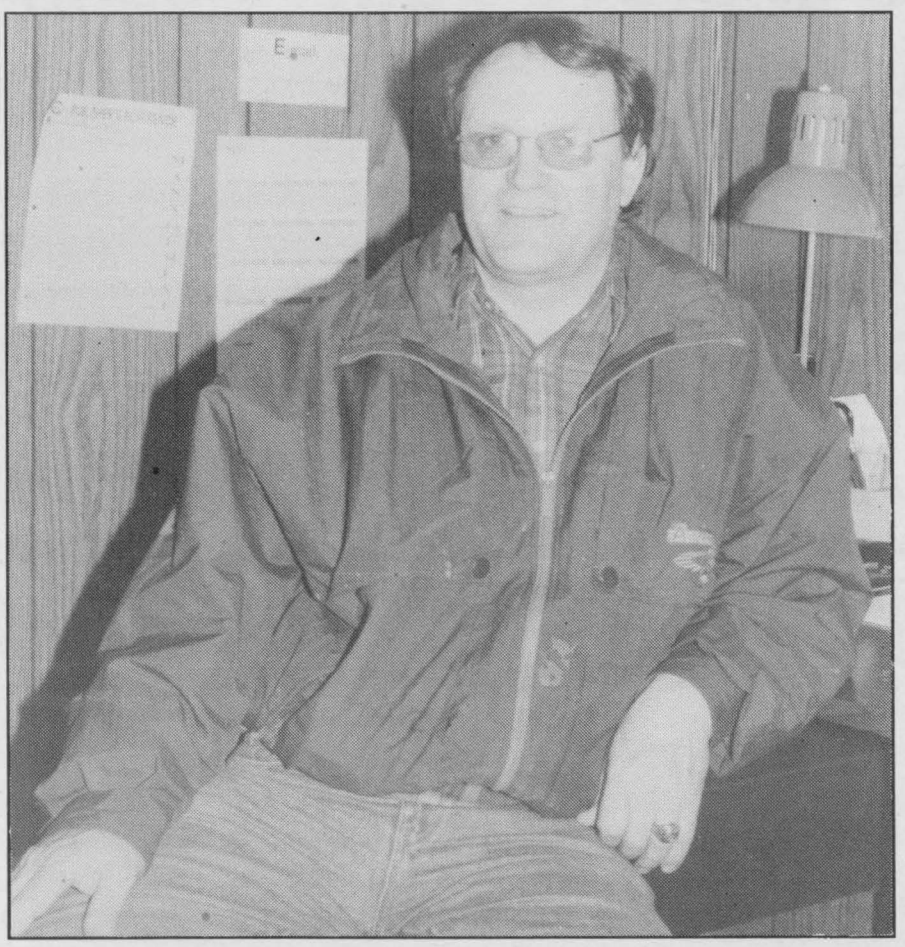
— Your manure management system should be a positive containment system, one that uses an engineered design as well as quality materials and workmanship to help you keep manure in its place until you are ready to use it.

— Next, it should be a 'nutrient friendly' system, one that can retain much of manure's nutrients.

— The system should address current environmental concerns and be approved by Environment Canada.

— It should have a degree if adaptability to concerns of the future, be convenient, durable and above all, safe.

The next step is figuring how to apply the manure and where to put it. The best way to apply it is to inject it into the ground. You prevent leaching and nutrient loss and reduce the odors.



Henk Huizenga works for Ottawa Valley Harvestore. Press photo–Fetterly

Today, with the new Global Position System mapping, the farmer is able to find out exactly where to put fertilizer and therefore, save money and protect the environment.

If managed properly, liquid manure can provide an excellent source of nutrients for crops. However, if handled improperly, liquid manure is a strong pollutant to the air, water sources and groundwater sources.

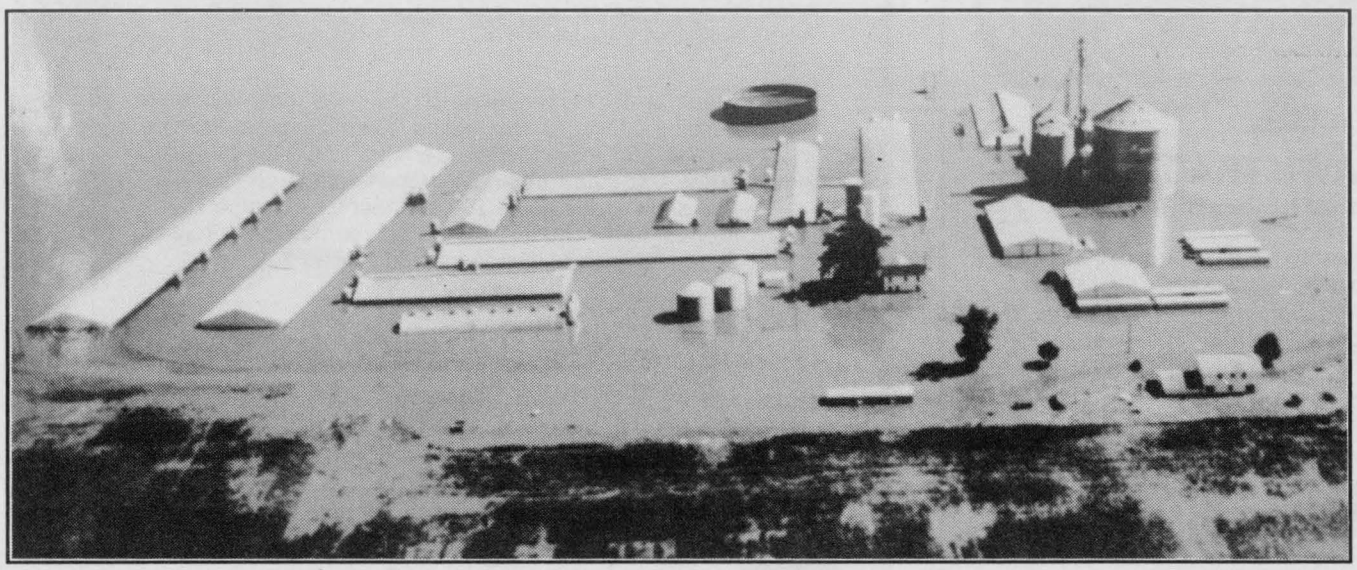
Additional innovative concepts such as aeration for odor management, anaerobic digestion and solids are all being researched by the industry and refined for incorporation into manure management systems. Further research is under way to evaluate anaerobic digestion, a biogas conversion system which may soon produce enough methane gas to conserve energy on the farm.

Research experts are also developing improved methods of separating solids for efficient manure management.

Some facts about manure and the value*:

3,000 feeder hogs, $15,000/yr
100 sows F.F., $13,000/yr
100 dairy cows, $10,500/yr
100 beef cattle, $5,000/yr
10,000 layer hens, $8,000/yr
100,000 broilers, $6,700/yr

*Average OMAFRA values for nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium.



This photo taken in the United States shows how the Harvestore manure storage tank keeps manure in, even during a flood.

New DVS service aims to improve udder health

Dianne Fetterly
Agricultural editor

WINCHESTER — Veterinarians at the Dundas Veterinary Services are offering a new service aimed at helping farmers improve udder health and optimize milk quality.

Only started last month, the service involves a farm visit by a veterinarian who evaluates the milking equipment and the people doing the milking to determine what changes can, or should, be made to improve udder health and milk quality on the farm.

According to Dr. Willy Armstrong of the Dundas Veterinary Services, farms where the testing has been completed to date, have been able to reduce milking times, lower somatic cell counts, have better milkouts and have fewer instances of mastitis.

Some of the older milking systems evaluated by Armstrong have needed a lot of upgrading, while other systems have only required a few minor adjustments or changes, he said.

"We do find some equipment problems with some herds." said Armstrong, who is at the farm for one milking.

Besides checking the rubberware for cracks, Armstrong also uses a vacuum gauge to check the vacuum; a flow meter to determine whether the regulator is working properly; and an end-of-milking indicator to determine how long a cow takes to milk. He even checks for stray voltage while at the farm.

The end-of-milking indicator is a compact timer and sensor which indicates the milk flow and provides a visual and audible signal when milk flow drops below a preset level. It is designed to help farmers achieve consistent milking patterns and evaluate the cows' milking traits.

While observing the milking, Armstrong is able to determine whether cows are being prepared and milked properly.

"The goal (for milking) is to have a consistent set of routines followed by every milker at each milking. Teats should always be clean, dry and stimulated when the units are attached."

A major goal during milking is to have a unit up and running on the cow about one minute after the udder preparation is complete, said Armstrong.

"It is important not to allow more than one minute and twenty seconds from the time of the beginning of preparation until the unit is attached. Oxytocin has a very short half-life in the cow and the best milkouts are

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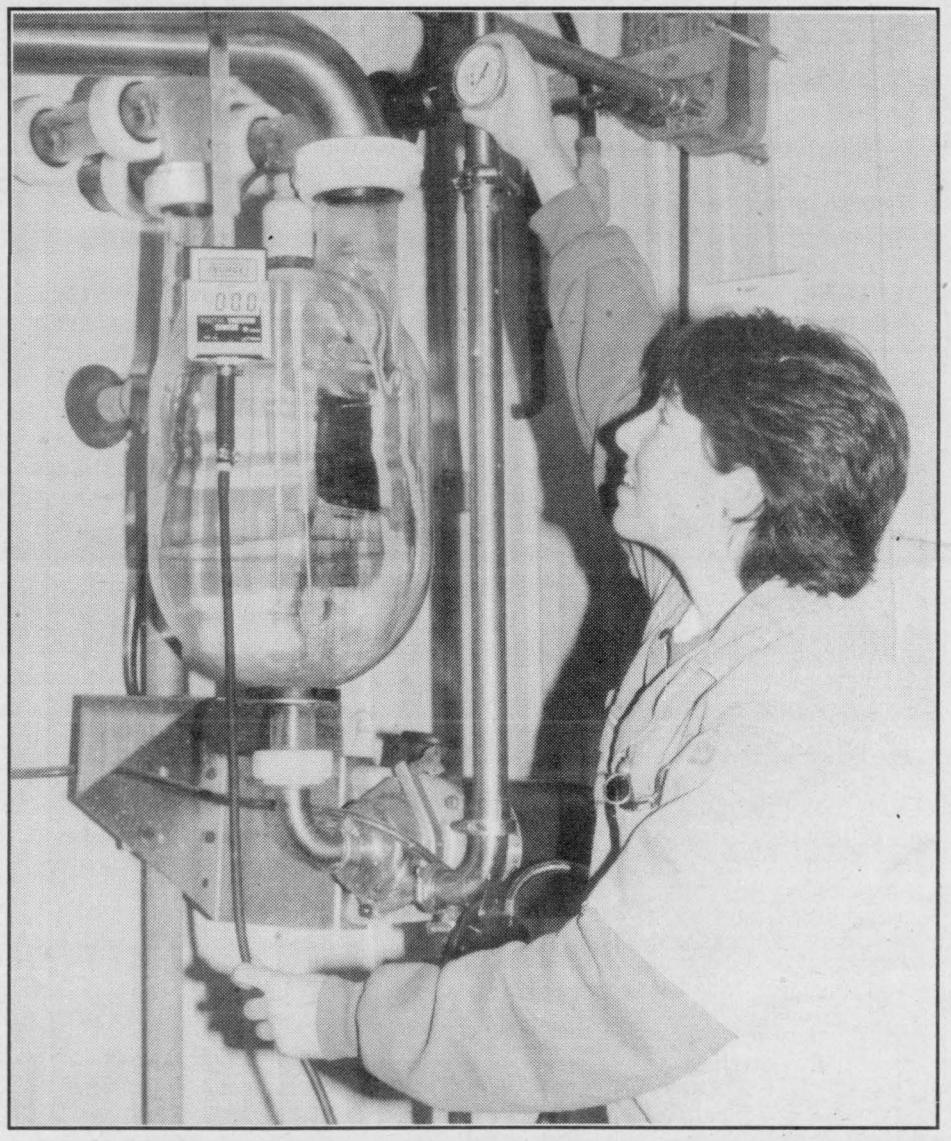

University of Guelph student Ann Finlayson checks over milkhouse equipment. *Press Photo — Fetterly*

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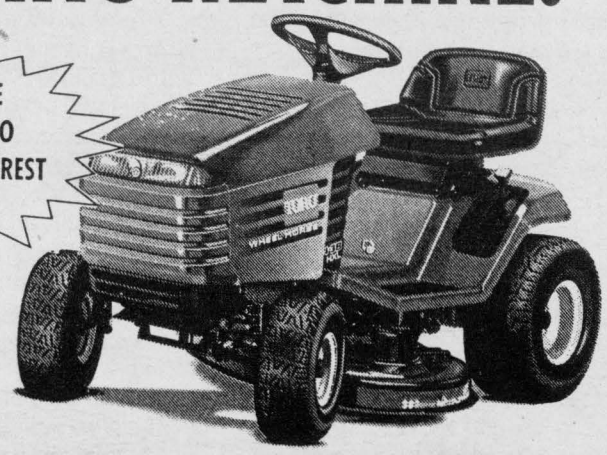

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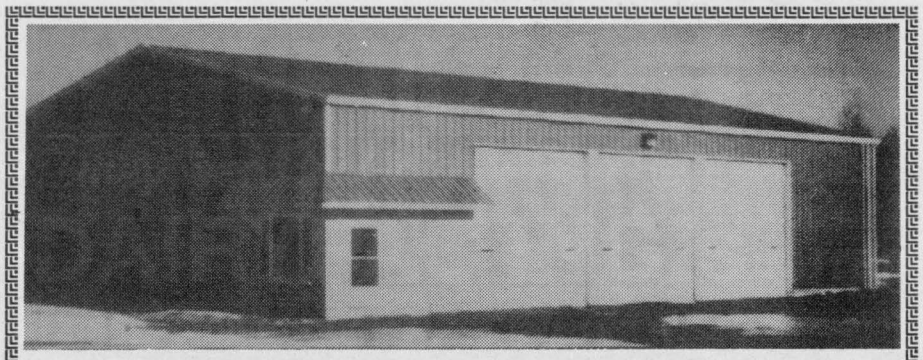

Photo of Allan Crites Excavation, Maxville, Ont.

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DVS service

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achieved when the units are attached when oxytocin causes teats to begin to firm up signalling good oxytocin letdown," he explained.

Failure to attach the milker at the proper time can result in longer milkout times, which can then result in infection, he added. Armstrong also said farmers should ensure teats are dipped as soon as the unit is removed to help prevent bacteria from getting in the teat end.

MAINTENANCE

Some routine maintenance on the milking equipment will also help decrease the instances of udder problems, Armstrong said.

He recommends the following:

— change liners every 900 milkings or a maximum of every 45 days, whichever is less. You may have to adjust the change interval based on the milking ability of the cows after the inflations are changed;

— replace pulsation tubes, milk hoses and pulsation hoses as wear indicates, usually every six months for milk hoses and 12 months for pulsation hoses and three months for the short pulsation tubes;

— replace the seals on the pulsators every six months. Replace the pistons whenever they show any magnetization;

— follow the maintenance recommendations for the regulator as indicated by the manufacturer every four weeks;

— have a system analysis done every six months;

— have a dealer service the pulsators every 2500 hours of operation to replace the diaphragm and graph the units;

— replace seals in the pulsators stall cocks, milk inlets on the stainless line, and the pipeline gaskets every two to three years (or sooner if leak develops);

— clean the regulator every two weeks by taking the dome and diaphragm off and washing the base in mild, soapy water as directed in the owners manual and on the outside of the dome.

