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POOR VENTILATION MAY BREAK DOWN BROILER PLANTS

Poor ventilation is the downfall of many broiler plants as the warning given farmers at Michigan State College Farmers' Week by Joe W. Slicer, Purdue University poultryman.

Ventilation "has four purposes, the poultry specialist said. If any one is faulty, the whole system may be ineffective. The system should remove excess moisture so that the birds will stay dry and it should remove excess ammonia fumes. In addition, it should remove excess heat and provide a fresh supply of oxygen."

Ventilation can be secured through windows and other openings, properly placed to let the air move out. They must also be large enough to function adequately. Warm, moist air is light and moves upward. Constant adjustment is needed.

Fan ventilation may be more expensive, but can give a positive change of air. It can be partially automatic as well as saving labor. Slicer recommends time and temperature controls. The chance of power failure is one of the disadvantages of fan ventilation.

Insulation will pay big dividends according to the Indiana poultryman. Fuel savings alone will usually pay for two or three inches of insulation in five years. A moisture barrier is a necessity. Examples are asphalt or aluminum foil between the insulation and the moist air of the house.

A good many farmers are concerned over mastitis infection in their dairy herds, and certainly that is justly so when DHIA records show that some herds have declined as much as 30% to 40% in annual production because of a flare up of mastitis in the herd. Not only has this been affecting production but in many cases some of the best breeding stock in the herd has been taken, with the loss of a part of the udder or having to be shipped for sale.

Generally, if the bars are clean, a good deal of mastitis can be controlled by good management at milking time. Here are some hints which you may find of help: (1) Run your milking machine at the proper speed according to the manufacturer's recommendations. (2) Start off the milking process by washing and massaging the udder with a warm disinfectant solution. (3) Immediately after massaging, strip two or three streams of milk to check for possible signs of mastitis. (4) Milk the easy milkers first. This prevents a lot of leaking of milk. (5) Milk hard milkers and those showing any infection last. (6) Milk at the same time every day. (7) Whether or not you hand-strip depends upon you. Many farmers are successfully machine stripping their cows.

**Spray Brush Killer Now
Used To Clear Ditches**

Brush growing in or along drainage ditches may now be controlled with winter application of brush killer sprays applied to the bark just above the ground line.

This treatment permits the use of hand equipment and the work may be done at any time of the year.

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**Many Factors Involved In Gaining
Success In Beef Feeding Operations**

A program for success in steer feeding operations was presented to Farmers' Week audiences at Michigan State College by J. I. Miller of the Cornell University animal husbandry department, guest speaker at meetings of best cattle producers.

A good steer feeding program based on the use of pasture should include all or as many as possible of the following conditions: 1. Purchasing feeders in the fall and wintering entirely or largely on good roughages. 2. Grazing 100 days or more on good pastures. 3. Feeding sufficient grain either on pasture or in dry lot to produce well-finished slaughter cattle. 4. Marketing from late September through December.

Miller based his statements on experience in New York State. "While no one method of feeding and management may be best for all producers in an area or even for the same producer for all years, these tests indicate that certain practices are needed for success," he said.

Good pastures alone are not enough to insure an efficient beef production program, Miller contended. For best returns, the feeding program must also include proper use of farm grown roughages during the wintering period and the appropriate use of grains for fattening the slaughter cattle.

Miller reported that more farmers are becoming interested in commercial cow-herd operations. The calves are either sold at weaning

FARM NEWS

Now Is Time To Plan Fruit Tree Grafting

It won't be too long now until it will be time to do that bit of fruit tree grafting, reports Willard B. Bosserman, assistant county agriculture agent.

Grafts can be made while the stock and scions are still dormant until, blossoming time, provided strictly dormant scions are used. Scions, the portion that is grafted on, can be selected from well matured wood of last season's growth. Twigs about as thick as a lead pencil, which made a growth of 12 inches or more during the last season, are best.

Water sprouts make good scions if they originate above the graft union, if the buds are well developed, and if the wood is well matured. Water sprouts make good scions if they originate above the graft union, if the buds are well developed, and if the wood is well matured.

Scions may be cut any time while they are dormant. It is best to collect them in late fall or during the winter, wrap in damp cloth or paper, and store them in a cool place where they will remain fresh and dormant until time for grafting in the spring.

If scions are taken at the time grafting is done in the spring, make certain that they are still dormant and are free from winter injury.

50 Cents Buys Cow Iodine, Cobalt For Year

Fifty cents a year will provide the needed cobalt and iodine for a Michigan dairy cow, according to James A. Hays, Michigan State College extension dairyman.

He arrives at this figure by calculating the extra cost of a trace mineralized salt which contains enough cobalt and iodine for the cow's needs, if self-fed. A cow needs 75 to 100 pounds of salt a year. Salt with trace minerals included costs about 60 cents more than common salt — hence the half-dollar figure.

Hays says that all leading salt companies manufacture salt with trace minerals included.

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**The
Grist Mill**
By Ed Alchin
County Agricultural Agent

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