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Complete Dairy Feeds, Residues in Feed Top Subjects at Florida Event

FT. LAUDERDALE, FLA. — As high-income areas experience harder to feed, dairymen today are taking a hard look at automation and complete ration concentrate rations fed to cattle in individually developed automatic systems.

Florida is leading the way in this field of producing an all-complete ration with roughage, according to figures revealed at the Florida Feed convention here. The data showed that many Florida dairymen don't even use feed at all. This is in direct contrast to dairy farms throughout the country, where the storing and hauling of forage is a major part of the dairy enterprise.

Basically, Florida is a state that doesn't produce enough forage material for dairy farms. But, in recent years, the price of farm labor has skyrocketed, and dairy farms in the state are turning to automation wherever possible.

"There is a continuing trend toward automation. The use of four-wheelers forage and high-moisture grains is important to the dairymen and today less forage is being harvested due to poor weather, high labor costs and the high cost of storage," said C. J. Wilson, of the department of dairy sciences, University of Florida.

All-Complete Rations
In the Ocala/Sebastian area, where there are large dairy herds, feed mills are producing the all-complete rations, delivering them on regular schedules to dairies that have, for the most part, discontinued feeding forage materials that have to be handled by labor on the farms.

The all-complete ration is attracting attention not only from herd owners in the state, but dairymen from many other states have visited speakers in the Ocala/Sebastian area and are "amazed at what is taking place," according to Wilson.

It's all part of the trend among dairymen to automate wherever possible and reduce production costs. Not only is automation taking place in the Florida all-complete ration, but it is also developing in concentrate feeding, with the utilization of bulk tanks, along with the use of complete ration. The poultry industry, automation is going right down the line from milking parlors to waste disposal, and there are many systems, each differing in one way or another. Each is customized for the particular farm where it is installed, he said.

Automation of waste disposal systems is just now appearing and there are, too, are custom-designed to fit individual circumstances.

The increased use of urea and liquid feeds is also being watched by industry leaders, as is the rise in popularity of byproduct feeds.

"These byproduct feeds are finding their way into ruminant feeding," Wilson said. "One that has intrigued me has been dried bakery products. Another ingredient one that was offered to cattle at Rutgers was coffee grounds fed along with molasses and urea. This offers possibilities," he said, noting that the grounds are obtained as a byproduct of instant coffee.

All-in-One Rations
In some areas there is a trend to all-in-one stages program, in which grain is mixed with the silage, to make a balanced ration. Many Florida dairies are feeding an all-concentrate complete ration, he said.

As dairies work toward producing milk more cheaply and more efficiently,

by the use of artificial insemination increases. Today, he said, superior semen is available, genetically speaking, and Florida continues to lead the nation in A.I. In 1968, only 5% of the cattle were artificially inseminated. Today the national average is 55% and Florida shows 85%.

Turning again to feed, he offered data from South Carolina showing that the feeding of concentrates has increased by more than 20% since 1960 and has resulted in more income and less feed cost per 100 lb. of milk produced.

Genetically speaking, the trend in the U.S. appears to be toward Holsteins, he said. After World War II, 50% of the cows were Holsteins. Based on semen sales today, he said, 80% of the

herds appear to be Holsteins.

CHEMICAL RESIDUES IN FEED
Feed manufacturers were cautioned at the Florida convention to look for a different type of residue coming out from pesticides, but from an industrial chemical known as PCB. PCB is polychlorinated biphenyls. The latest one manufactured has been making it for about 10 years, and it has been used in a variety of ways — as a waterproofing agent, a lubricant, molasses, adhesive, to paint, as well as a number of other ways.

Paul Crist of the feed control department of the Florida Department of Agriculture, said this chemical has shown up in feeds in a number of cases and is creating some new and unexpected problems in feed manufacturing.

"Some of you have contacted us about it."

It really isn't a pesticide as such, it is really an industrial chemical.

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and it finds its way into feed and other products that will come into contact with daily," he said.

There is no tolerance established for it, he said.

Some of the ways the chemical might find its way into feed and ingredients would be by way of colorants, plasticizers, insecticides, grain elevators, plastic liners and possibly to paper bags, all sorts of adhesives, lubricants and in many other things you use every day, he said.

Meanwhile, Washington was dispatched this week revealed one PCB manufacturer has decided to restrict the sale of the product because of reports of residues getting into infants and causing birth defects.

There have been scientific reports in recent years that PCB has been found in fish, birds, and agricultural products and evidence exists that large amounts collected the exposure and the

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