Following the farm visit, Armstrong analyses the data collected and provides farm operators with an assessment of his finding. He also provides recommendations on how to improve milking techniques and equipment and reduce herd mastitis.

For more information on the service or to book and appointment contact the Dundas Veterinary Services at 774-2159.



Dr. Willy Armstrong, left, attaches the end-of-milking indicator to the milkers to determine milk flow. *Press photo–Fetterly*

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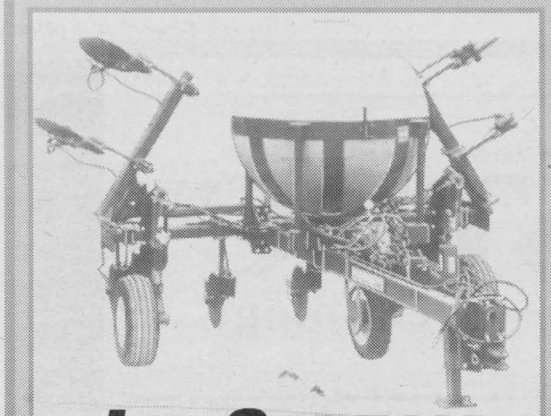

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Canadian Dairy Commission promotes importance of milk

The Canadian dairy case provides consumers with a considerable variety of milk-based products.

Over the last 20 years, many varieties of specialty cheeses, dairy desserts, yogurts and yogurt drinks, gourmet ice cream and ice cream novelties have been added to staples such as milk, cream, butter and cheddar cheese.

Dairy products combine great taste with nutritional value. As one of Canada's four basic food groups, they play an important part in nutrition by providing essential nutrients for growth and body maintenance throughout our life span.

In the 1995-96 dairy year, approximately 78 million hectolitres of milk were produced in Canada for sale on two markets: the fluid market (tablemilk and fresh cream), and the industrial market (milk used for manufactured dairy products).

There are four major types of fluid milk: homogenized (3.25% butterfat), partly skimmed (2%), 1%, and skim milk (which has less than 0.5% butterfat).

A limited market also exists for other fluid milk products such as flavored and lactose-free milk.

Creams are marketed with butterfat contents ranging from 10 per cent for coffee cream, to 35 per cent for whipping cream.

DAIRY PRODUCTS:

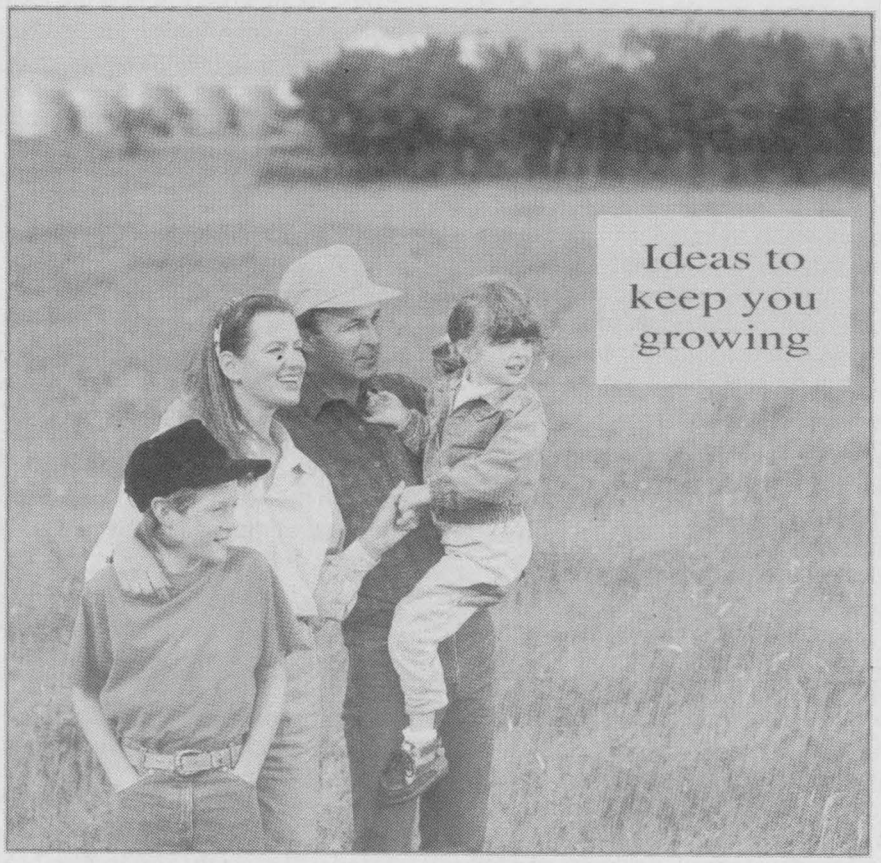
Total cheese production has grown significantly over the last 10 years, from 226 million kilograms in 1986 to 277 million kilograms in 1995, an increase of 22.8 per cent.

During this same period, overall cheese consumption grew by 16.8 per cent, from 243 to 283 million kilograms. Consumption of cottage cheese decreased by 25.3 per cent between 1986 and 1995.

Between 1986 and 1995, butter consumption fell by 18.5 per cent. The yogurt market increased by 26.8 per cent between 1986 and 1995.

The total consumption of ice cream grew from 318 million litres in 1986 to 333 million litres in 1995, an increase of 5 per cent.

AGRICULTURE SERVICES



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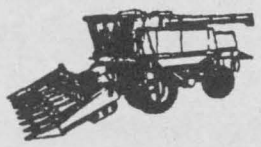

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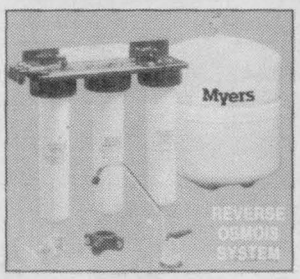

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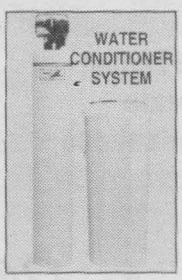

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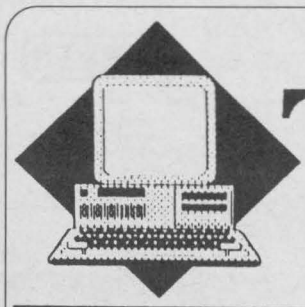

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Milk is also the best and most available source of dietary Vitamin D which helps your body absorb calcium. It is also an important source of riboflavin and potassium.

Calcium is also found in certain vegetables, nuts, seeds and dried beans. These foods are nutritious and contribute to your overall calcium intake.

However, it is difficult to meet all you calcium needs through vegetable sources alone because they are generally not as rich in calcium as milk products.

Also, the calcium in most plant foods, aside from a few like broccoli and kale, is poorly absorbed by the body. This means that much of the calcium in spinach, rhubarb and beet greens, for example, is not used by the body.

Canned sardines and salmon are good sources of readily-available calcium, as long as you eat the bones.

Tofu contains some calcium but it might not be well absorbed. Also, the calcium content is often quite low and varies among brands. Therefore, tofu cannot be considered a reliable calcium source.

A quick calcium comparison

1 cup (250 ml) of milk = 315 mg

11 sardines or 1/2 can (213) of salmon with bones = 226 mg

1/2 cup (125 ml) almonds = 220 mg

1 cup (250 ml) cooked dried beans or lentils = 106 mg

1/2 cup (125 ml) sesame seeds = 104 mg

1/2 cup (125 ml) cooked kale, bok choy = 94 mg

4 figs = 61 mg

1/2 cup (125 ml) cooked broccoli = 38 mg

More calcium please!

— Use milk instead of non-dairy whitener in coffee or tea

— Mix yogurt with your cereal

— Add a little style: add cheese as a topping for soup, grated over salad and omelettes

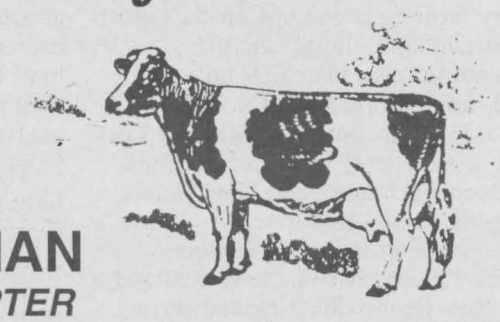
— Chopped tomatoes, fresh basil, a drop of olive oil and melted cheese over fresh bread is a real treat

— At home or on the go, remember dishes made with milk products: quiche, cheese pizza, cheese souffle

— Try delicious desserts made with milk such as rice pudding, baked custard and frozen yogurt.

June is Dairy Month

We salute the dairy producers of Eastern Ontario



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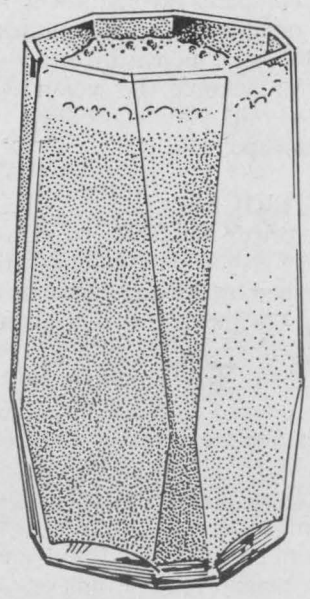

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Dairy farming facts

Dairy farming is one of Canada's most important agricultural activities, generating more than $3.9 billion in total farm cash receipts for milk in 1995. Dairy income represented 15 per cent of total 1995 farm cash receipts. In Quebec, Ontario, and Nova Scotia, dairying ranked first in terms of farm sales, while in British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and New Brunswick it ranked second.

In 1995-96, there were approximately 24,700 dairy farms in Canada: 79 per cent of which were in Quebec and Ontario, 15 per cent in the West and 6 per cent in the Atlantic provinces. Using a conversion rate of 3.6 kilograms of butterfat per hectolitre, milk production from these farms totalled about 78 million hectolitres.

Although the number of farms has steadily declined in the last 20 years from approximately 79,800 in 1975-76, the amount of milk produced has remained relatively constant.

There are a number of reasons for this consistency in production. Although the trend is toward fewer farms, they are becoming larger. Since the late 1980s, the number of cows per farm has risen by about 37 percent and the average Canadian dairy farm now has 47 cows. Better feeding, disease control and genetic advancements have also increased the amount of milk produced per cow.

BREEDS OF DAIRY CATTLE:

As of January 1, 1996, there were approximately 1.3 million milking cows in Canada, primarily of the following breeds: Holstein, Ayrshire, Jersey, Guernsey, Brown Swiss, Canadian, and Shorthorn.

In 1995, dairy cows on official milk recording programs produced an average of 8,251 kilograms of milk, which compares favorably with milk yields obtained in other countries. This yield has been increasing steadily. In 1987, for example, the average recorded milk yield was 6,934 kilograms per cow.

MILK PRICES:

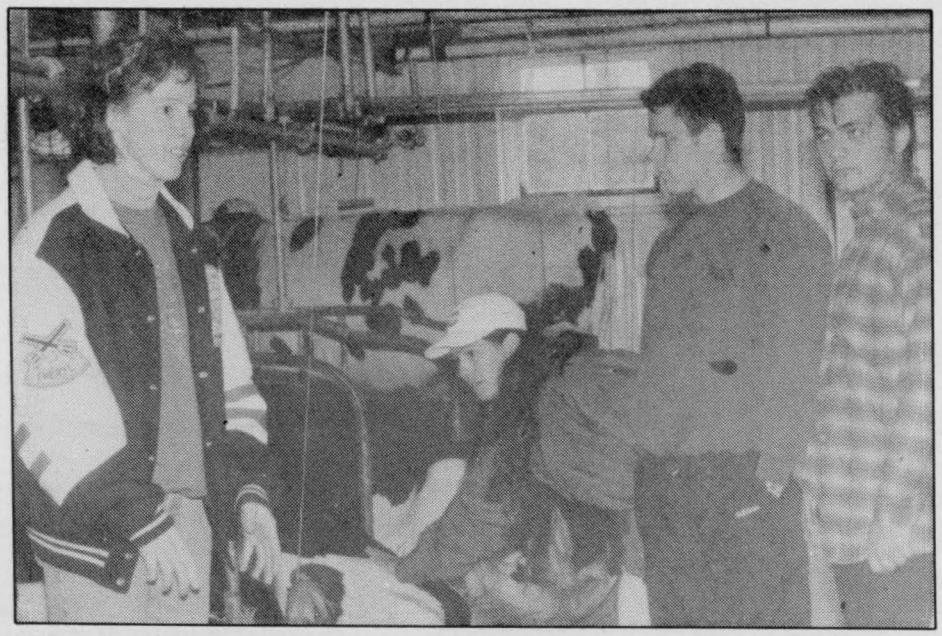
The prices that dairy farmers receive for their milk production are established by provincial boards and agencies. Milk sales to dairies are classified by how the milk will be used. The highest prices are paid for milk produced for the domestic fluid market, and the lowest prices are generally paid for milk or milk components used in the production of such industrial milk products as butter and skim milk powder. Prices are set at provincial levels for milk or components used in products which are sold in competitive markets.

TYPICAL CANADIAN DAIRY FARM:

The typical Canadian dairy farm is quite specialized, with most of its revenue coming from milk production and the sale of dairy cattle. It is a family-owned operation with a herd of about 47 Holstein cows. The farm owners are in their mid-forties and have built up considerable equity in their operation. Dairy sales generate an average of about $158,000 per year.

The rustic image of a typical dairy farm isolated from the technological progress that so affects urban lives is outdated. The typical farm family is accustomed to advanced technology in such practices as artificial insemination, breed selection and labor-saving milking systems.

Hardier crops, feed supplements and improved livestock are just some of the benefits research has provided. Computerization of feeding and herd management systems, biotechnological advances and equipment innovations also are rapidly changing the way things are done on the farm.



Up close

A group recently participating in a tour of Kemptville College takes a closer look at the dairy cows. The college hosts three different tours.

