



Milk samples are tested for butterfat percentage at the Woodstock DHI Milk Testing Laboratory utilizing automatic equipment. (ODAF Photo)

Injury To Udder Tissue Shows In Gel Index

Any injury to the udder or teat tissues will result in the destruction of tissues and cells and the inflammatory reaction (hot and painful) that follows is an effort on the part of the cow to repair the injury. There is increased circulation to the part affected and millions of white blood cells go directly into the udder to fight the bacteria or germs.

The gel index is a screening test for the detection of abnormal milk due to irritation in the udder. When the protein found in white blood cells or the cytoplasm of damaged tissue is exposed to the chemicals found in the gel test, it condenses or thickens.

This degree of thickening will show the amount of these small, white cells in the milk. The presence of these cells shows that the tissue of the udder is irritated and incapable of producing normal milk.

Slight thickening will indicate a mastitis condition but quite often these cows will vary slightly from day to day. This is natural if the body defenses have done their job of killing off invading bacteria. If there is serious mechanical difficulty in the barn, not only will the machine cause the udder to break down but will also assist bacteria or germs to get into the udder.

This results in replacement of milk-making tissue with scar tissue and hence lower production. Cows should not be treated with antibiotics solely as a result of the gel index.

Heavy thickening indicates severe irritation in udder. Milk may or may not have bacteria present. These cows

generally show a great drop in production from one month to another. Usually the germs in the udder become so deeply rooted that treatment is advised. Invariably when fresh cows come in with mastitis it is only because they had mastitis the previous lactation.

If quarters from cows show a reactive index, milk from these quarters should be sent to

a laboratory by a veterinarian. The kind of bacteria present (there are many different types) will be identified and proper treatment for each type present can be prescribed and undertaken.

The above should only be done by your own veterinarian or by the Mastitis Control Program under the Department of Agriculture and Food.

Haldimand Milk Committee Formed To Provide Liaison

The Haldimand Milk Committee was organized in 1965. The prime function of the Haldimand Milk Committee is to communicate information from the Ontario Milk Marketing Board to producers and from the local producers back to the Board. The Ontario Milk Marketing Board looks upon the committee as the spokesman for the producers because they have the knowledge and opportunity to assess local public opinion.

Along with their liaison role the Haldimand Milk Committee conducted various other activities in 1971. In July a Milk-O-Rama was held at Hewitt's Dairy Bar, Hagersville.

The purpose of this event was to show summer vacationers how cows are milked. A successful dairy booth was operated at the Golden Horseshoe Antique Society Celebration at Caledonia. Miss Diane Gunning, the Ontario Dairy Princess was present at this event.

A highlight of the Ontario Dairy Princess Competition was the selection of Haldimand's Dairy Princess, Valerie Bradford, as first runner-up to the winner, Nancy Brown from Dufferin County.

At the Caledonia Fair, the Haldimand Milk Committee had a booth as well as a display. A Dairy Princess Competition was conducted with Valerie Bradford being selected for Haldimand's Dairy Princess 1972 and Kathy Duxbury chosen as runner-up.

Another highlight of 1971 was the International Plowing Match Display and booth which was manned by Dairy milk committeemen and their wives.

An annual meeting of the Haldimand Milk Producers was held on February 7, 1972, with Melvin Elgersma appointed as Chairman and Bill Hurkmans as secretary.

Plans for special events in 1972 have not been finalized however it is hoped that they will be as successful as in the past.

What Is Farm Management?

Goals Basic

* Deciding how to use what you have to get what you want.

* Farm management is Decision-Making.

Goals

* Goals are basic, therefore you must decide what you want to accomplish before you can decide how to go about it.

* Money in itself, is not really the final goal. It is the means to an end. In most cases it can provide the things you really want, which are security, education for children, etc.

* It is not easy to figure out your goals. It requires thought. The exercise on rating your values and goals shows this.

* Goals should be challenging, but still reasonable. There is little sense in picking out a goal that is completely impossible to reach.

* Goals may often conflict, so one may often have to be weighed against another - such as more leisure vs more security.

* In summary most of us go along without thinking about what we really want to accomplish out of life. Some thought about goals can give more direction and purpose to life.

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Fast Gaining Beef Increase Profits

By Norm MacLeod
Livestock Specialist
Ontario Department of
Agriculture and Food

Beef production in Canada has become a highly complex and specialized business. Along with this specialization has come an increase in production and operating costs, making it necessary for beef producers to be highly efficient.

Research has shown that fast-gaining cattle will produce meat more efficiently and more profitably than will slower-gaining cattle. For this reason, beef breeders are placing more emphasis on performance in their breeding programs and have made more extensive use of the various Beef Cattle performance testing programs in operation in Canada to identify the superior performing stock.

