

## Rubber Mats For Cows Being Tried At Elora

Rubber mats for livestock stalls are being tested at the Elora Dairy Research Station in place of such conventional loose beddings as straw.

Dr. J. B. Stone, Animal Science Department, University of Guelph, says rubber mats can save farmers the cost of two or three pounds of straw per cow daily and moreover are far better adapted to modern liquid manure disposal systems that cannot accommodate too much loose bedding. Tests recently made at Cornell University and Pennsylvania State University show that while five to seven pounds of straw per cow is required each day in a conventional stall barn, only two to five pounds is required per day when stall barns contain rubber mats. In situations where straw is worth \$20 per ton this represents a saving of \$8 per year per cow.

At the Elora Station, 128 tie stalls are using rubber mats, with many different mat-types being tested simultaneously. One type under test is 100 percent rubber, about one inch thick and impervious to cloven-hoof stresses.

## Pork Fried Rice

1 cup vegetable oil or bacon drippings; 1 large onion, coarsely chopped; 4 cups cold cooked rice; 1/2 teaspoon salt; few grains pepper; 2 slightly beaten eggs; 1/2 cup diced cooked ham or roast pork, or crumbled cooked bacon; 2 teaspoons soy sauce.

Heat oil or drippings in a heavy skillet. Add onion and

Another is made from a plastic encased in foam rubber, while a third is manufactured from conventional waste rubber from tire retreading and is purportedly softer and spongier than its competitors. Indoor-outdoor carpeting is a possibility; it has not yet been tried and may have wear problems. Dr. Stone says the initial costs of the mats are high - roughly \$40 to \$50 for a four by six foot mat - but farmers can expect these costs to be repaid over a few years in saved loose bedding materials.

The mats are undoubtedly effective for liquid manure disposal system, as they can be washed down without excessive labor. However, Dr. Stone says some tend to lack resiliency and can cause hock damage, if the cows lie down with their hocks extending over the sharp edge of the matting.

At the Elora Dairy Research Station this problem has been combatted by attaching a low curb at the back of the stall that retains more

bedding (and thus padding) for this area.

The mats add insulation properties to bedding, keep the dust down, and can probably add substantially to overall herd health. Further information on the tests will be available when more data is completed.

## Long Seedless Cucumbers

A long, seedless, mild-flavored cucumber that is never bitter is now available from Ontario greenhouses. Many consumers are not familiar with this cucumber, which is known as the long seedless or English-style cucumber.

This cucumber has a thin edible skin that makes it possible to serve skin-on slices or wedges in salads or on a relish plate. Because of this thin skin, it does not keep as long as the regular cucumber, but its storage life can be extended by protecting it with a covering of plastic film or storing in a plastic bag in the crisper, say food specialists at the Ontario Food Council, Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food. This helps slow down the surface evaporation that causes the cucumber to soften.

Of special interest is its seedlessness, a characteristic that can be obtained only when the cucumber is grown in a greenhouse and the blossoms mechanically pollinated. If blossoms are pollinated by bees the result is not a long seedless cucumber, but a seeded marrow-like vegetable.

## McCutcheon Chosen New Head Of United Co-operatives

WESTON - Bruce McCutcheon, a 49 year old beef and dairy farmer from the Dundalk area of Grey county, was elected president of United Co-operatives of Ontario at a board meeting held at Co-Op Showcase '71 in Ottawa this week. He succeeds Robert McKecher, a beef and poultry farmer from Dublin near Stratford, who served two one-year terms.

Mr. McCutcheon, formerly vice-president, was re-elected as a zone director for Grey and Bruce counties at UCO's 23rd annual meeting, held on Tuesday. Three other directors were also re-elected: Allan McIntosh, representing the eastern counties; Ken Marshall, the south central counties of Middlesex, Oxford, Elgin and Norfolk; and Gordon Jack, of

Chatham, a director-at-large.

Following the zone elections, a meeting of the 12 man board was held to elect the executive. In addition to Mr. McCutcheon, Tyson Langman, from Hawkestone, was elected first vice-president and Harold Schmidt, from Baden, second vice-president. The fourth member of the executive is automatically the past-president, Mr. McKecher.

Some 360 official voting delegates attended UCO's annual meeting.

George Etienne Turcotte, the general manager of Quebec's counterpart to UCO, Cooperative Federée, delivered a keynote address in the afternoon calling for co-operatives to improve their efficiency; to accept more responsibility; and to

put more dynamism in their programs.

Speaker for the banquet which completely filled the huge International Ballroom of Ottawa's Skyline Hotel was Lucien Lamoureux, Speaker of the House of Commons. In his address, he emphasized that "the farmer of a free, united and peaceful Canada lies at the heart of the preservation of living, efficient and the Parliament."