Press Photo — Fetterly



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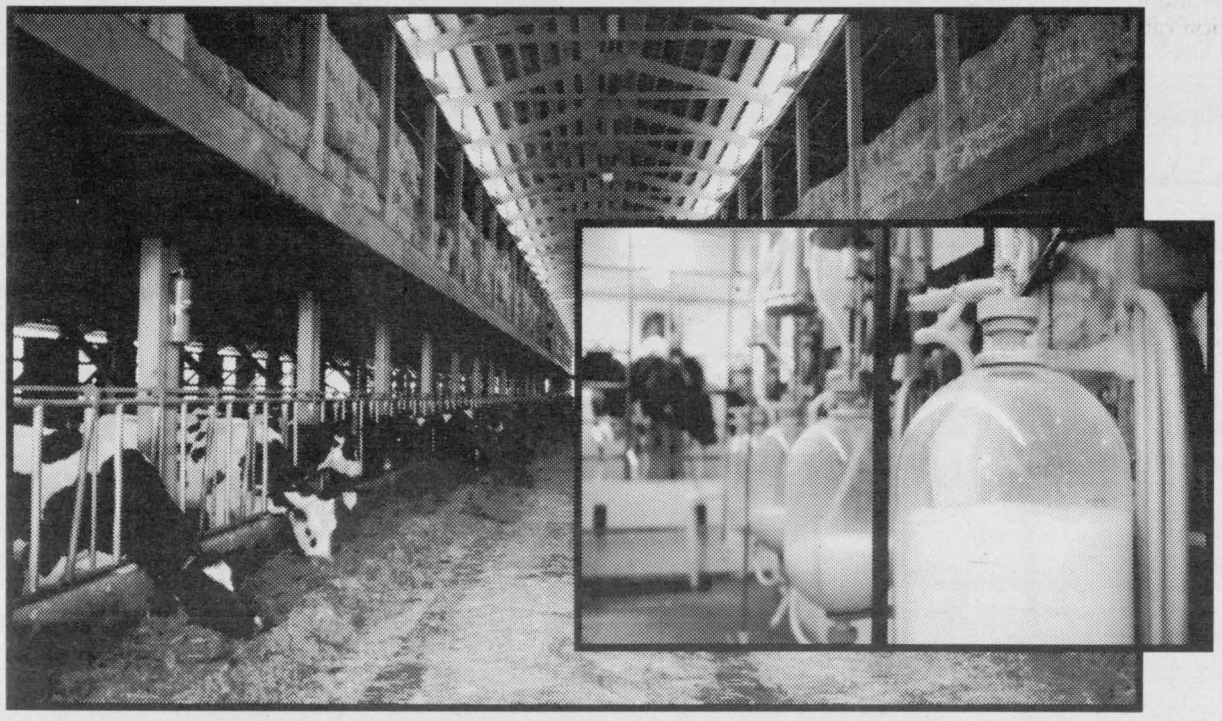

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Loss of income insurance for the dairy farmer

Are you covered?

By: Christian Grothe, Business Management Advisor, Kemptville OMAFRA

At the 1996 Tax and Business Seminar organized by OMAFRA one subject of the program was property and liability insurance issues.

The general message was very simple. Farmers should take the time to plan their insurance needs and make sure they take the time to discuss and understand their insurance coverage. Failure to do this will result in problems if a loss occurs and a claim is made.

The following is a summary of the discussion on the Loss of Income Insurance

In order to meet financial commitments after a disaster which deprives a farmer from earning income, insurance against the loss of income is available.

COVERAGE AVAILABLE:

A)Extra Expense Coverage is designed to reimburse the additional costs a farmer my incur in getting his/her business re-established. In the event of the lost of a small 40-cow barn where the herd is not destroy the extra cost of relocation the herd to a rental barn and the rental cost of that barn would be covered.

b) Earnings coverage is designed to replace the income that would have been generated by the insured building (barn)or content (herd and feed). It is very important to be clear which loss will trigger the income insurance payout.

In the case of a dairy farm it will be the loss of the barn, the milking cows or both.A herd of 30 cows could easily find a vacant barn in the community and carry on milking the surviving cows while rebuilding a new barn. For a herd of 250 cows, this situation could be more complicated. Therefore, each individual situation and the level of risk that could be handled by the farm will dictate the most appropriate type of coverage.

Earning coverage will last only as long as it takes to rebuild the barn and or replace the herd and feed.

c) Profits coverage take the earning coverage one more step and continues to insure against loss of income until the dairy farm is earning the income it would have had the lost property not been lost. It works on a top-up basis as the farm business increases it's ability to generate income. This "top-up" lasts usually for 12 months following the loss but is negotiable.

CONCLUSION: In order to decide on which Loss of Income Insurance coverage best serves your needs you should ask `what if' questions to your insurances professional.

Remember do not take anything for granted. I can picture the event of a barn burning last winter which destroyed the winter forage. One of the most difficult tasks in resuming dairy production last winter would have been purchasing replacement forages. And the cost would have been substantial. Better be prepared then sorry.

Member firms urged to act

The busy season for many Farm Association members is upon us.

In preparation for the spring rush, safety training should be a priority. Members of the Farm Safety Association are urged to take advantage of the many services provided free of charge to all agricultural, horticultural and landscape employers in Ontario.

The association offers training seminars to employers, supervisors and employees at your location on a variety of pertinent topics. Safety training is vital for new employees or as a refresher for those who have become complacent in their jobs.

The association invites its members to order health and safety literature, warning decals, etc.

Additional materials and decals specific to an industry may also be available. Please contact the Guelph office for details.

Please contact the Farm Safety Association at 1-800-361-8855 to make arrangements for a Farm Safety Consultation to discuss these services with you and explain how they can help keep accidents and related costs under control in the workplace.

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Daily quota on the way

by Phyllis MacMaster, Agriculture and Rural Representative

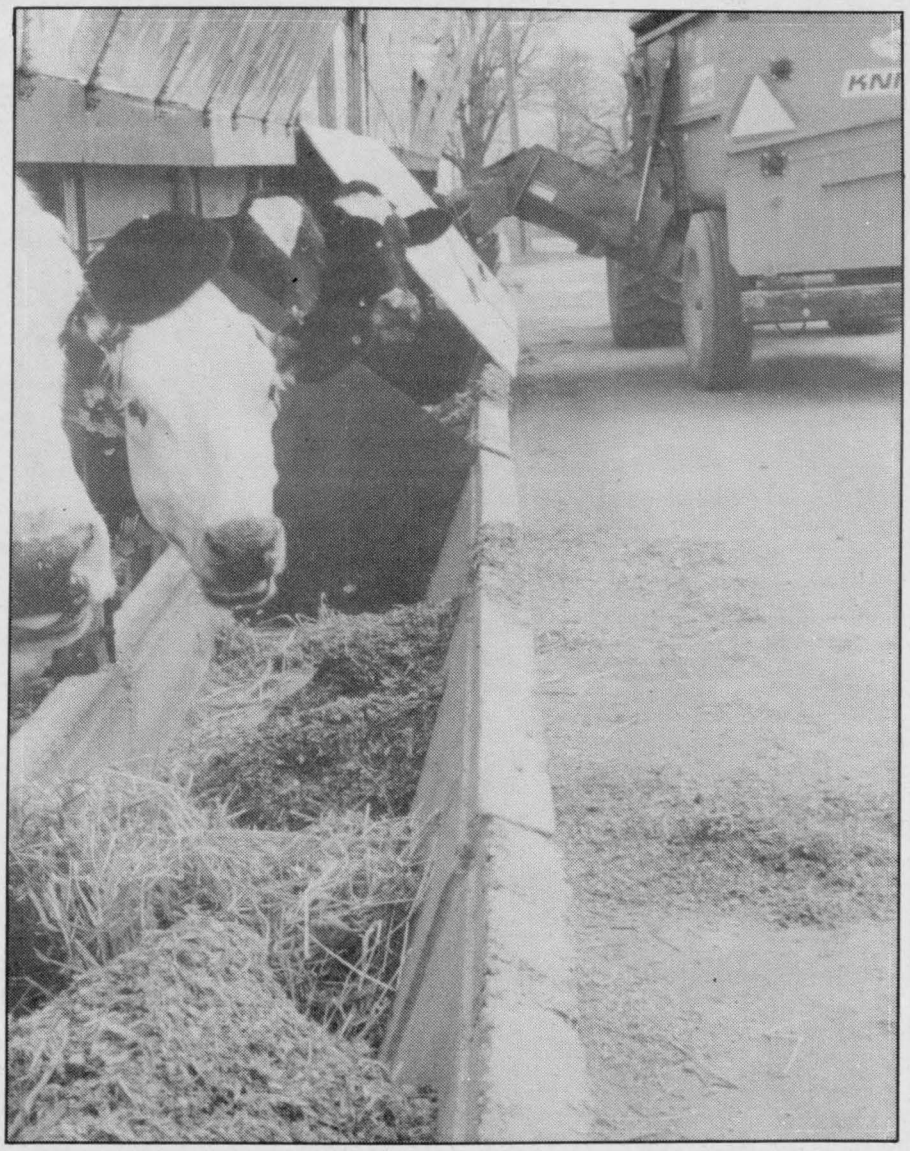
WINCHESTER — On August 1 Ontario dairy producers will be switching to a daily quota system. Current quota holdings can be turned into a daily allotment by dividing the amount by 365 days. Producers should be thinking about their fall milk potential now. The new system gives each producer three days fall incentive credits for the months of August, September, October and November. This milk must be shipped in the specific month to receive the payment. Fall incentive days cannot be carried over to the next month.

The first place to take a look for fall milk production is last year's summary of milk shipped. In April the Dairy Farmers of Ontario produced daily quota simulation for your herd using last years production. The first question to ask is did I make my daily quota allotment plus my three days incentive production for August, September, October and November? If not, what were the reasons and can I improve milk production for this fall to take advantage of the extra returns?

The next step is to review cows and heifers that will be freshening in July, August, September, October and November. This has to be balanced off against the cows that will be going dry or culled during this period. Can enough milk be produced from these fresh cows to make the extra days?

If the answer is no, now is the time to make some plans. One alternative is to go to three times a day milking for this period. Studies show that 3X milking can increase production from five to 15%. Another alternative is to buy some fresh cows or heifers who will supplement your fall milk production. Keep those fall calving heifers instead of selling them to provide some extra production. Producers may also want to keep those cull candidates a little longer to produce extra milk. Reviewing the feed program and doing feed analysis to assist with balancing rations can help to improve milk production. It is often more difficult to make milk during the hot summer months of July and August. Providing plenty of shade and lots of fresh clean water can help keep milk production levels up.

It is really important to take a look at your fall milk production potential now. You have 12 extra days of daily quota to fill. If a farm has 10000 kg of butterfat quota this 12 extra days of fall production can amount to a net of about $4500. If you wait and ship it next winter or spring the net return for overquota milk will be about $1825. The fall incentive can return you some extra income that can be used for some of the projects you plan for this year.



Providing a proper ration will help cows keep milk production up when daily quota kicks in. *Press photo–Fetterly*

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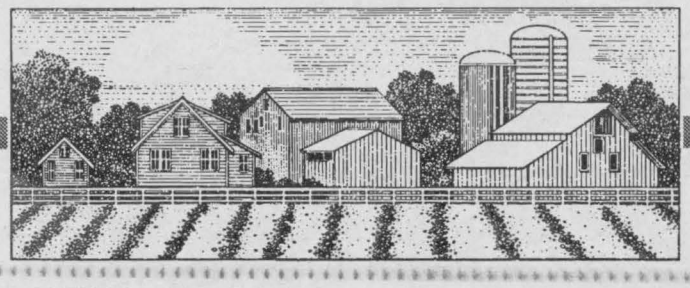

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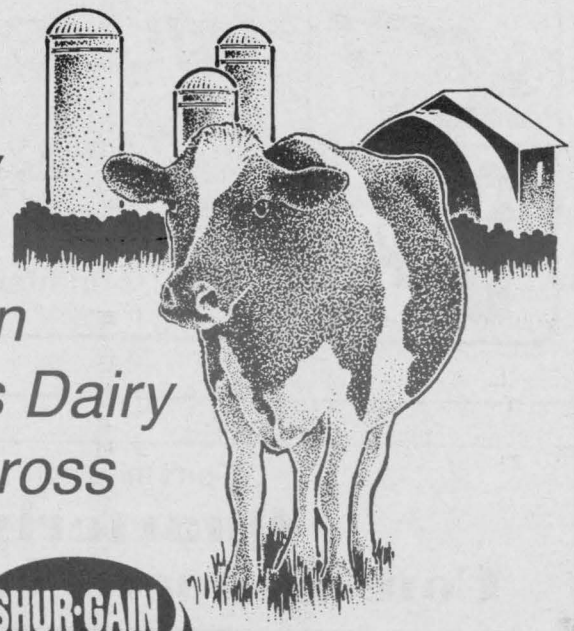

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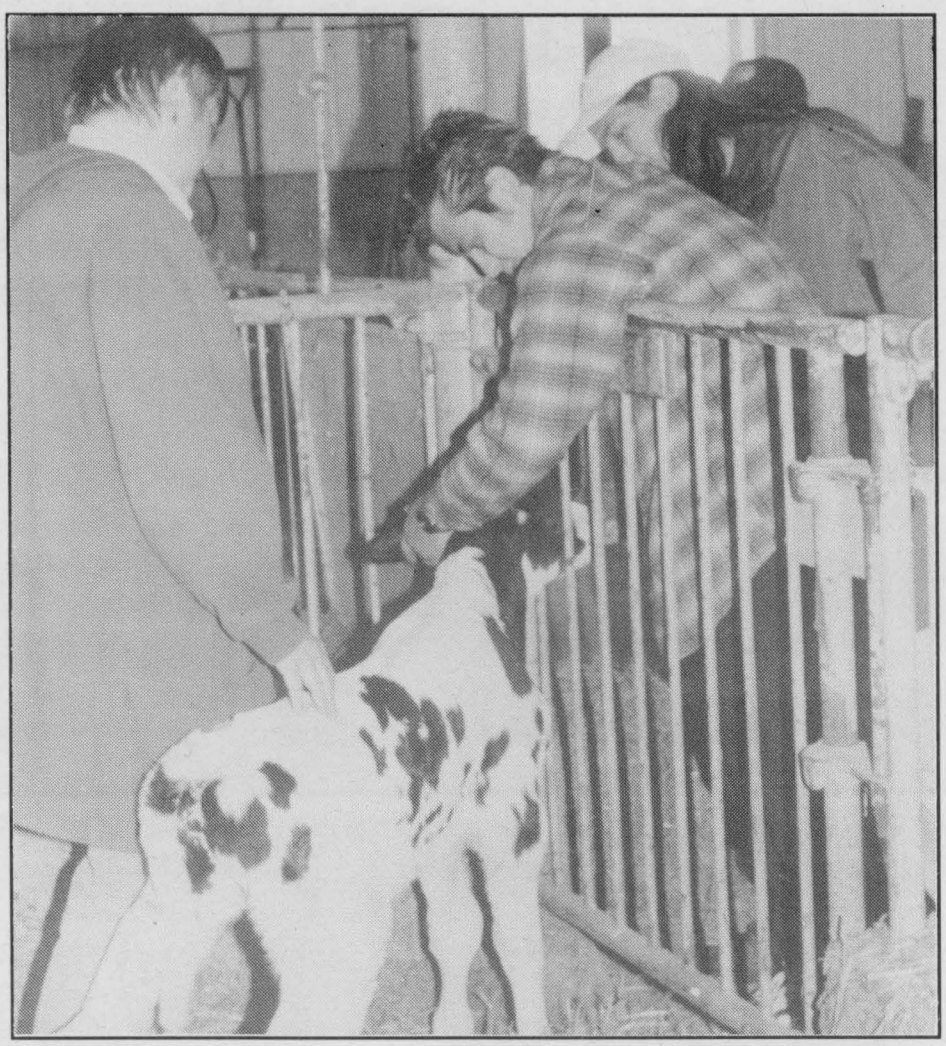

Debbie Gilmer (left) of the Continuing Education department of the University of Guelph Kemptville College discusses dairy calves with a recent visitor to the college. *Press photo–Fetterly*

Lessons in agriculture

Dianne Fetterly
Agricultural editor

KEMPTVILLE — Tours offered by the University of Guelph, Kemptville College help educate the public about agriculture.

