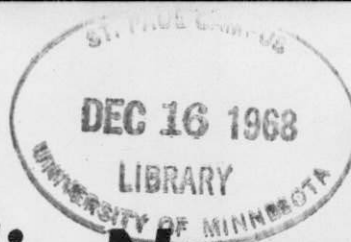


mn2000 RNBm 12/13/68

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

1

2



Radio News Briefs

3 For A Growing Minnesota

4 December 13, 1968

Many Ways to House Sows

If you're thinking of building a housing set-up for sows, consider all the possibilities. Dennis Ryan, agricultural engineer at the University of Minnesota, says there are many ways to feed and house gestating sows. Keep these points in mind when planning your building program:

- * Make sure your sows will have an adequate water supply.
- * Design the layout so you can control the amount of feed the sows receive, either by hand feeding limited amounts of feed or by allowing sows access to a full feeder for a limited time.
- * The building layout should allow you to use power equipment for handling either solid or liquid manure.

Ryan has outlined a number of construction possibilities in a new publication, Agricultural Engineering M-143, entitled "Housing and Feeding for Gestating Sows." Get a copy from your county agent, or write to the Bulletin Room, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota. Zip code 55101.

Well-Grown Heifers Have Fewer Calving Problems

Well-grown heifers that are at least 24 months old usually have fewer calving problems than young or underfed heifers. Joe Conlin, dairy specialist at the University of Minnesota, says research shows that the smaller birth canal and V-shaped nature of the pelvic girdle in young heifers (those under 24 months) increases the incidence of birth difficulties. The same experiment showed that older, underfed heifers had more calving problems than the well-fed animals. Conlin adds that heifers of all sizes and ages normally have more calving difficulty than animals that have calved previously.

Artificial Pruning Speeds Production of Quality Wood

Artificial pruning of standing trees speeds the production of knot-free wood products and eliminates the uncertainty and delay of natural pruning. But Bill Miles, forestry specialist at the University of Minnesota, says artificial pruning costs money and should be considered only for those trees which will make lumber or veneer. Miles suggests consulting your local forester about the time and method of pruning.

* * * *

Good Management Reduces Losses From Abnormal Reproductive Conditions

Usually only one or two cows in a herd will have abnormal reproductive problems at the same time. But even a few cows affected with these conditions can cause sizeable economic losses. Joe Conlin, dairy specialist at the University of Minnesota, says good management skills can help reduce these economic losses. He suggests keeping good reproductive records, observing your animals closely and using the services of a veterinarian.

Conlin has authored a new publication, Extension Pamphlet number 228, entitled "Why Some Cows Don't Conceive." Ask your county agent for a copy, or write to the Bulletin Room, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota. Zip code 55101.

* * * *

DHIA Records End Guessing

The dairy business is no place for guessing, and production records put an end to guessing. Russel Erickson, dairy specialist at the University of Minnesota, says DHIA records make it possible to weed out unprofitable cows, to feed cows more efficiently and to make a lot more money. See your county agent, DHIA board member or supervisor about joining.

* * * *

Watch That Wax

In case candles should drip on your holiday table linens, here's what extension specialists at the University of Minnesota recommend: Scrape off the wax with a dull knife; then place the stain between clean white blotters or cleansing tissue and press with a warm iron. Sponge any stain that remains with a grease solvent.

But best of all, avoid candlewax stains by buying dripless candles.

* * * *

The In-Between Child

Sometimes the in-between or middle child feels uncertain of his place in the family and as a result becomes either shy and withdrawn or overly aggressive and competitive in an attempt to force recognition. He may lose most of his initiative, ask for a great deal of help and even relapse into baby talk, thumb sucking and bed wetting. When these are temporary reactions to the arrival of the third baby, they are not very serious. However, if they persist, they show that the middle child feels in a real squeeze and needs help from parents and perhaps others.

Parents can help the middle child develop a sense of his own worth by giving him specific jobs within the range of his capabilities and by encouraging him to develop his own interests, showing him that these are just as important as the older brother or sister's achievement.

* * * *

How Much Ham?

How much ham should you buy for the Christmas feast? University of Minnesota extension nutritionist Verna Mikesh suggests counting on 1/4 - 1/3 pound per serving for boneless ham and 1/3 - 1/2 pound per serving of bone-in ham. Any leftovers will go well for sandwiches the next day.

- mkb -