



Radio News Briefs

For A Growing Minnesota

January 31, 1969

Help Prevent Heat Failures

Failure to find the cow in heat is a major cause of poor breeding efficiency. Joe Conlin, dairy specialist at the University of Minnesota, offers these suggestions:

- * Know the signs of heat and be aware of the variations in heat signs among cows.
- * Observe your cows for heat frequently and closely for 15 to 30 minutes each time.
- * Record all heat dates, calving dates, breeding dates and other events in your records.
- * Use your records to anticipate the next heat.
- * Have a skilled veterinarian diagnose and treat problem cows and determine pregnancy. For more information, ask your county agent for a copy of Extension Pamphlet number 222, entitled "Heat Detection and Time to Breed."

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Supplement Ration With Required Minerals

Cattle and sheep rations in Minnesota require supplementation with salt, calcium, phosphorus, iodine, and possible cobalt and zinc. University of Minnesota animal scientists say it's especially important to provide salt free-choice or mixed with all rations, to add phosphorus to high-roughage rations, and to add calcium to high grain rations. Feeding simple mineral mixtures containing trace mineralized salt, ground limestone, and either dicalcium phosphate, defluorinated rock phosphate or bone meal will meet the mineral needs of most animals under normal conditions.

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Heifer Management Tips

Following a good dairy heifer management program will help obtain early breeding and ensure a long productive life. Joe Conlin, dairy specialist at the University of Minnesota, offers these heifer management tips:

- * Watch heifers closely for heat, and record all heat dates.
- * Rear heifers so they have their first heat by 12 months of age and are large enough to breed by 15 months with a high conception rate.
- * For maximum genetic gain, breed heifers to superior production dairy bulls of the same breed.
- * Recognize potentially sterile animals early to save their rearing costs.
- * Keep calving difficulties minimal by feeding heifers for early calving and breeding between 13 and 15 months of age.
- * And, raise all heifer calves born for future herd replacements to increase your chances of making genetic progress.

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Testing Cows Yields High Returns

You'd probably be interested if someone told you how to get ten dollars back for every dollar you invest. Russel Erickson, dairy specialist at the University of Minnesota, says the Dairy Herd Improvement Association (or DHIA) program has yielded returns like this to thousands of Minnesota dairymen. Erickson says DHIA testing doesn't cost--it pays. Most dairymen who don't test their cows pay for records anyway--through losses that records could stop. See your county agent or DHIA supervisor about joining.

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Sheep and Lamb Feeders Day

The annual Sheep and Lamb Feeders Day will be held at the West Central Experiment Station at Morris on February 6. A discussion on methods of intensifying sheep production will be featured, and University of Minnesota researchers will discuss results of the University's sheep research. Mark the date on your calendar--Thursday, February 6 at Morris.

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Plentifuls for February

The United States Department of Agriculture's Consumer and Marketing Service reports a long list of plentiful foods for February. It includes broiler-fryers, pork, canned salmon, fresh oranges, canned grapefruit juice, canned tomatoes and tomato products, potatoes, canned and frozen sweet corn, green split peas, fresh grapefruit, onions and dried prunes.

Because these foods are plentiful, they're likely to be good buys, too. So keep them in mind when you do your shopping in February.

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Selecting Oranges

Fresh oranges are on the list of plentiful foods for February. You should be aware of what qualities make an orange a good one. University of Minnesota extension nutritionists advise you to look for oranges that are firm and heavy for their size with finely textured skin.

Color is not always a reliable way of detecting good quality oranges. For example russeting or brown marks often indicate that the oranges are from Florida or Texas. They do not affect the eating quality of the oranges, however, and deeply orange-colored oranges may be that way because of artificial coloring.

University of Minnesota extension nutritionists advise buying oranges by the bag for economy's sake. This is generally less expensive than hand selecting oranges, especially if a quantity of oranges can be refrigerated and eaten before spoilage begins.

Remember, too, that oranges are an excellent source of vitamin C. One orange or one-half cup of orange juice fulfills your minimum daily requirement for vitamin C.