"We're trying to serve a need (with the tours)," said tour presenter Debbie Gilmer, who works with the college's continuing education department.

The one-and-a-half to two-hour-long tours are part of the college's continuing education services. The cost, which covers expenses, is about $3.20 per person.

The college offers three different tours with the most popular being the `Exploring Agriculture' program, said Gilmer.

Exploring Agriculture provides visitors with a general overview of the agricultural industry and gives visitors an idea of how modern farms operate.

"I have the impression that many of our visitors think of farms as the mixed-type farms of the past... With a couple of pigs, six cows and a few chickens," said Gilmer.

Hopefully, the Exploring Agriculture tour will help dispel these misconceptions, she added.

Another tour offered at the college is the `Moo to You' program which deals specifically with the dairy industry — everything from when the calf is born to how dairy products make it to the consumers' table, explained Gilmer.

The `You and Your Environment' program teaches visitors about the agri-forestry industry. It features a one kilometre trip through the college's bush, whereby visitors can discuss various aspects about the industry.

"We can stop along the trail and discuss the `circle of life' and how we must contribute to it," said Gilmer.

Before students or other interested groups participate in one of the college's tours, the continuing education department mails out information packages to teachers or group leaders.

The packages contain background material and activities and projects for children to complete before participating in one of the tours.

Most of the visitors taking part in the tours are from the Eastern Ontario area.

For more information on one of the tours at the University of Guelph Kemptville College contact the college's Continuing Education department.

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Top in county

Steven (left) and Paul Velthuis were top in Carleton county last year with a composite herd BCA of 246.3. The Velthuises have 210 Holsteins, with 80 milking.

Velthuis brothers top BCA in Carleton County

OSGOODE — With a composite herd BCA of 246.3, Paul and Steven Velthuis of Velthuis Farms in Osgoode were top in Carleton County last year.

The previous year they placed second overall in the county.

The Velthuises have 210 Holsteins, with 80 milking full-time. Their mainstay is dairy and they cash crop on the side with 1,200 acres. Brothers Paul and Steven run the farm with one full-time employee, Paul Dooneos, one part-time student and part-time help from their parents.

To maintain their high BCA, the Velthuis brothers feed their cows a single group Total Mixed Ration (TMR).

"We balance the ratio for 92 pounds of milk per day," explained Paul. "We use our own grains and purchase only a small amount of supplement for minerals and by-pass protein."

"We keep the cows comfortable and if they have a good feed, they can do the rest," added Steven. "We believe a good functional cow provides good production."

On their farm, Paul and Steven grow hay, grain corn, soybeans and wheat.

Since they took over the farm from their parents in 1985, the Velthuises have won several high production county awards, including master breeder honors in 1991.

They have also won awards for milk quality and the last round with the classifier they achieved 12 very goods, 23 good pluses and three goods.

"Most things come down to cow comfort and nutrition and we've been raised to know that production pays." Steven said.

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Proper wrapping, storage for quality round bale silage

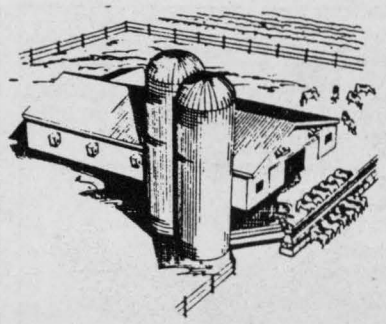
by Phyllis MacMaster, Agriculture and Rural Representative

Many producers are discovering that wrapped round bale silage makes quality and palatable feed for dairy cows. Some factors should be considered before going to this system as the main way to harvest and store forages.

Lester Vough, Forage Specialist at the University of Maryland has done some work with this system and developed the following list of advantages and disadvantages for the wrapped balage system. The main advantage is that wrapped balage reduces weather disk damage when compared to baled hay. Balage requires less drying time. A round baler can be used for both balage and dry hay lowering overall fixed and operating costs. The system can also be expanded without too much extra capital investment. As well this system of haymaking requires less energy than chopping and ensiling in a silo. The natural green colour of the feed is likely to be maintained compared to storing in a conventional haylage system, and the balage can also be self feed in bunk feeders or feed alleys.

The biggest disadvantage to wrapped baled silage is keeping an airtight storage. Storage losses will be significantly higher than conventional systems if an airtight environment is not maintained. It is important to keep grass trimmed around storage areas to keep rodents away. Unstable silage with higher ph's can occur because of incomplete fermentation in a wrapped bale. The cost of plastic wrap and a greater labor requirement are two extra costs to consider. As well the disposal of a considerable amount of plastic wrap can cause a problem. In this area there are opportunities to recycle the plastic provided which are dry and relatively clean.

Wrapped balage is an alternative feed storage system. Be sure to consider the pros and cons before making this your number one route to harvest silage.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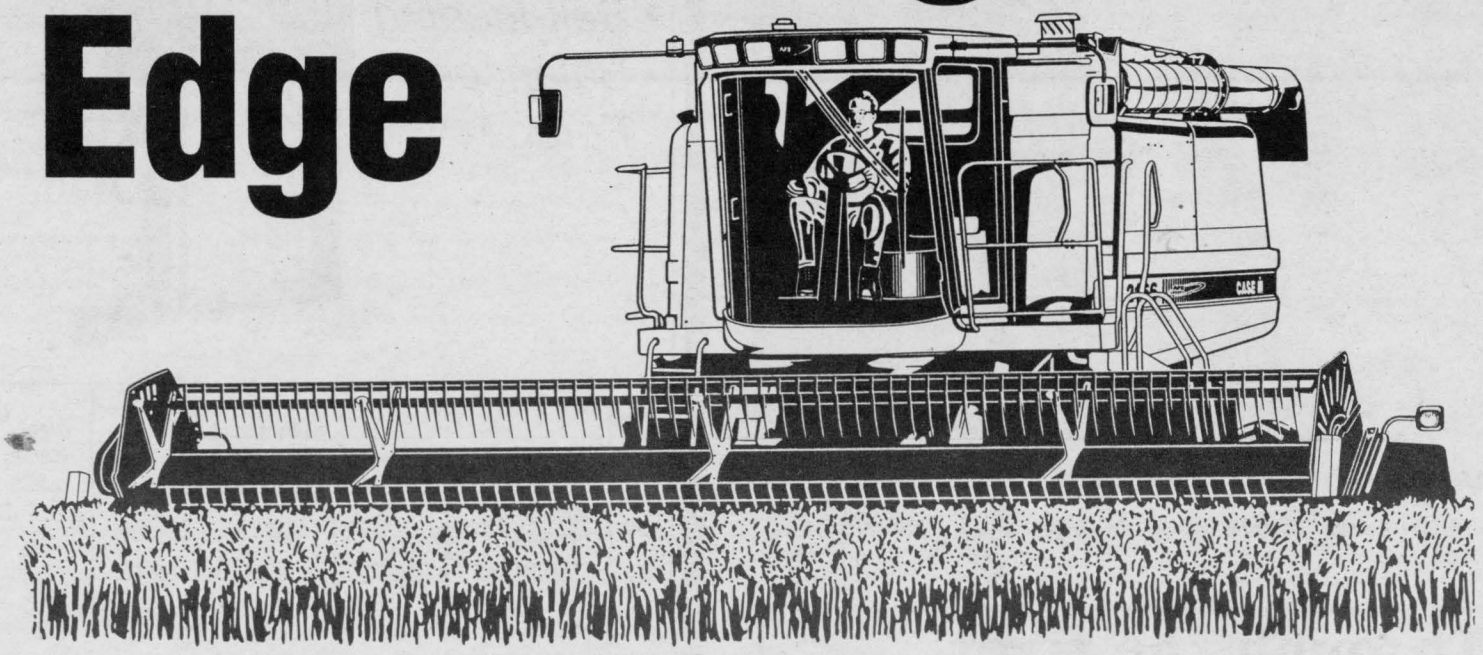

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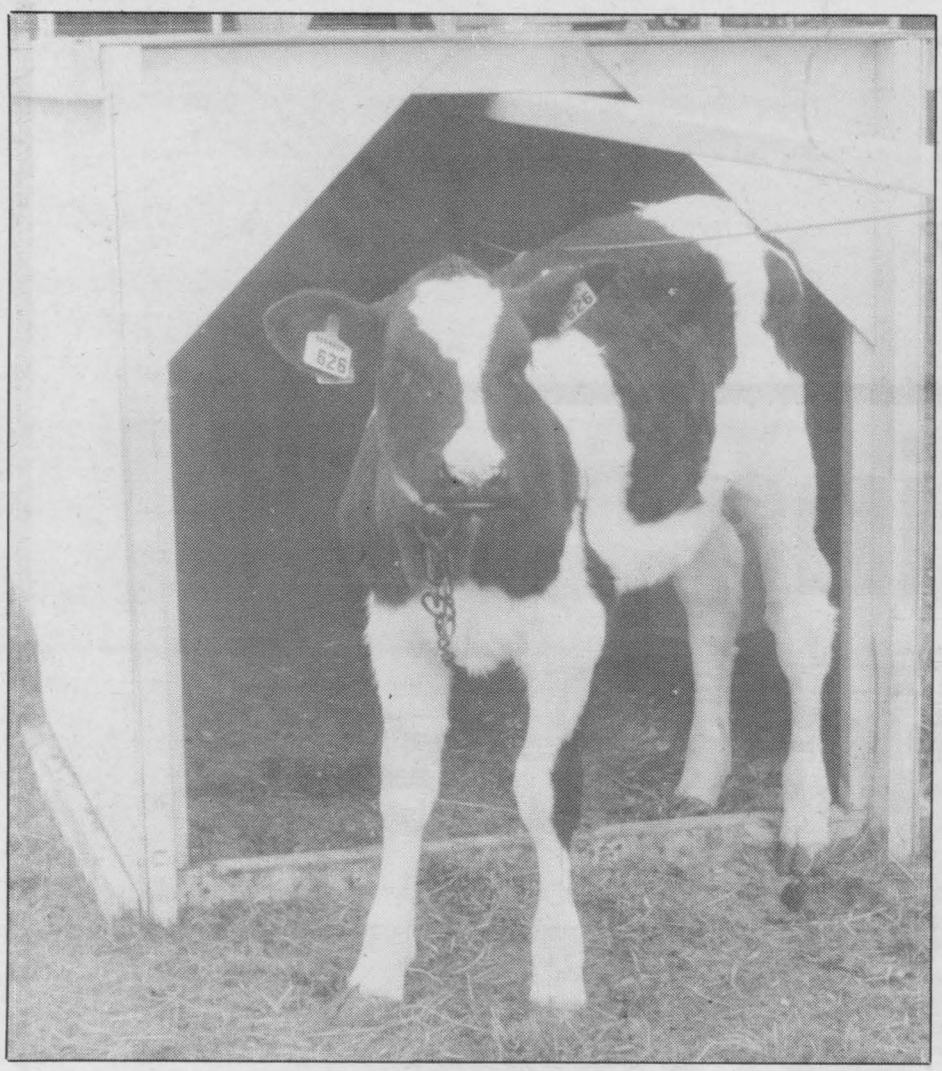

Home sweet home

No matter what the style, calf hutches are currently a popular method of housing dairy calves. *Press Photo — Fetterly*

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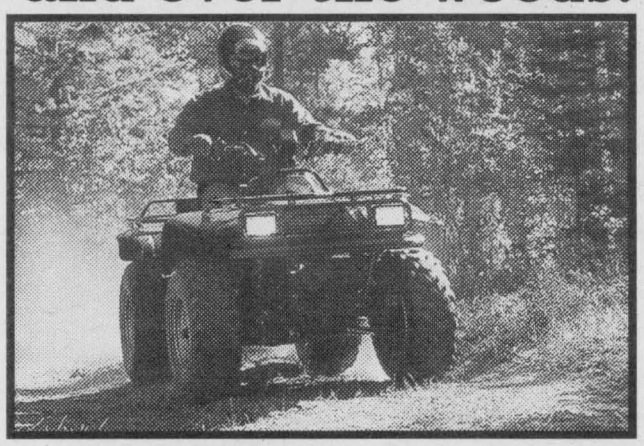

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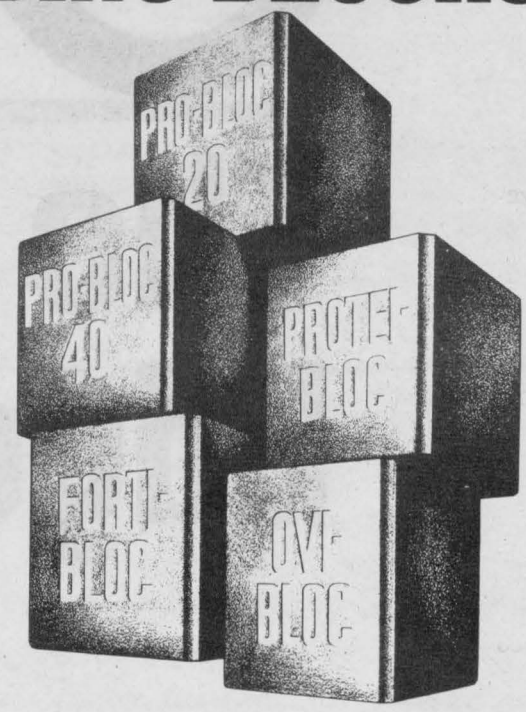

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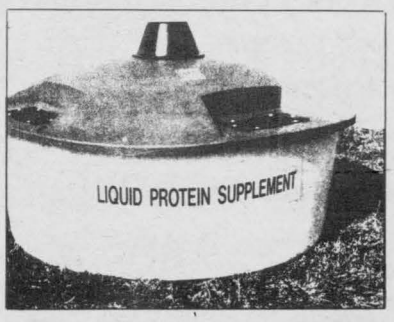

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Management important for economical grazing

by Phyllis MacMaster, Agriculture and Rural Representative

Glen Wells, Manager of the Bruce Community Pasture best sums up grazing of cattle as a partnership between the farm owner, the animals and the grasses. Grazing dairy cows is an economical way to produce a litre of milk. The cow is a natural grazer and by having her harvest her own forage you can reduce costs for harvesting, storing, labor and manure removal.

The Grazier's Creed: walk more, worry less, work less, make more money will only work if pasture are managed properly and feed rations are adjusted as the grazing season progresses.

Members of the Great Lakes Basin Graziers Network are sharing information about the benefits of rotational grazing in a publication called Progressive Dairy Grazing in Ontario. Many of these producers are finding that by using good rotational grazing management , they can maintain high production levels and realize financial and environmental benefits. Producers in the network carry out projects to determine the benefits of rotational grazing. Forage samples were gathered from May to October and the average dry matter content ranged from 17 to 22 percent; the average crude protein was 20.5 percent; acid neutral detergent fibre was 25.8 percent and total digestible nutrients was 63.9 percent. Feed costs were compared between summer and winter feeding programs. The estimated cost to produce a litre of milk on pasture ranged from $.075 to $.09 per litre compared to $.08 to $.17 for winter confinement feeding (1995 feed prices). One producer estimated his feed cost to produce 30 litres of milk on pasture was $2.77 per day.

Member have shared some of their observations on rotational grazing.

