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FARM NEWS

Advices Dehorning All Dairy Cattle

Horns on cattle are both expensive and dangerous, says Dr. Glen Reed, extension veterinarian at Michigan State College.

Reed says that you'll gain in several ways if you dehorn your cattle. For one thing, dehorning your cattle will cut down "hogging" in the feed bunk and in the dairy shed. That means fewer expensive injuries and less chance of injury to the herdsmen.

Finished cattle will bring better prices on today's market. Some shipments of cattle are so severely docked because of the deep bruises caused by horns.

Late fall, during the winter or early spring are good times to dehorn because severe storms or magrags are not a problem then. Unless you're an expert, you'd better let your local veterinarian do the job, Dr. Reed said. He can "pull" the horn arteries to prevent severe bleeding which otherwise might cause loss of weight or even death.

Dairy cows in production need special attention when being dehorned. The M.S.C. veterinarian may suggest a local anesthetic to deaden the nerves from the horn to prevent pain. Otherwise the cow is likely to drop in production. The cost of the local anesthetic will often pay for itself many times in the amount of milk the cow will give. It is also safer to do the dehorning closer to a cow's calving time if a local anesthetic is used, Dr. Reed has found.

Add Two New Workers To Breeders Staff

Two new workers have been added to the staff of the Michigan Artificial Breeders to strengthen its program of services on a state and local level according to A. C. Baltzer, Michigan State College extension dairyman.

They are Richard Green, former dairy herd improvement association supervisor, and Byron E. Carpenter, former assistant county agricultural agent in Tuscola County. Green will analyze records and do research in genetics for the M.A.B. in connection with both the field results from local artificial breeders' associations and the sire selected by the organization.

Carpenter will assist all local A.B.A.'s by supplying educational information, give assistance at meetings, summer tours and shows, and keep membership contacts.

Both have earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Michigan State College.

Beef Breeding Experiment Project To Improve Rate Of Cattle Gain

Establishment of a beef cattle breeding project at Michigan State College's "Lake City" Experiment Station is aimed at improving the rate and efficiency of gains of meat animals.

Dr. Ronald Nelson, head of the M.S.C. animal husbandry department, points out that applications of heredity principles have increased production of most farm crops to a considerable extent. Such principles will be previously been applied rigorously to animals. Active projects to improve the important economic characteristics of beef cattle are under way in many states.

The breeding herd is located at Lake City and feeding tests for rate and efficiency of gains will be conducted on the M.S.C. campus. The main objective of this project is to measure individual differences in feed lot performance and find the extent to which these differences are inherited. This information will be used to develop methods of breeding that will result in the fastest improvement possible.

Eleven bull calves (eight Hereford and three Aberdeen Angus) are now on feed at the college. These calves are sired by three different bulls. Four Hereford calves were sired by one of the herd sires at Hi-Point Farms, Romeo; the other four herefords by one of the herd sires at Elmas Hills Ranch, Gaylord; and the Angus calves by a herd sire at Great Oaks Farms, Rochester.

At the completion of the feeding trial, two of the Hereford bulls will be used for breeding 15 Hereford cows each and one Angus bull for 15 Angus cows at the Lake City Station. The bulls will be selected on the basis of rate of gain, economy of gain and conformation. This procedure for obtaining bulls for breeding will be repeated each year.

Dr. Nelson reports that the offspring of these bulls will be tested in the feed lot for the same things as the bulls themselves. This will give a measure of the degree to which bulls can transmit their feedlot performance to their calves.

"This is not an experiment that is necessarily going to produce

foundation breeding stock," Dr. Nelson states. "In the early years it is expected primarily to yield facts and figures that will enable us to develop methods and procedures for making more rapid gains in beef cattle development."

The Grist Mill

By Ed Alchin
County Agricultural Agent

It is with a great deal of regret that dairyman and those of us in Extension work see the passing of George Fisher, dairy tester of long standing in Oakland County. While not a pioneer in the work, for the past ten or twelve years George gave his services to the dairyman of Oakland County.

Put this date on your calendar, February 7. The annual Livestock meeting for the Michigan Livestock Exchange will be held on that date at the Clarkston Town Hall in Clarkston. This is an evening meeting starting at 8:00 p.m. Chairman Lucius Lyons will preside over the meeting and it is hoped that we will have not only the business meeting but a talk by a member of the Livestock Department, Michigan State College.

Following this, the next main event for Oakland County is the Annual Dairy Day Program February 14. This year's program will feature a talk on feeding of roughage by Jim Hays, Michigan State College Dairy Extension specialist. Watch this column for more news on this event.

Congratulations are in order to the Soil Conservation District board of directors and Bob Koons, soil conservation district planner, for the outstanding annual meeting which featured Dr. L. A. Wolfanger of Michigan State College in a talk on "World Agriculture are from the Soils Standpoint". Directors elected were Ray Wheeler of White Lake and Earl Voorhees of Davisburg. Earl succeeds himself with Ray replacing Cyril Oliver who did not wish to continue on the board.

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Hog profits are largely determined by the sow's ability to farrow and raise a large number of strong, vigorous, fast-growing pigs.

Since the quality of the ration the sow gets greatly influences her performance, winter feeding of breeding hogs takes a high priority with successful swine producers, says J. A. Hoefler, Michigan State College swine authority.

Hoefler says that sows should be fed to a medium condition. If they are too fat they invariably have disappointing litters. If sows are handled it will take from one to two pounds of feed per 100 pounds of live weight to keep them in good condition. A good ration should contain a minimum of 15 per cent alfalfa meal or high quality alfalfa hay, about 15 to 20 per cent of a good protein supplement, two to three per cent mineral and the rest grain. Alfalfa hay may be fed in a rack and the mineral may be self-fed.

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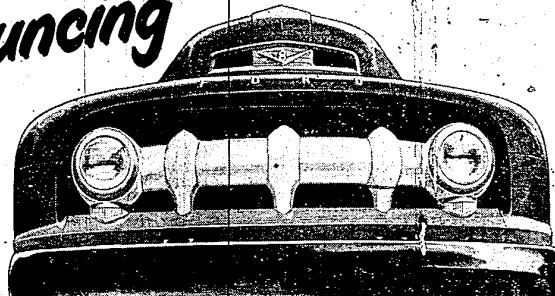
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