The exhibition part of the two-day affair attracted some 2,000 people to Ottawa's Civic Centre, Lansdown Park, the day after the meeting.

It made many people aware of their natural habitat in Bulgaria and adjacent parts of Eastern Europe, as other species coming from China, Persia, Malaya, Manchuria, and the tree lilac in Japan. The common or French lilac is worthy of a place in the smallest garden here, although often neglected, it will grow and

There's something about lilacs that casts a spell upon most everyone. In calling memories of earlier years, the lilac tree stands as the plant that is always associated with the happier moments of life. Perhaps this is because every country home farmhouse has lilacs that bloom year after year with little or no care and attention.

The adaption of the common lilac to our gardens everywhere from the prairies to southern Canada has made many people aware of their natural habitat in Bulgaria and adjacent parts of Eastern Europe, as other species coming from China, Persia, Malaya, Manchuria, and the tree lilac in Japan.

The common or French lilac is worthy of a place in the smallest garden here, although often neglected, it will grow and

with little regard to soil or the location given it. It doesn't deserve such neglect and if planted in good soil and fertilized it will produce the largest and best blooms you have ever dreamed about. To ensure success, buy plants two or three inches high from a reliable nursery. Some nurserymen sell lilacs on privet stock; these are then planted so that before very

long the lilac forms its own roots and the privet either dies out or can easily be identified and may be cut out.

Some European nurserymen graft lilacs on to seedlings of the common lilac (Syringa vulgaris) and unless this stock is watched very carefully the common lilac will outgrow and overgrow the desired cultivar and in a short time an inferior lilac will result.

Plant lilacs in early spring in a large hole filled with good topsoil or a mixture of topsoil, leaf mould and peat moss and add a five-inch pot full of 6-9-6 fertilizer. Set the plants a few inches deeper than they were set in the nursery (deeper than the collar mark which is easily seen) and water them well.

It is important to cut off all flowers as soon as they fade. This will help produce bigger and better flowers the next year, since the shoots that bear next year's flowers are forming at this time.

Do not cut huge bouquets of lilacs with large woody stems as this will definitely reduce the number and quality of flowers next year because you will remove many future flower buds with this year's bloom.

Periodic renewal pruning is another essential practice to successful lilac growing. Most lilacs soon become overgrown and the few flowers that are produced

will be borne at the ends of tall branches.

To prevent this, a balance should be maintained between the new and old growths. On young plants, new shoots from the soil level should be encouraged, but older plants will sometimes become so crowded with new shoots that they take on an unsightly appearance and will produce fewer blooms.

It is difficult to apply a hard and fast rule to keep a balance of new and older shoots on the plants. Generally, if the desired height is less than 10 feet, the older stems should be cut to ground level every two or three years. Thin out new shoot growth, keeping in mind the ultimate height and shape of the plant.

If you have an already established lilac that is not blooming as well as it has in the past or is giving you inferior blooms, perhaps it needs rejuvenating. This may be done by heavy pruning and feeding. If the plant is very old and has formed many stems, during July cut one-half of these to ground level. Next year cut out the rest and thin the new shoots that arise to leave no more than a half-dozen; then feed with a good fertilizer such as 6-9-6 and water well. If the plant is not too old, a good feeding each year with about one pound of 6-9-6 sprinkled about the plant and watered in will promote

vigorous growth.

Here is a list of some of the highest rated lilacs of the several hundred cultivars that have been tested at the Plant Research Institute trial gardens:

Single white: Mont Blanc, Maud Notcutt, Marie Legraye, White Hyacinth, Monument. Double white: Alice Harding, Monique Lemoine, St. Joan, Ellen Willmott, Primrose (cream). Single violet: Cavour, Danton, Hugu De Vries, Mme. Charles Souchet. Double violet: Le Notre, Marechal Lannes. Single blue: Pres. Lincoln, Firmament, Diplomate, Decaisne.

Double blue: Abel Carriere, Ami Schott, Crepuscle, Heavenly Blue, Oliver des Serres. Single lilac: Glory of Horstenstein, Marengo, Massena, Christopher Colombe. Double lilac: Henri Martin, Leon Gambetta, Michel Buckner, Mme. Leon Simon, Victor Lemoine. Single pinkish: James MacFarlane, Elinor, Lamartine, Lucie Baltet, Mrs. Harry Bickle. Double near pink: Belle de Nancy, Capt. Perault, Katherine Havemayer, Carmen.

Single near red: Capt. Baltet, Charles X. Congo, Kate Sessions, Marechal Foch, Mme. Ed. Harding, Marceau. Double near red: Linne, My Favourite, Paul Therion, Georges Bellair, G. J. Baardsee, President Poincare. Single purple:

Etna, Frank Paterson, Ludwig Spaeth, Monge, Prodiges, Mrs. W. E. Marshall. Double purple: Adelaide Dunbar C. D. Lamberton, Wm. Robinson.