In early spring cows will refuse to eat grain or supplementary hay unless they are held in confinement. Grain should be feed at least twice per day and certainly more often in higher producing herds. Mineral consumption dry cows and young stock should be closely monitored. To ensure consumption feed mineral in small quantities of grain. Network members noted that milk production increased from early spring to mid summer and declined after this if no additional supplements were offered. Fresh and high producing cows will lose weight and body condition score if supplementation is inadequate. Producers noted that cows on pasture had good health and had fewer health related problems during the grazing season. A source of readily available water is very necessary for the system to work effectively. Evaluation for internal parasites should no apparent buildup of parasites due to grazing.

One of the most important management practices of rotational grazing is walking the pastures to note pasture growth, quality, amount of feed in the pasture and to watch for overgrazing.

Pasturing provides economical benefits as well. The major advantage of grazing is reduced soil erosion and runoff from land. As well biological activity increases and provides an environment for more rapid decomposition of manure and organic matter.

Pasturing provides benefits to producers who take the time to manage this system of summer feeding. Grazing is a management intensive system that requires knowledge about livestock and their habits, forage growth patterns, water sources, fencing and parasite control. There are savings to be had — savings in labour and in feed costs.

A copy of the booklet "Progressive Dairy Grazing in Ontario" is available from OMAFRA Winchester 613-774-2313. It profiles interviews with dairy farmers who are intensively grazing cows from across Ontario.

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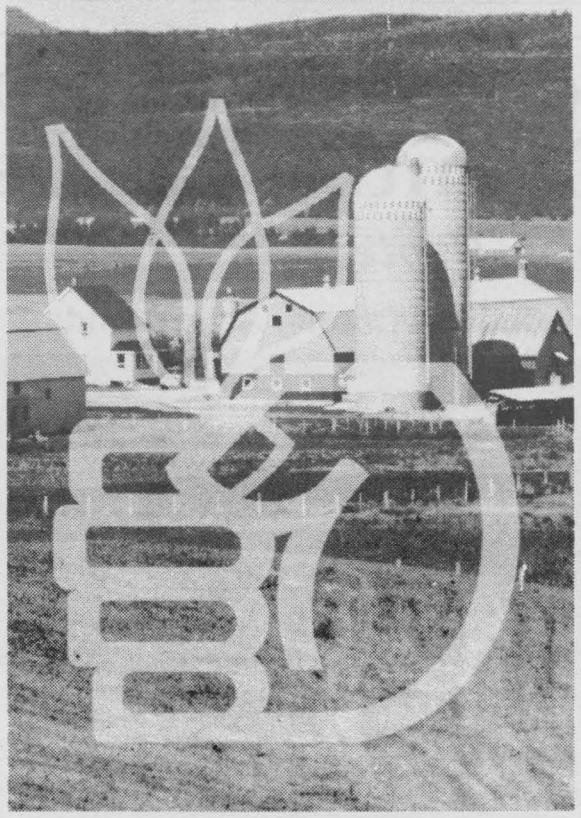

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Profitability in the dairy industry

by Phyllis MacMaster, Agriculture and Rural Represeantative

The Ontario Dairy Industry is undergoing major changes and many producers are asking the question: What must I do to stay competitive in the future? The present trend is towards larger herds, freestall facilities and fewer farms. Smaller farms will survive, however, producers who are making a long term commitment to the dairy industry must consider the following four points when making decisions on their future: production efficiencies, cost control, scale of operation and debt servicing.

These four factors can influence profitability and survival of the dairy farm. Profitability in its simplest form is farm revenue less farm expenses. On dairy farms a number of factors influence profitability. Milk revenue accounts for about 82 percent of the total revenue on most dairy farms. The level of components in milk can make a big difference in the revenue received per kg of quota. By altering the protein to fat ratio, producers can influence the returns per kilogram of quota.

The cost of production has a major influence on profitability. What does it cost you to produce a litre of milk on your farm? The average dairy farm on the Ontario Farm Analysis Project spends $.46 to produce a litre of milk (range was .$.42 to $.52). Well managed herds with excellent cost control will be in a good position to compete in the future. Another way to look at cost control is the 65 percent rule. Take the farm total expenses less depreciation, purchased feed, purchased livestock and interest costs and divide by farm revenue. This figure should be less than 65 percent of total revenue. The average cost control on OFMAP dairy farms is 61 percent (range 53 percent to 73 percent).

Dairy farms should strive to produce milk at 10 percent or more above the provincial herd average. Efficient milk production and large volumes of milk per cow and per man will be important for future profitability. Feeding programs and feed management should be carefully analyzed and reviewed on a regular basis to ensure maximum feed intake and utilization.

Debt servicing is the final pillar to profitability. Debt is not a bad thing and managed properly it can provide opportunities for increased returns. The dairy industry is a highly capital intensive business. Invest wisely and invest in money generating assets. Plan to make changes only after carefully considering the benefits of the change and the impact on the cash flow of the business. Be realistic with your projections. Ask yourself: "Can I handle a five percent drop in revenue or a five percent increase in expenses?".

Repayment capacity is the most critical test of borrowing. Cash revenue from the farm must cover farm expenses, replacement of capital assets, principal repayment and family living expenses. The best way to determine if it is profitable to use credit is to prepare a cash flow projection and see if the investment makes a profit. It is does it's probably a good investment.

A rule of thumb to follow is principal and interest payments should not exceed 25 percent of gross farm revenue. If a farm is well managed and today's interest rates persist, a producer can manage $1 to $1.25 debt per litre of milk sold. The average OFMAP farm sold 247,900 litres of milk in 1995. Using the above ratio, the manageable debt would be $250,000 to $310,000.

As we approach the year 2000, Ontario dairy producers face many challenges — tighter profit margins, future of supply management and quota values, increasing demands on net farm income for investments in new technology and family living. The dairy industry has been a highly productive and efficient Ontario business.

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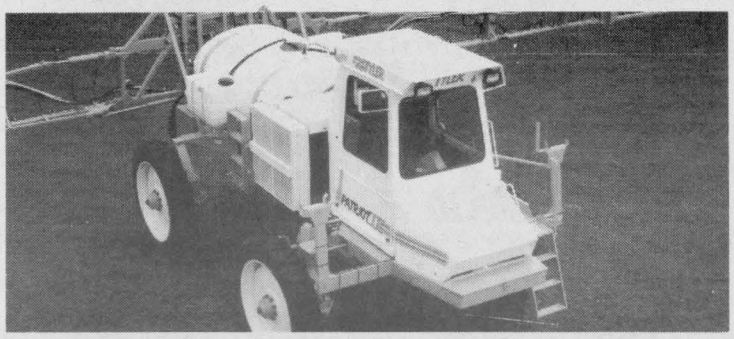

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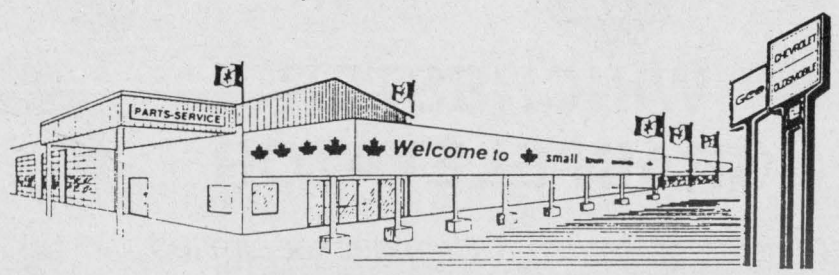

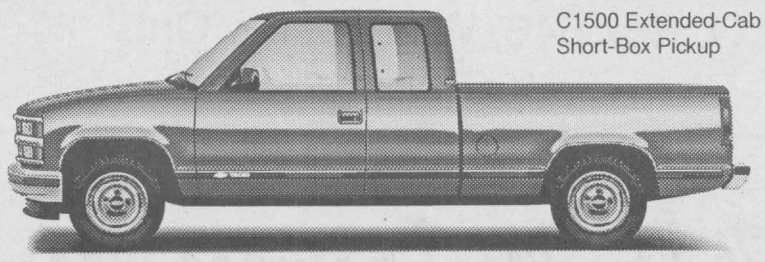

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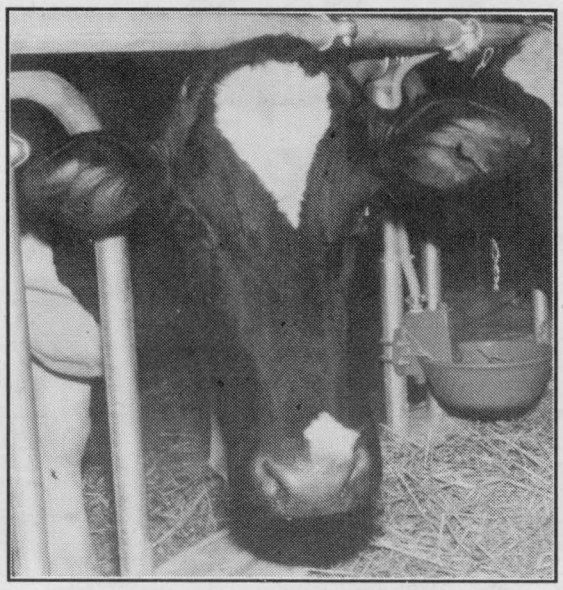

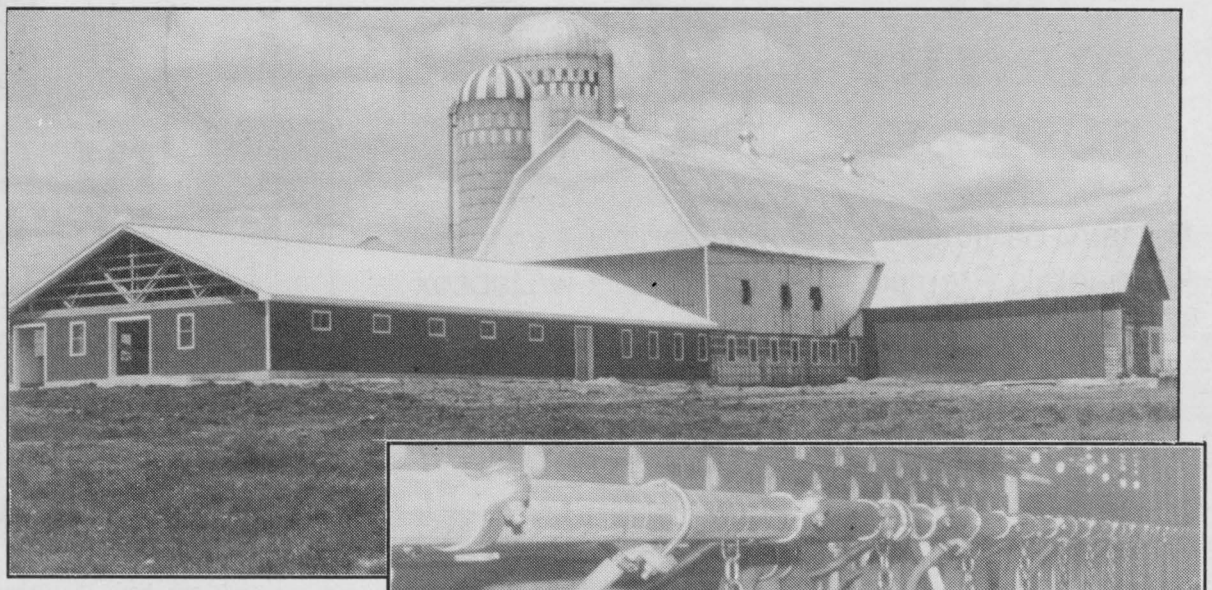

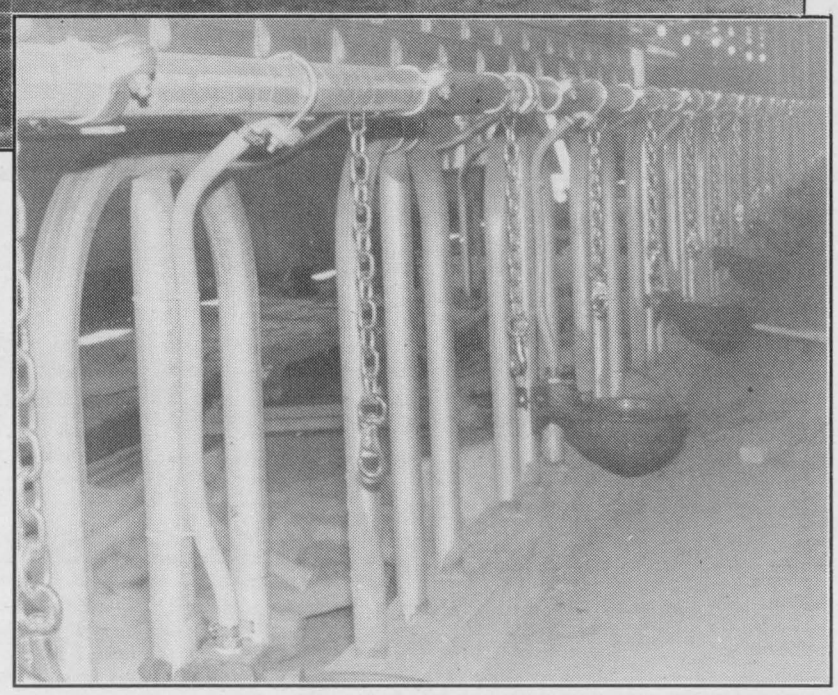

New addition rejuvenates existing barn

A new addition to an existing barn should provide Mountain Township dairy farmer Bill Lillico with lots of extra space. Lillico is just finishing up a one-storey 40 X 90-foot addition to an existing tie-stall barn. He also constructed a new 20 X 20-foot milkhouse and a 12 X 70-foot silo room. The original two-storey dairy barn was also renovated, and with the new addition, the barn will now tie 80 head. Construction began in mid-April and should be finished shortly. Pictured, left, the newly installed tie-stalls await the cows; above, the exterior of the new addition; and dairy cows have already been moved back into the newly renovated existing barn.

Press Photos — Fetterly

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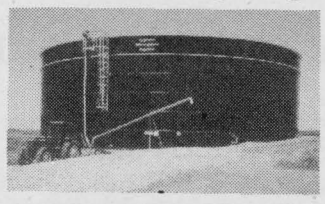

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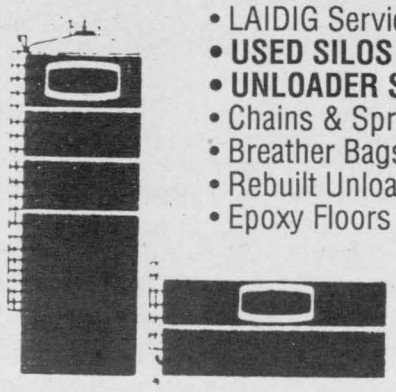

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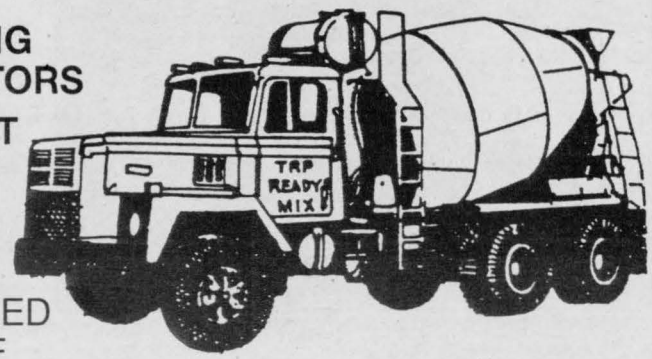

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Dairy farmers of Ontario: Frequently asked questions

What's the best type of milk for kids?