In Ontario, the Ontario Beef Cattle Performance Testing

Program provides a service by which beef breeders may test their cattle for performance. This program is operated by the livestock branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food in conjunction with the Ontario Beef Cattle Performance Association.

The program provides two types of testing programs designed to provide information on the performance of beef cattle. Plan "A" is a performance test for bulls.

Under this plan, bulls are started on a feed-gain test at seven to eight months of age and are fed for 140 days. At the end of the test, a report is issued stating the Average Daily Gain (A.D.G.) of the bull while on test, the lifetime gain (Weight per Day of Age - W.P.D.A.) to the end of test, and the Adjust-

ed Yearling Weight (A.Y.W.) of the bull. Bulls are tested on the breeder's farm or at one of the Bull Test Stations operated in Ontario.

Plan "B" of the Ontario Beef Cattle Performance Testing Program is open to purebred, grade and commercial herds and is concerned with the producing ability of the cow herd, as well as the rate of gain potential of replacement heifers. Calves are weighed at weaning and again at one year of age. Since weaning weights indicate the ability of the dam to nourish her calf, the weights may be used to identify and cull poor producing cows.

The yearling weights can be of assistance in selecting herd replacements.

In summary, performance testing offers several advantages. It allows cowmen to improve herd bull selection by identifying

superior performing bulls and to improve overall herd rate and efficiency of gain by identifying outstanding females.

Also, weaning weights may be increased by identifying and culling poor-producing cows. It also provides bull

buyers with information to help them select a herd sire which will improve the rate and efficiency of gain in the herd.

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REWARD: COMPETITION - Grow in confidence and ability - join a debating team, drama group, judging teams, or sporting events including hockey, basketball, track and field, broomball, curling, volleyball, and bowling.

Participation is the key to opening this reward. All you need is enthusiasm and a desire to have fun with other people. If you are between the ages of 14 - 30, come to our KICK-OFF Dance on April 8, 1972, beginning at 8.30 p.m. at the Haldimand Agricultural Centre, Kohler

Ventilation Problems Plague Many Livestock Buildings

By E.M. Wrubleski
Ventilation problems are most noticeable in the winter time and are recognized by coldness, dampness and stuffiness in the building. The three most common causes are: lack of fans or improperly sized fans; lack of insulation in the walls and ceiling; improper inlets for air to enter the building.

The size of the fan must be worked out on the basis of the number and type of livestock. The fan must be selected on the basis of how much air it will move and not on its size in diameter. Generally speaking, it is best to have one small fan which is two speed and which can run continuously in the winter time to prevent temperature fluctuation and moisture build-up.

Other fans on their own thermostats could go along with this fan and be sized for summer ventilation. The more steps there are in ventilation rate, the better

as far as temperature control is concerned.

Controls are now available which allow a fan to run at an infinite number of speeds within a given range.

Most problems with cold walls arise in barns with concrete block walls. A concrete wall has only as much insulation value as one half inch of mineral wool. The problem can be remedied by strapping with three or four inch material and applying two-and-one-half to three-and-one-half inches of mineral wool insulation protected by a vapour barrier and plywood sheathing.

Polystyrene sheets can be glued to the walls and protected by plywood sheets. Polystyrene has the same insulating value as mineral wool but is at least twice as costly for the same thickness.

Be careful of fiberboards as they usually fail because they absorb moisture. Also be careful of inflated claims

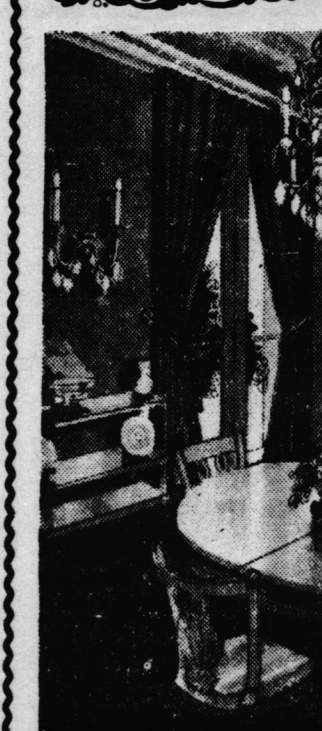
as to their insulating ability.

Air inlet location is extremely important. Inlets must be continuous on one or both sides of the building, provide proper mixing of warm and cold air without causing drafts; be easily adjustable and be protected from effects of wind.

Generally, hay chutes, gutter cleaner openings and silo doors cause drafts or back drafts and should be kept closed.



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