



# Radio News Briefs (3)

For A Growing Minnesota

(4) September 19, 1969

## Newborn Dairy Calves Require Immediate Attention

Dr. Ray Solac, veterinarian at the University of Minnesota, offers these tips for care of newborn dairy calves:

\* Provide a clean, well bedded boxstall for the cow if she's not calving outside.

\* Be ready to provide assistance if the calf isn't able to nurse by itself shortly after calving. The calf should have a feeding of colostrum within 15 minutes following birth.

\* And, disinfect the calf's navel while the cord is still wet by submerging it in a bottle containing tincture of iodine.

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## Plan Carefully Before Remodeling Your Dairy Barn

If you're planning on remodeling your dairy barn, don't compromise the stall size recommended for new construction. Donald Bates, agricultural engineer at the University of Minnesota, says the gutter width should not be less than 16 inches. But other dimensions such as the litter alley and feed alley are flexible. Ask your county extension agent for a copy of University of Minnesota publication M-132 entitled, "How to Plan Your Stall Dairy Barn." You can also write for a copy to the Bulletin Room, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.

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Good Hog Feeders Mean Higher Profits

A well built, properly adjusted hog feeder is one of the keys to high hog profits. Ray Arthaud (ARTH-odd), livestock specialist at the University of Minnesota, suggests buying or building feeders that can be adjusted to regulate the feed flow. Adjust the feeders from time to time so the feed just covers the bottom of the tray. Arthaud says overfilled feeder openings allow waste and spoiled feed from saliva. But don't restrict feed flow so much that hogs get less than a full ration. Provide enough feeders so there's about one feeder space for every four hogs.

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Test Alfalfa Fields if You Had Poor Yields

Take a soil test on alfalfa fields this fall if last year's yields were low. Then apply a topdress application of lime or fertilizer or both to correct this need. Oliver Strand, agronomist at the University of Minnesota, says high fertility levels will improve forage quality, reduce winter killing and increase yields.

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Control Weeds in Next Year's Alfalfa Crop

If weeds were a problem in your alfalfa fields, you can take some control measures for next year's crop this fall. Oliver Strand, agronomist at the University of Minnesota, recommends applying simazine after the crop is dormant to control winter annuals such as yellow rocker and hoary alyssum. Simazine will also control seedling biennials like white cockle. MCPA or 2,4-D amine may also be used to control broadleaf weeds when legumes are dormant. Follow label directions for application.

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Freezing Muskmelons

Now's the time to freeze fresh muskmelon for a special treat during the winter months ahead. Mrs. Shirley Munson, home economist in the horticultural science department at the University of Minnesota, suggests you choose firm, ripe, fine-textured muskmelons of top quality with well developed veining for freezing.

Cut the flesh into one-half to three-fourths inch cubes or balls. Pack them in a sugar sirup using two cups sugar to one quart cold water. Label and date the containers and freeze. When serving the muskmelon balls, make sure they're still partially frozen or they'll become too mushy.

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Choose Correct Curtain Lengths

If you're sewing or buying new draperies or curtains this fall to give your home a new "look," you're probably wondering how long they should be.

Mrs. Myra Zabel, extension home furnishings specialist at the University of Minnesota, says the three lengths most often used for curtains and draperies are sill, apron and floor length. Sill length curtains just clear the sill. Apron length curtains come to the bottom of the board under the sill. And floor length curtains come within one inch of the floor. Floor length curtains that interfere with heat coming from any heating system will probably have to be cut off to apron length.

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Buying Tips for Limes

Listed among the September plentiful foods are limes. Limes should have a glossy, green skin or rind and be heavy in proportion to their size. Grace Brill, extension nutritionist at the University of Minnesota, suggests you avoid limes with dull, dry skin, which is a sign of aging and loss of flavor. And be sure limes have no soft spots, mold or skin punctures. Purplish or brownish irregular mottling of the outer skin surface is a condition called "scald," which in its early stages doesn't damage the lime.