Whole or 2% milk is a good choice for most young children and whole milk is actually recommended by the Canadian Pediatric Association for infants up to 2 years of age. After 2 years of age the families preferred type of milk is fine. However, one should keep in mind the Canadian Pediatric Association recommendation. In Canada, we are a bit more lenient on the amount of fat that can be part of a child's diet. And, by the way, the only difference between the different types of milk is the fat content, the nutrient composition is the same.

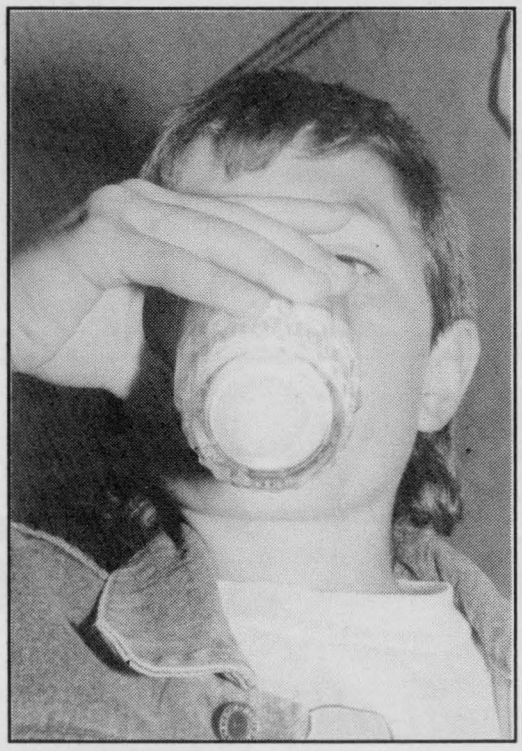
If a youngster doesn't like milk, how can you ensure an adequate intake of calcium?

If your kids don't drink enough milk, you can help them get the nutrients and the energy they need by serving them soups made with milk, chocolate milk or milkshakes. Plus, you can always offer them yogurt or cheese.

Does milk cause ear, nose and throat infections?

No. It has been suggested that we should avoid milk when feeling stuffy from the effects of a cold or allergies. Even if you're congested, you can still drink milk. Milk does not cause mucus; however, higher fat, thick milk may prevent existing mucus in the throat from draining easily. You may experience better clearance of mucus if you drink 1% or skim milk while you're sick.

Why does there seem to be more cases of food allergies?



Research fails to substantiate the public perception that people are experiencing more food allergies. A milk allergy is the result of an over-reaction of the immune system to the protein in milk and it is rare, even among very young children. Typically, a milk allergy isn't necessarily life long and is outgrown by most children by the age of three.

Who is at greatest risk for food allergy?

A family history is a strong predictor of allergy development. It has been estimated that only 10% of allergies in children under six years of age are caused by food.

What is the incidence of cows' milk allergy?

The reported incidence of cow's milk allergy varies, reflecting differences in diagnostic criteria and patient referral patterns. When strict diagnostic tests are used, the true incidence of cows' milk allergy is probably 1 to 8% or less.

How do you get kids to try different foods?

Expose youngsters to a wide variety of foods from each of the four food groups at a very early age. Don't be discouraged if your child refuses a new food experience, sometimes it takes 3 or 4 attempts or more before a new food is accepted.

Is vegetarianism a healthy way for kids to eat?

There are different ways of eating that all fall under the umbrella of vegetarianism. Veganism is the most limited (no animal products) and the least often followed. It also requires the most care to ensure nutritional adequacy. During childhood, adolescence and pregnancy, extra care must be taken in planning a vegetarian diet. Vegetarian diets that include milk and milk products will help ensure adequate intakes of calcium, vitamin D, riboflavin and vitamin B12, nutrients that are a concern when milk is eliminated from the diet.

Consult a registered dietitian for guidelines and recommended readings. The key nutrients you will want to make sure your child gets enough of includes: calcium, iron, Vitamin D, B12, and enough calories or energy.

How do you know whether your child is getting enough to eat?

Age, level of activity, body size and metabolism will all affect how much energy a child needs in a day. On some days your youngster may eat less and on other days, they may eat more. Don't worry. As long as your child is energetic, and their hunger is satisfied (hopefully with nutritious foods), they are likely doing fine.

How much calcium should a teenager consume each day?

A teenage girl between 13 -15 years

• continued on next page

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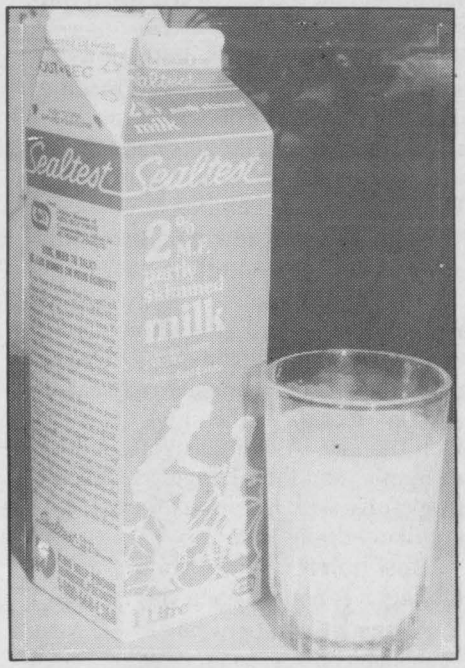
Questions

• continued from previous page

needs about 1000 mg of calcium each day. By consuming the minimum number of servings from each of the four food groups which includes 3 servings of milk products each day for 10 to 16-year-olds. a youngster can adequately meet their calcium needs.

Why is calcium so important?

Calcium is an essential nutrient which means it is a nutrient our bodies can't make and we need to get enough of it from the food we eat. Calcium helps to build strong bones and teeth.



Calcium is also needed for muscles like the heart to contract, blood to clot, and nerve impulses to transmit in the body. If your calcium needs are not met through the foods you eat, it will be withdrawn from your bones which act as a storehouse for calcium. Milk Products are excellent sources of calcium. Fluid milk (only) also contains vitamin D which helps our body absorb calcium and is equally important for bone health.

Milk is for growing kids, why should adults drink it?

Milk contains 15 essential nutrients (our body cannot make) that are needed throughout our lives. As part of a well balanced diet milk contributes to our present and future health. Canada's Food Guide to Healthy Eating recommends adults consume 2-4 servings of milk products each day. While there are no essential foods, about 70% of the typical Canadian's calcium requirements are met through milk and milk products.

Are milk products fattening?

No. Milk products come in a range of fat contents to suit any life style. And, Health Canada recognizes 2% milk as a lower fat choice. Remember, low fat recommendations do not mean "no fat". Fat is an essential nutrient. A food should not be eliminated based on fat content only. Be mindful of all the nutrients a food contains.

Should adults take a calcium supplement?

For most people, eating a variety of foods suggested by Canada's Food Guide to Healthy Eating, will provide all the necessary nutrients you need each day. The average healthy person does not require vitamin pills, even on a stressful day.

Daily calcium requirements vary depending on age and sex. If you are eating the recommended number of servings from the milk products food group, then you can be pretty well assured that your calcium requirements are being met. If a person doesn't consume milk and milk products, meeting one's calcium requirements may be achieved with careful planning through other food sources.

For people who can't get enough calcium through food, a calcium supplement is worth considering. Your physician and registered dietitian can help advise you on an eating plan that is personalized to meet specific needs or for information on specific vitamin and mineral supplements.

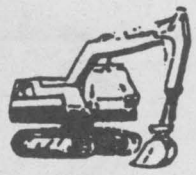
What is organic milk?

Nutritionally, there is virtually no difference between organic and regular milk. Both milks contain the same amount of calcium, vitamin D, etc. The only difference is in the feeding of cows. Organic milk comes from dairy cows fed crops organically grown. According to the International Organic Standards that farmers follow, no chemical pesticides or fertilizers are added to the fields (in Ontario). Also, be prepared to pay about $0.10 more per litre for organic milk.

Why are cows given antibiotics?

It is essential that the milk and milk products we consume come from healthy cows. Proper farm management reduces, but does not eliminate, the need for antibiotics from time to time. Antibiotics are administered at the discretion of a licensed vet, for therapeutic use only, in the treatment of serious illness. A cow who is being treated with antibiotics is separated from the rest of the herd and her milk is discarded until the cow has recovered from her illness, and until no antibiotic is detected in her milk.

24 Hours



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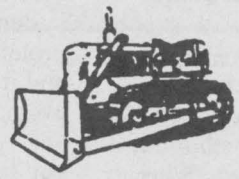

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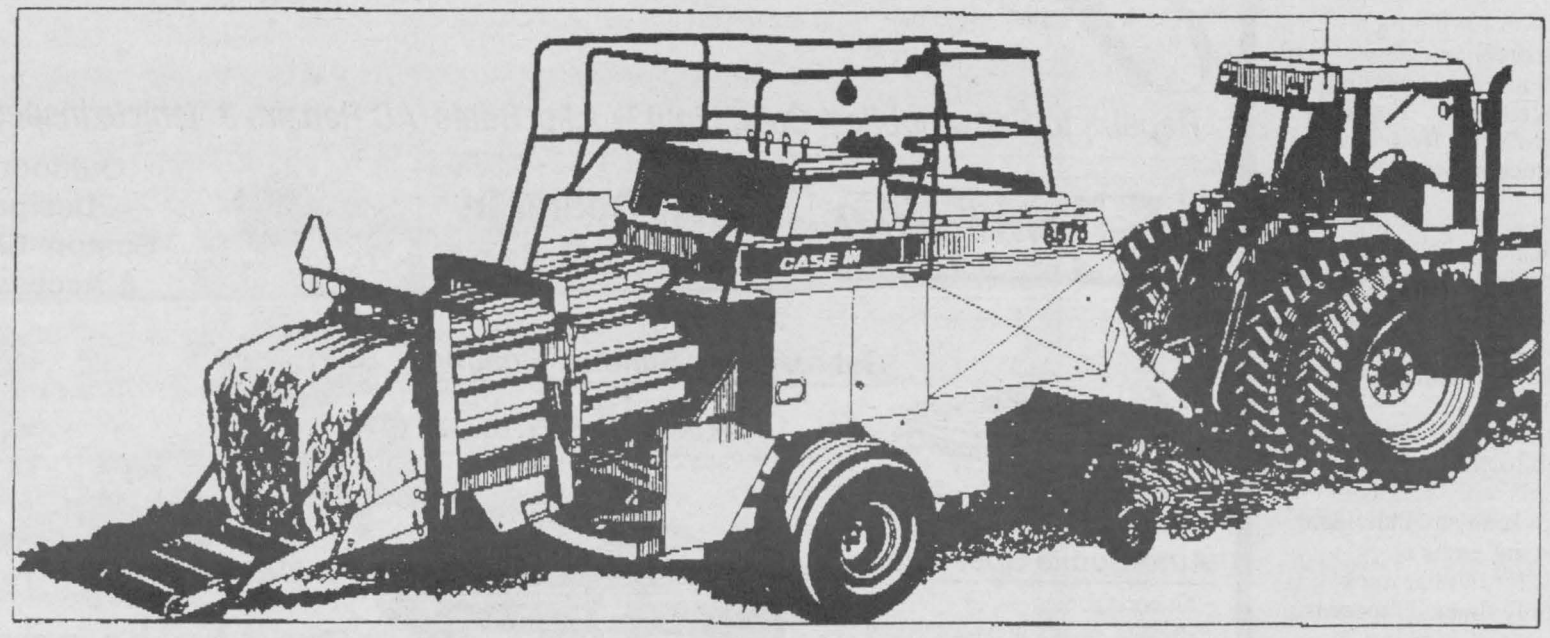

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Why are annual profits below average?

By: John MacDonald, Business Financial Specialist, Nepean OMAFRA.

A dairy farmer approached me recently and informed me that he was not satisfied with the annual profit he was generating. He went on to say that each year he was having more difficulty meeting his financial obligations. He said "I am operating the same as my neighbours. I grow forages and grain which I feed to my dairy herd to produce milk, yet I am falling behind".

I asked the farmer if his profits were decreasing because of reduced revenue or because of increased costs? In reply the farmer said his revenue had been relatively steady over the past few years, but he felt that his costs were increasing.

I asked the farmer if he knew what it was costing him to produce home-grown feeds and his reply was as follows: "I do not keep any individual records for producing crops or individual records for the livestock enterprise. The only financial records I have is a Statement of Farming Activities which my accountant submits to Revenue Canada annually."

I asked the farmer if he would like to compare his cost of production to the average costs of similar dairy farmers in Ontario. The farmer agreed and data was processed through the Ontario Farm Management Analysis Project and the findings were as follows:

His Total Variable Expenses exceeded the Ontario average of 482 dairy farms by 12 percent. Total Variable Expenses were above average because of the excessive amounts spent on purchased feed and fertilizer, animal health and breeding, as well as purchased livestock and hired labour.

Total Fixed Expenses were 7 percent above the Ontario average of 482 dairy farms because of a larger than average land base and interest payments.

Upon reviewing the findings of the farm analysis the farmer decided that he should do a more cost effective job of producing forages and grain. He also decided that he could reduce hired labor and concentrate more time on managing the dairy herd.

The farmer concluded that his farm revenue was adequate and that his total profit could be increased by reducing variable and fixed costs. He also decided that if costs were to be reduced, individual financial records must be maintained for both the cropping enterprise and the livestock enterprises.

When leaving, the farmer said "I guess the Statement of Farming Activities which I submit to Revenue Canada has not helped me to understand the strengths and weaknesses in my business." I replied that the Statement was never intended to be used for making management decisions. The primary use of the statement was to measure your net income (Loss) for Revenue Canada.

