

Mastitis Control Program Keeps Problem In Check

Mastitis costs the average Eastern Ontario farmer \$2,000 annually. This startling figure was revealed by Dr. George Fisher of the Regional Veterinary Kemptville College of Agricultural Technology, Laboratory.

who recently conducted a mastitis survey of 11 counties in Eastern Ontario. For the survey, 111 herds were visited and 3,667 of 14,560 udder quarters tested. While survey results are not yet fully analyzed, 48 percent of the cows tested showed positive evidence of mastitis. Udder quarters had an incidence of 25.7 percent of mastitis-causing bacteria.

The mastitis survey also studied milking equipment, an important factor in mastitis control. Faulty or below-capacity equipment can produce stress on the udder resulting in injury which speeds up mastitis infection. Of the total equipment tested, 53.3 percent was found to be faulty or below capacity. Although the incidence of mastitis is high, Dr. Fisher says facilities are available to deal with the problem. The Ontario mastitis control program, sponsored by the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food, is a three-phase program which costs the farmer \$2.25 per cow. It includes an equipment check for capacity and suitability, udder quarter samples from the cow every six weeks for a period of six months, and specific recommendations based on the findings of the survey.

Results can be dramatic, following analysis and treatment, says Dr. Fisher. In one instance, the mastitis frequency was reduced from 68 percent to nine percent in a short time. However, vigilance must be maintained to keep the problem in check after the control program has ended. When the farmer finds mastitis in his herd, Dr. Fisher advises him to contact his Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food representative or a veterinarian for information about the mastitis control program.

Southern Leaf Blight Fungicide Available

A fungicide which reduces the risk of southern corn leaf blight has been registered in Canada for treatment of seed corn for planting in the 1971 season. Professor C. B. Kelly and John Sutton, Department of Botany, University of Guelph, say the fungicide, Vitafo D. B., is an inexpensive measure to help prevent blight developing on plants growing from infested seed in the early part of the season.

The fungicide which causes southern leaf blight is present in a considerable percentage of the seed corn that will be planted in Ontario this year. Infected seed is the most likely source of the fungus early in the season, and the earlier the blight develops, the greater the damage. Although the fungus may survive the winter in corn debris, it is not likely to be a source of blight since it will probably die before planting time. There is a chance the fungus may blow in from the United States, but if this occurs, it will be

Emphasis On Quality Required For Pork

farmer who believes is just a hog" and is slightly interested in production improvement to the greatest of all to the hog business. Robert Rust, Ontario Meat Specialist at State University, told delegates to the 1971 Ontario Pork Producers' Conference held at the University of Guelph last week that pork producers emphasize quality, quantity and optimum production techniques to the best possible carcass at the best possible price. Color selection, texture, firmness, palatability and an acceptable degree of marbling all must be achieved. "The standards for evaluation need to be based on sound scientific fact and not arbitrarily established procedures," he said. Pork producers must promote their own products. Funds should be set aside for a nationally coordinated campaign to educate the consumer rather than just advertise the product. "Make pork so good it needs no advertising," said Mr. Rust, adding that the educational process should aim to correct the misconceptions about pork held by consumers.

Check Orchards For Mouse Damage

the spring thaw it is time to check and pear orchards for damage. Mice often gnaw tree bark, at about level, under cover of snow, and can work down to the main trunk or gnaw all tree bark if the snow is deep.

Professor C. B. Kelly, Department of Botany, University of Guelph, says mice should be applied to damaged trees. Wounds should be treated with a tree dressing as Braco, and extra bait should be applied to prevent further damage. Girdled trees can be saved by bridge grafting or inarching. Professor Kelly suggests that growers consult Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food Publication 439, Orchard Grafting, for details on these techniques. Scions for bridge grafting and one-year whips for inarching should be secured while they are still dormant, and stored for future use. While meadow mice usually concentrate on pear and apple trees, they may also attack others. Young trees, says Professor Kelly, are a favorite target, but if they are hungry enough mice will attack old trees with tough, thick bark.

Performance traits that contribute directly to economic returns should be considered first, when selecting a herd boar.

Mr. Ron Dennis, Swine Specialist, Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food, says best boar selection can be assured if prime importance is placed on average backfat thickness and the age at market or growth rate of the boars. There is a close relationship between feed conversion and both growth rate and backfat thickness, says Mr. Dennis, Growthy pigs with low backfat thickness generally have the best feed conversion. Producers should select a boar two or three months before they wish to begin using him. This ensures a better selection, and enables the producer to isolate the boar before introducing him into the herd.

The Weigh-Probe Index is the first standard boars must meet. This Index is the measure of a boar's genetic potential for backfat thickness and age at 200 pounds measured against the Ontario average of all boars weighed and probed in 1970. Producers should not consider a boar that does not have a Weigh-Probe Index of 100 or higher. The higher the Weigh-Probe Index the better, providing the boar is physically sound and healthy.

"The future belongs to segments of the industry that continue to offer consumers the quality they demand," he concluded. "Make sure the product you sell meets these demands and you will have done your part as a member of the pork promotion team."

Herd Boar Selection Affects Producer Profit

Buy boars only from herds with good health status, says Mr. Dennis. Lists of such herds, enrolled under the Certified Herd Policy for Swine, are available from the Veterinary Services Branch, Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food. Health status from the standpoint of atrophic rhinitis and virus pig pneumonia is indicated. Boars offered for sale should be vaccinated against erysipelas and treated for internal and external parasites. Herds tested under the Record of Performance (ROP) Policy receive routine visual health inspections.