There should be plenty of opportunity to plant lilacs from next month until the end of May. If dreams of

new and different blossoms in your garden are to materialize, order the plants now for your spring planting. In the meantime, as soon as the weather is mild, you can thin out the shoots in your old lilacs as mentioned above and get a good start on the summer and next year's bloom.

## Certified Strawberry Plants

For high yields and long-lived plantings, it is necessary to plant healthy plants. The Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food recommends that "Certified Stock" of the Ontario Strawberry Plant Certification Program be used each year when a new planting is made.

These plants are produced under strict regulations designed primarily to control viruses. Experiments have shown that virus diseases can seriously reduce strawberry plant vigor and yields, even though infected plants often show no special symptoms of being diseased. Regulations governing Certified Stock are also designed to control nematodes, red stele, cyclamen mites, verticillium wilt, and several other pests.

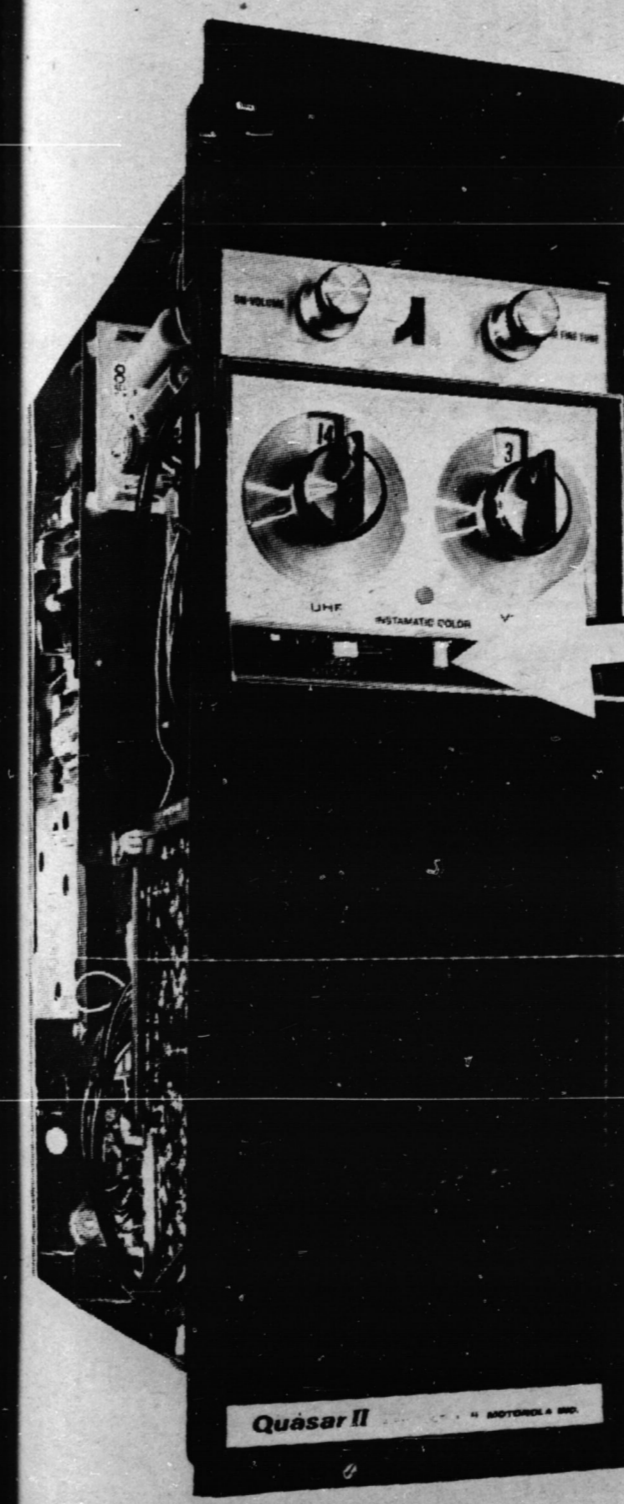
An official red tag, issued by the Horticultural Research Institute of

Ontario, Vineland Station, must be attached to each package as a guarantee that the plants have been certified.

Look for the words "Ontario Certified" in advertising to be sure of getting plants from the Ontario program. The terms, "virus-free," etc., cannot be used in advertising Ontario Certified Stock. These terms are misleading because plants produced under field conditions cannot be guaranteed free of viruses or other pests. The regulations of the Ontario program are at least as strict as those of other provinces or states.

Further information can be obtained from the Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario, Vineland Station, or the Farm Products Inspection Branch, Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food, Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

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