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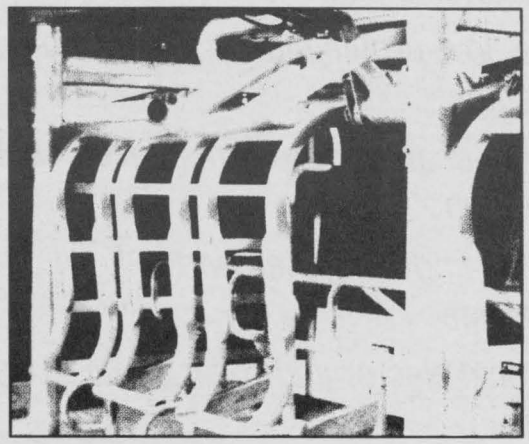

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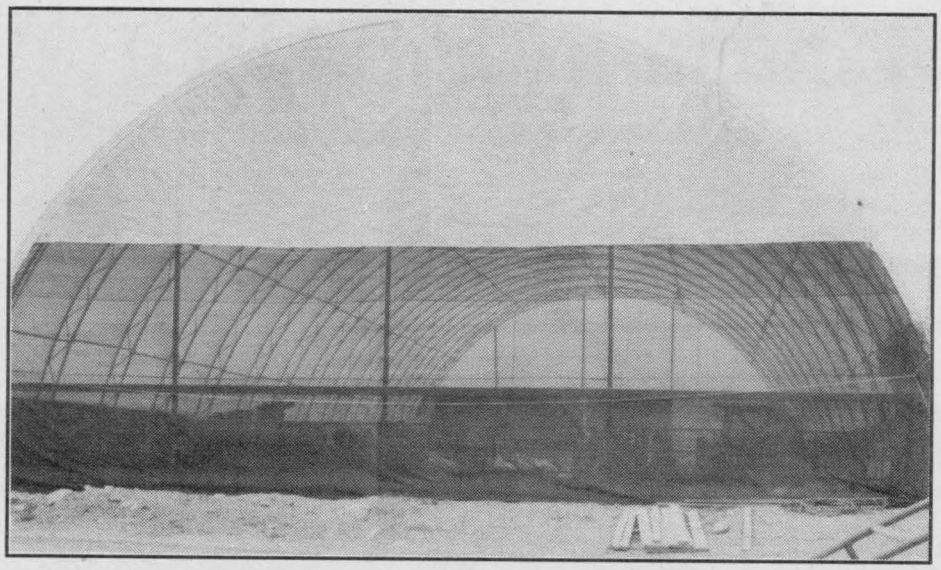

Economic alternative

The new dome-shaped shelter systems are an economic alternative to traditional barns.

Shelter systems alternative to traditional barns

CRYSLER — It's an economical alternative to traditional barns.

A new generation of farm buildings — dome-shaped shelters — are becoming popular among today's farmers.

They can be used to house cattle, pigs, sheep, hay and machinery, says Rita Shane of Shane Ridge Farms in Crysler. Shane has sold 12 "Cover All Shelter Systems" to area farmers since last summer.

John Klein-Swormink of Morewood uses one of Shane's systems to house his 52 dairy cows.

"This is definitely a low-cost set up," he says. "A traditional barn does a good job too but this is 30 per cent of the cost of a cadillac barn."

Shane accents the economic benefit of the shelter system.

"They (the shelters) are about half the cost of a traditional wooden building," she says. "They can be installed within a couple of days and aren't really considered a permanent building since you put posts down."

The translucent material of the shelter provides for a bright environment for the animals, adds Shane.

"Cover All Shelter Systems" were first manufactured in Saskatchewan in 1985.

Harvesting the cereal nurse crop as forage

by Gilles Quesnel, Soil and Crop Advisor

AVONMORE — Again this year, alfalfa and orchard grass losses to winterkill were quite significant. A number of the new hay fields established this spring were put in with a cereal nurse crop to increase forage volume. If you are planning to harvest a nurse crop as forage, you will get the best results by cutting the crop early and harvesting it as silage. The best time to cut is when the cereal is at the boot (just before heading) to early heading stage.

It is often tempting to delay harvest of the nurse crop since dry matter yield nearly doubles as cereals mature from the late boot stage to the soft dough stage. However, as barley, oats or wheat matures from the boot stage to the dough stage, the in-vitro digestibility of the cereal drops from approximately 80% to 60%, while crude protein drops from 20% to 12% or lower. Once the cereal crop reaches the milk stage, it becomes high in fibre and low in digestibility and feed value drop=s significantly. Also, as the cereal crop matures, it will become more and more difficult to ensile since the moisture content of the plant will be too low for proper fermentation.

From a harvest stand point, it=s best to harvest the cereal nurse crop as silage when possible. The lush growth and high moisture content of the cereal and the underseeding make it very difficult to harvest the crop as dry hay.

Since the cereal nurse crop competes with the establishing forage crop for light, nutrients and moisture, an early harvest favours the establishment of the new seeding. Although the yield of the nurse crop is significantly reduce by harvesting it at the boot stage, the early harvest makes for an earlier and higher yielding second cut.

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Let's keep kids out of the farm workplace

According to the Ontario Farm Safety Association, from 1982 through 1996, 81 children under the age of 15 died as a result of work-related incidents on Ontario farms.

More than half of these victims were under the age of five.

However, the loss of one young life in the farm workplace is one too many. Also, the gruesome fatality statistics don't say anything about the hundreds of injuries and 'near misses' involving children on the farm.

Farm families face a daunting challenge when it comes to the safety of children. In a majority of cases, the workplace is inextricably linked with the home and day-to-day life on the farm.

Every parent has a responsibility to know where small children are at all times. This is doubly important around the farm, where dangers posed by heavy machinery, livestock, grain bins etc. are almost too numerous to count.

A majority of child fatalities involve farm equipment. Tractor and machine operations should be strictly off-limits to young children. Adolescents shouldn't operate the equipment until they are physically big enough to handle all of the controls. In-depth training under adult supervision should be mandatory before young people are allowed to drive tractors.

NO RIDERS

Several young children have died as a result of falling from a moving tractor. How often do we have to remind people that extra riders must never be allowed on farm tractors?

Letting kids 'come along for the ride' is a highly irresponsible adult action. Chances are that a driver won't be able to catch a child rider before he/she falls forward under a tractor's wheel, or rearward into the path of towed equipment.

Adults simply must not give in to children's pleas to 'go for a little ride.'

AVAILABLE HELP

The Farm Safety Association has produced a variety of materials which describe the many threats to children's health and safety on the farm.

Included are print and video items that can be used by parents and teachers to educate children about safety. Contact the association's Guelph office for detailed information about available child safety resources.

IT'S UP TO YOU

Adults should always set a good example for youngsters. When children start to help them out on the farm, they will follow their parent's lead. If you work safely, so will your children.

Remember that children sometimes are careless, and many forget what you have told them. They may try to do too much and sometimes deliberately disobey.

In the end, safety is the responsibility of adults. No matter how carefully they are taught, children are still children.

Grow Ontario helps improve Jersey breed

GUELPH — Through the Grow Ontario Investment Program, Jersey Canada, in conjunction with Trillium Embryos Services, recently received funding to research and market the improvement of Ontario's Jersey cattle industry through the application of embryo sexing technology.

The project is designed to develop a new integrated system for the improvement of Ontario registered and commercial Jersey cattle utilizing leading edge biotechnologies.

The new system will result in the production of sexed, genetically superior embryos for domestic and international use. This will lead to increased marketing opportunities for both embryos and live cattle.

This project will have a direct effect on the profitability of Jersey herds in Canada. It will expand the opportunity for growth of the Jersey influence through genetic improvement.

This is the first occurrence of a private embryo transfer company working collaboratively with a breed association in Ontario. This alliance leads the way towards a growing co-operation between industry partners in the animal improvement industry.

Both partners are based in Guelph which helps to facilititate this venture.

Work began on April 1, 1997 and is expected to be completed in December 1998.

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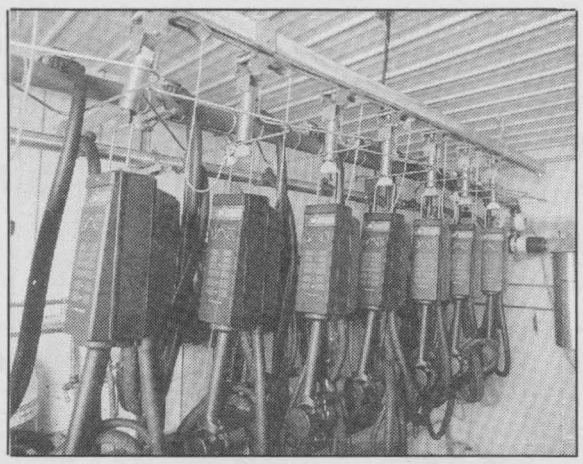

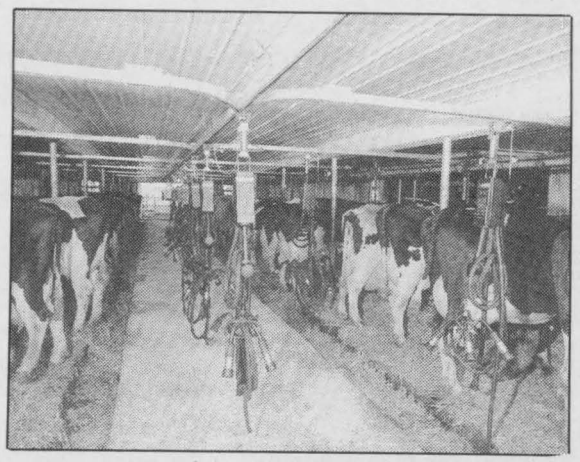

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Mastitis leaping the cultural herd

This past year, provincial somatic cell counts have been on the rise. Any number of reasons could account for this trend. Wet fall weather conditions could have caused teats to be exposed to potential pathogens.

Poorer feed quality could have meant that producers kept older cows late in lactation in the milk line longer to make fall milk requirements. Cull cows or chronic mastitis cows could have also been kept longer because of low cull cow prices.

Last summer and fall the industry also enjoyed some of the highest prices for dairy sales. As a result more cows and heifers may have left the farm. This may have lead producers to milk later lactation cows or keep cull candidates longer.

There is also a thought that with load liability penalties coming into effect, producers chose not to treat infected cows preferring to cull at a later date.

There are two types of organisms which cause mastitis — contagious bacteria (spread from cow to cow) and environmental pathogens (spread from the environment to the cow).

Contagious mastitis is caused primarily by two organisms strep ag and staph aureus. The source of these bacteria is cows with infected udders.

These bacteria do not live in bedding, straw, yards or any other locations outside the cows mammary system. They spread from cow to cow by the liners of milking machines, cloths or sponges used to repeatedly wash cows udders, or milker's hands.

These organisms almost always cause subclinical mastitis. There are no noticeable changes to the milk (flakes or clots), cows are not sick and they do not show typical signs of infection such as swollen, hard or hot quarters. The best way to determine this type of infection is with routine somatic cell testing.

An easy way to estimate somatic cells is using the cow side California Mastitis Test (CMT). If elevated Somatic Cells are noted, producers can follow up with laboratory culturing with their veterinarian.

Individual udder infections can last anywhere from a few weeks to the entire life of the cow. Strep Ags are always sensitive to penicillin and cure rates during lactation are 80 to 100 percent effective.

Administering dry cow treatment at dry off will give a cure rate of 90 to 100%. Staph aureus is not so easy to treat. Because the organism forms a cyst around itself in the mammary gland, it is difficult to treat with penicillin type antibiotics. Cure rates are 20 to 60 percent for treatments during lactation and slightly more effective with dry cow therapy at 50 to 70 percent

What are some preventative measures which can be used to address strep ag and staph aureus infections? Stop cow-to-cow spread at milking time by washing and drying udders before milking by using an single use paper towel, dipping all cows with a licensed teat dip product and milking identified infected cows especially those with staph aureus LAST.

Reduce the number of sources of infection on the farm by treating all cows with an approved antibiotic at

• continued on next page

Revised rules for use of SMV sign

In the past, only farm tractors and self-propelled farm machines had to use the slow-moving vehicle (SMV) sign for road travel.

As of December 1, 1996, all vehicles that cannot maintain a speed of more than 40 km/hr (eg. road construction equipment, horse-drawn carriages) must display the SMV sign.

If a slow-moving vehicle is towing another behind it, the SMV sign must hang on the rearmost vehicle. The sign must be centred between two metres and 0.5 metres above the roadway.

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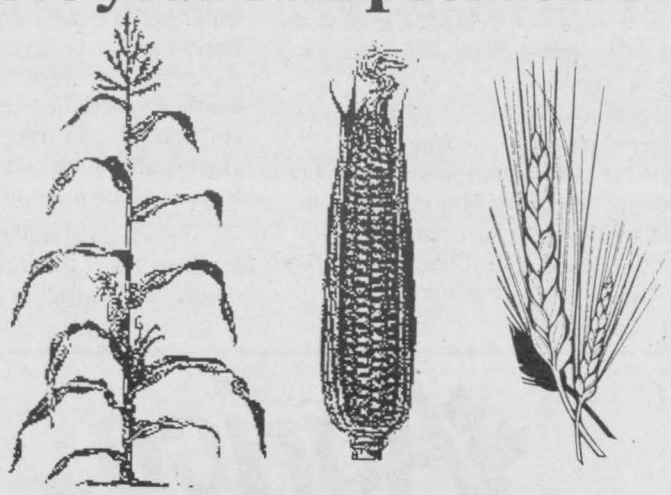

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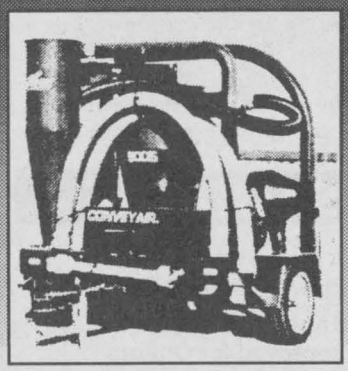

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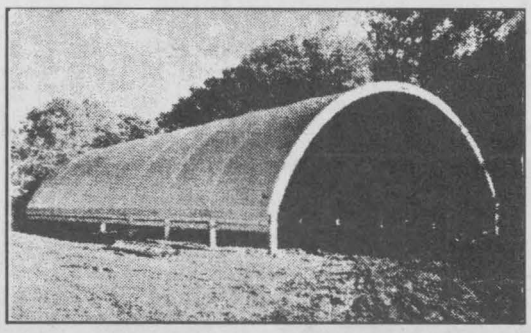

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Mastitis

• continued from previous page

dry off, culling cows with incurable infections, culturing purchased cows and consulting with your veterinarian about treatments during lactation. As well, monthly individual somatic cell tests should also be a part of your udder improvement program.

Environmental causing mastitis organisms live anywhere in the cows environment especially those areas are contaminated by manure. Common sources are bedding, manure packs, yards, and water. Environmentals do not spread from cow to cow but spread from the environment to the cow.

The most common bacteria are strep non ags and the most common coliform e-coli. Research shows that new environmental infections occur most often during the first two weeks of the dry period and two weeks before and after calving.

Infections caused by environmentals almost always show clinical signs at the time of infection. The infected quarter may be swollen, red, hard, the cow may be sick or off feed, flakes, clots or a watery appearance may show in the milk. Most of these infections are short lived.

Strep non ags respond to antibiotics and have a cure rate of 70 to 100 percent for both lactation and dry cow treatment. The most common way to treat is by frequent stripping of the affected quarter. E-coli bacteria on the other hand do not respond to antibiotics. The best way to treat is to milk affected quarters frequently to remove the toxins that are created in the udder by these bacteria. In severe cases you veterinarian should be consulted. Many of these e-coli infections will cure themselves.

To prevent new cases of environmental milk only clean dry teats, use properly functioning milking equipment and treat all cows at dry off to protect the udder during the early dry off period.

To reduce a cows exposure to bacteria in her environment keep all bedding clean and dry, calve cows separately in a clean, dry boxstall and maintain cows in a dry, clean loose housing environment. Keep records of all clinical mastitis cases and treatments administered.

Mastitis is a costly infection for the dairy industry. The average herd has a treatment rate of 39 treatments per 100 cows/year. Another costly area is discarded milk. The average herd loses 1.1 days of production per cow per year.

When the cost of therapy and lost milk are factored into the equation it is important for producers to use all of the current management practices available including individual somatic cell testing, culturing and culling of chronically infected cows to reduce losses associated with mastitis.