Producers should be asked to drive boars out from crowded pens so that buyers may examine the feet and legs. Fine bones, small inside toes, and any other abnormalities should be avoided. Udders should be examined carefully. There should be 12 evenly spaced, well-developed rudimentary teats with none appearing inverted or blind. Boars should be rugged and well muscled with adequate scale and length. Buyers should not ignore boars with a high Weigh-Probe Index that have small non-genetic physical defects like a withered tail or shrivelled ear.

Finally, says Mr. Dennis, the seller's guarantee should be checked. The Ontario Swine Breeder's Association has adopted a Code of Fair Practice and Standard Guarantee for Boars, Bred Sows and Open Gilts. Copies of this are available to buyers to prevent possible misunderstandings between buyer and seller. County agricultural offices can provide further information.

Good Seed Month, Order Seed Now

March is good seed month — and the tag that certifies the seed as "Pedigreed Seed" is what growers should be looking for. Mr. Bill Taylor, crops specialist, Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food, says "that buying good pedigreed seed is the first step to practical crop insurance, because high yields are far more likely. Growers should read the tests carefully and check variety yield tables, says Mr. Taylor, to ensure buying the best possible varieties."

New Dessert Star For Your Diet



Even if you're on a diet you can have desserts, provided you have special recipes that are low in calories. Strawberry Chiffon is made with a diet-designed recipe that makes you forget you're dieting. It's a fluffy dessert that is molded and held firm with unflavored gelatine. Because it has no flavor, this gelatine lets all the natural flavors of low-calorie, fresh fruits come through for delicious diet desserts. Enjoy Strawberry Chiffon — delightful party dessert, too.

Strawberry Chiffon
 1 envelope Knox Unflavored Gelatine
 1/2 cup cold water
 1/4 teaspoon salt
 Non-nutritive sweetener equivalent to 1 cup sugar
 1 tablespoon lemon juice
 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
 1 pint strawberries, washed and hulled
 2 egg whites
 1/4 teaspoon cream of tartar sugar

Sprinkle gelatine over cold water in saucepan. Place over low heat; stir constantly until gelatine dissolves, about 3 minutes. Remove from heat; stir in salt, non-nutritive sweetener, lemon juice and vanilla. Mash berries, or puree in electric blender; add to gelatine mixture. Chill, stirring occasionally, until mixture is consistency of unbeaten egg white. Beat egg whites with cream of tartar until stiff. Fold into gelatine mixture. Turn into 4-cup mold. Chill until firm. Unmold.
 YIELD: 6 to 8 servings.



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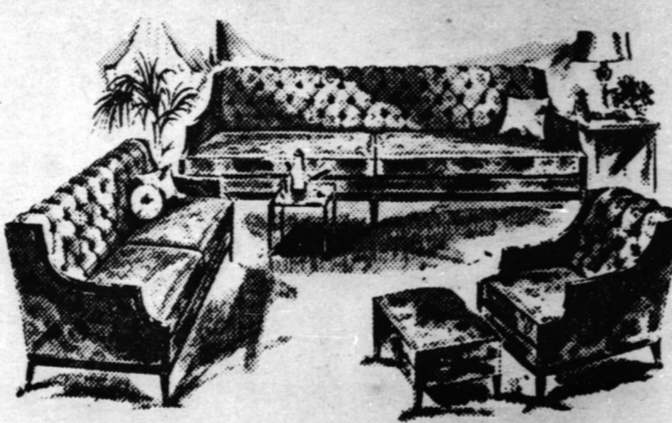
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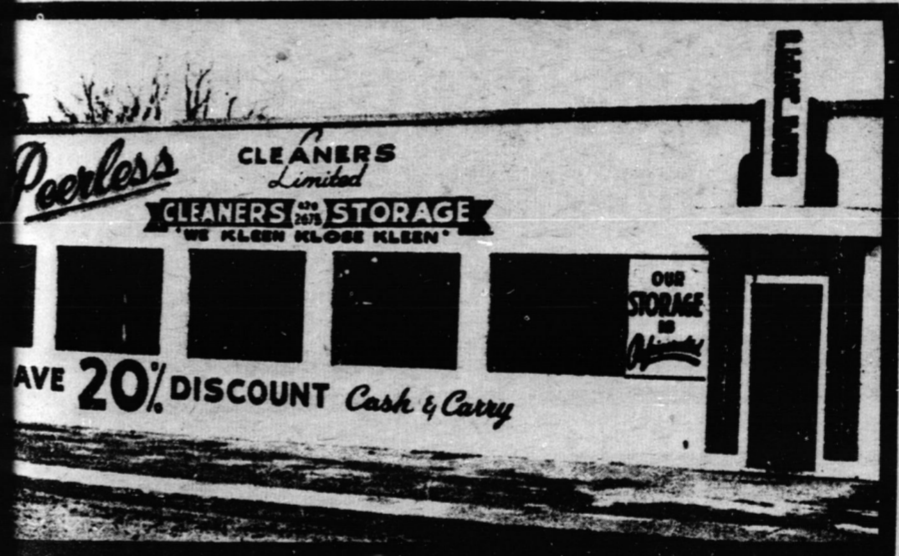
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