With a good udder health program you can assist the industry by having a quality milk product for consumers.

Dairy Educator explains: Why you get an ice cream headache

by Rachel Westenbroek
Dundas Dairy Educator

Up to 30 per cent of us sometime get an ice cream headache which is a sharp throbbing pain in the temples and/or forehead when we eat ice cream.

But ice cream is not the trigger — any chilled food or beverage can cause a headache. Why?

Cold drinks and food drastically cool the mouth, causing blood from the head to be sent to the mouth to warm it up.

As blood is 'pulled' from the head, nerve endings become irritated, signalling pain.

To enjoy ice cream painlessly, eat it very slowly.

Watching your calories this summer? One-half cup of vanilla ice cream (10 per cent butter fat) supplies 141 calories, one-half cup of vanilla ice milk (soft serve) has 144 calories, and one-half cup of gelato has 126 calories.

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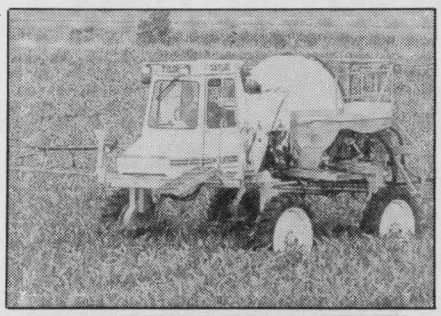

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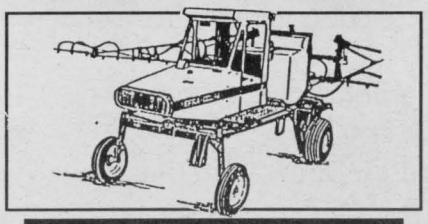

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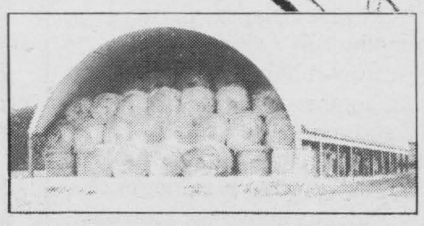

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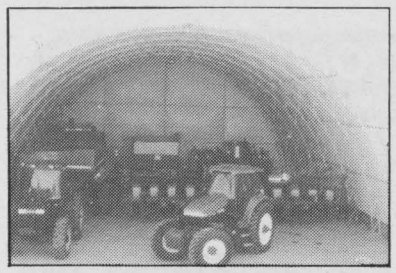

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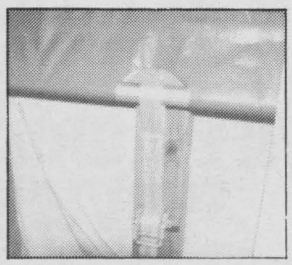

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Dairy Educator visits Dundas County schools

Westenbroek enjoys job

by Rachel Westenbroek, Dairy Educator

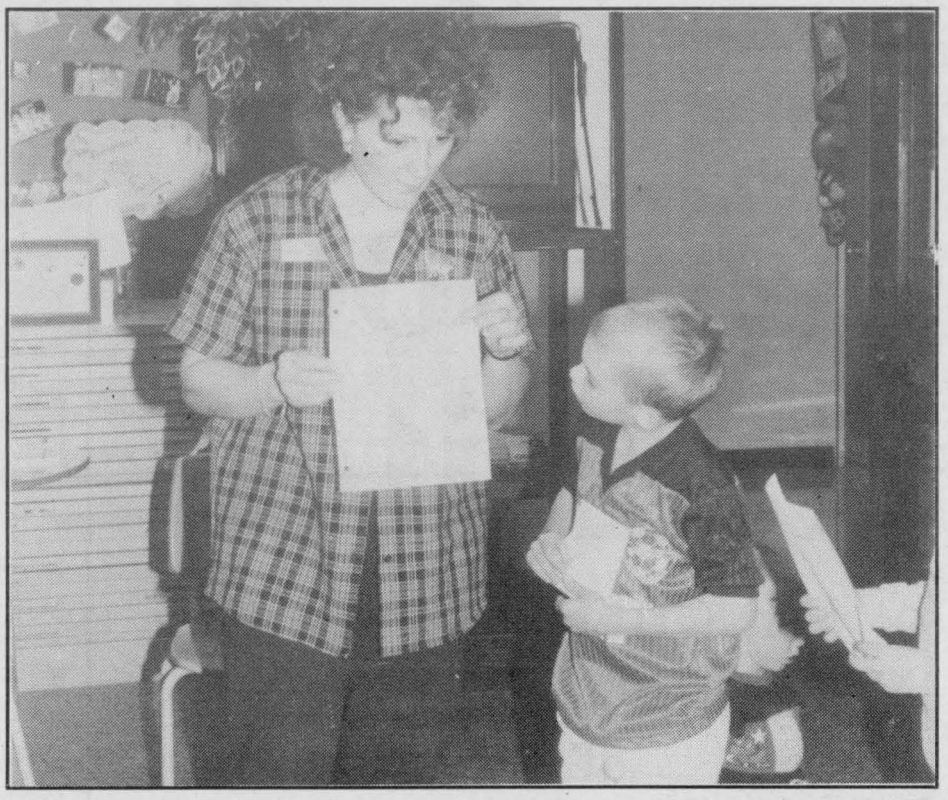
"Planning"
If you plan for a day — plant rice
If you plan for tomorrow — plant a tree
If you plan for the future — educate another person!

This past month, I had the opportunity to educate children by visiting area schools. It was very enjoyable, full of fun, laughs, surprises and amazement — how could working with children not be?

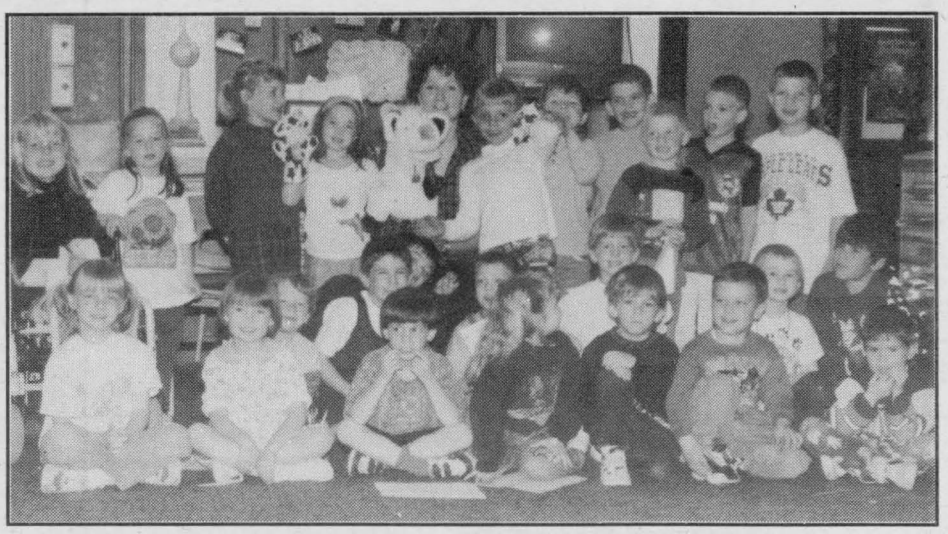
By using Clover the cow puppet, Mystery Tool Games, Fishing for Milk Products, the Milky Way Video, making TV commercials, taste testing and making butter, the children were able to be involved in many interactive hands-on teaching activities.

Teachers had the opportunity to choose the topic they would like the children to learn more about. I was given a warm welcome by each class as well as given many appreciative thank yous from the teachers.

The program also gave me the opportunity to attend various other activities involving the dairy industry, both as goodwill ambassador and educator.



Rachel Westenbroek discussed dairy products with Kindergarten students.

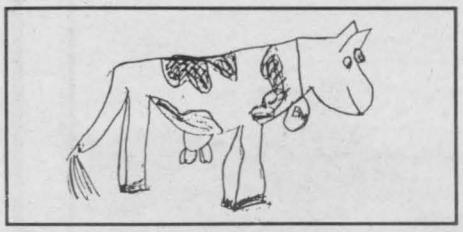


Dairy Educator Rachel Westenbroek and her cow "Clover" are surrounded by the Nationview Public School senior Kindergarten class.

Press photos–Fetterly

Dairy educator Rachel Westenbroek has visited area schools over the past month and the following is an example of what Winchester Public School students think about the dairy industry.

Milk, milk, wonderful milk. The more you drink the more you grow, the more you like the cow. So drink milk! — **Nick, Grade 4**



Brandon Mooney, Nationview, S.K.

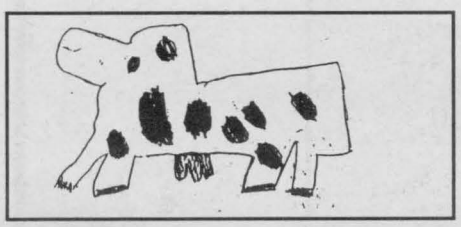
If you want to stay fit and you want to stay healthy then drink milk. There's also lots of food groups that can go along with it like ice cream and cheese and yogurt. So stay fit and stay healthy. Drink milk. — **Kurtis, Grade 4**

Milk, milk, how I like how it. It makes me grow, big and strong. — **Kara Holmes, Grade 4**

Milk in the evening. Milk in the night. Milk anytime, it's all right. — **Tabbitha, Grade 4**

Milk, cool milk. If you drink it you'll be as strong as a strapping bear. — **Matthew Holmes, Grade 4**

Do you know what's white, foamy, nutritious and good for you? Milk. It comes from cows but you can have it anyway. So stay and have a great day. — **Krysha LaRose, Grade 5**



Karlyn Moore, Nationview, S.K.

Milk in the morning is not boring. It's always right, especially at night. It's such a wonderful sight. So drink milk, all right. — **Vanessa Roy, Grade 5**

When you drink it you feel fit. So don't feel sick by drinking pop and come out and have a cup. — **Jessica Marcellus, Grade 5**

Drink milk everyday. It gives you muscles every way. Take a sip and don't feel sick. — **Scott Smail, Grade 5**

Milk is good anytime. I prefer cheese because it's got milk in it. Lazy people should have milk because it will wake them up in time. Kids love it because it good. — **Adam Geggie, Grade 4**

Milk is totally cool in the morning, it's not hot and boring. If it spills, lick it up. It's too good to waste. Just put it in your waster basket — in other words, your tummy. Munchable, lunchable, eatable, yumable, drinkable milk. — **Emily Quinto, Grade 5**

When you are at the rink, have a drink of milk. When it is summer, don't feel a bummer, have a drink of milk. — **Kristen Cowell, Grade 4**

Milk is cool. It gives you nutrients and it gives you energy. I like milk. — **Kate Stanley, Grade 4**.

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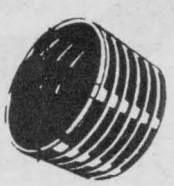

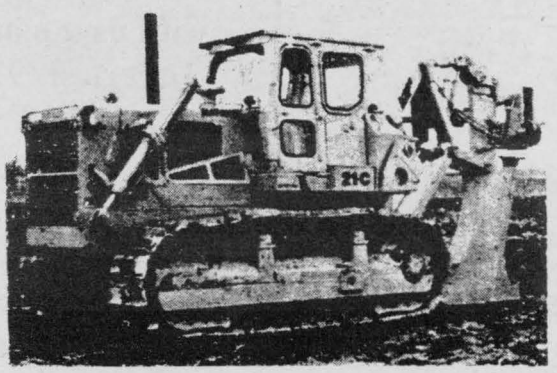

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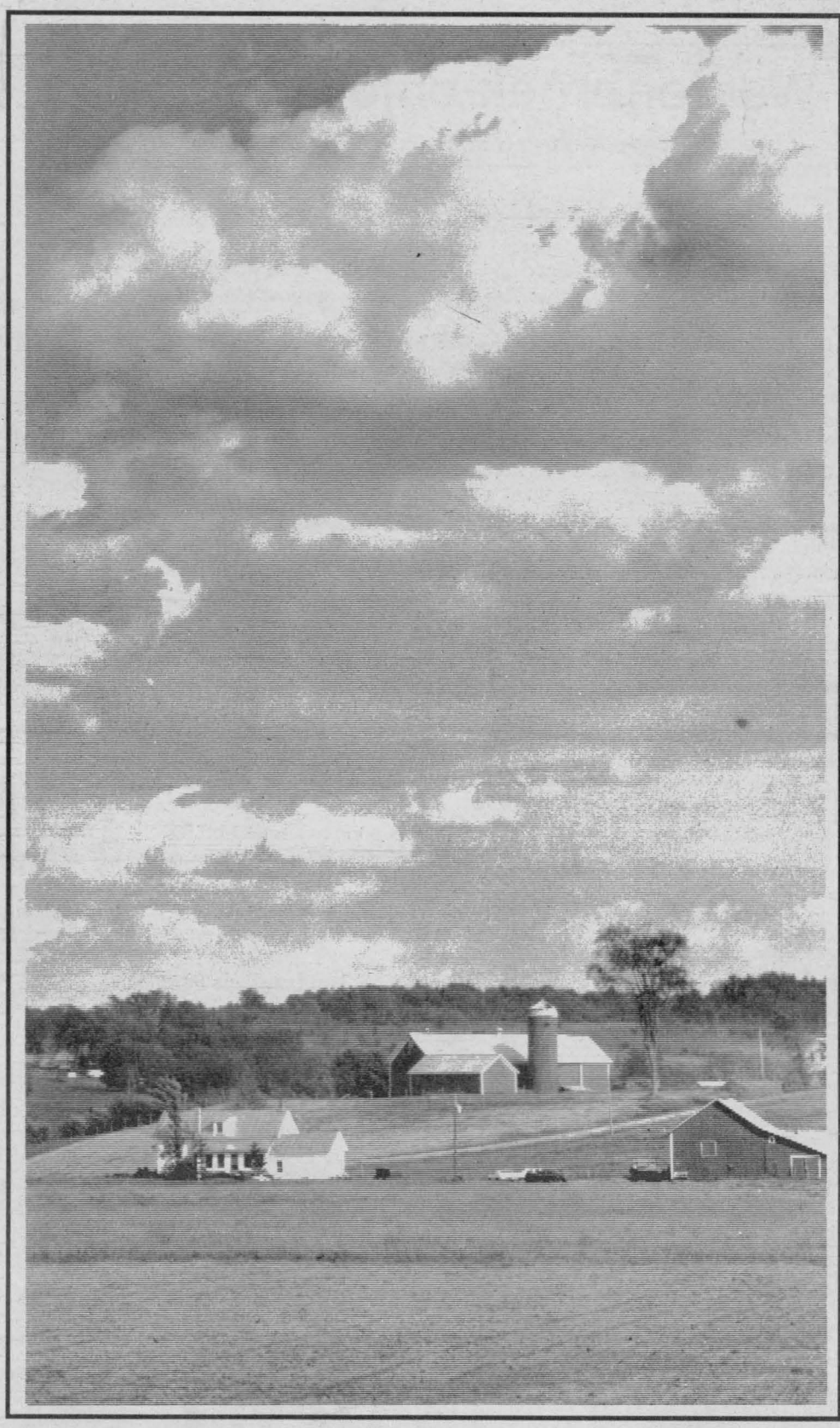

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