

IT'S BIG BUSINESS — First Few Months Important In Life Of Growing Calf

Raising dairy calves is a big business in North Carolina. Just to maintain the dairy cattle population it's necessary to raise about 75,000 calves each year. The kind of job that's done in the first few months of a calf's life will go a long way toward determining what kind of a cow she'll be.

T. C. Blalock, in charge of dairying for the N. C. Agricultural Extension Service, suggests the following pointers that should be observed:

First, be sure the calf nurses very soon after it's born. The first milk (or colostrum) is extremely valuable to the calf — in fact without it it's almost impossible to raise a healthy calf. A new born calf, since it has never been exposed to any disease has practically no resistance. To take care of this the cow produces antibodies—which are disease fighting organisms—in her udder before calving and stores them in that first milk. Without this added disease protection, most calves die. Another good pre-

caution in controlling disease among calves is to dip the navel cord in a 2 per cent solution of tincture of iodine.

Second, the calf should be separated from the cow by at least the third day and pail fed from then on. If you're raising more than one calf at a time you must house them in separate pens or at least tie them up for a while after milk feeding. Otherwise, a calf may suck the udders of other calves in the same pen. When this happens a protective seal in the end of teat is broken allowing mastitis organisms to enter the quarter. This is responsible for most of the cases of blind quarters in first calf heifers.

Third, calves should not be overfed on milk. Too heavy milk feeding may cause scouring in addition to being the most expensive feed you give the calf. About one pound of milk daily for each ten pounds of body weight is usually sufficient. However, it's seldom necessary to feed over one gallon per day. By starting the calf

early at two weeks of age on a good grain mixture and plenty of top quality, leafy hay the amount of milk required can be reduced. To encourage the calf to eat hay early many dairymen select some of their very best second cutting hay and save it for the calves.

Fourth, practice strict sanitation. This includes washing the cow's udder with a mild disinfectant before the calf nurses the first time, milk feeding buckets that are spotless and a clean, dry well-bedded stall for the calf.

Any calf worth raising is worth raising right. Dairymen should therefore select only the number

Before Planting, Consider Treating Seed For Disease

Fall is at hand and many farmers are thinking about planting small grain. But before they plant

of calves they need for herd replacements each year and then give them all the feed and attention necessary to raise the kind of heifers that will eventually take their place in the milk line and be profitable producers.

they should seriously consider treating the seed.

J. C. Wells, plant pathology specialist for the N. C. Agricultural Extension Service, says chemical seed treatment before planting could be considered an insurance policy against diseases, protection for germinating seed, to insure a good stand, and produce higher yields of greater quality grain.

Chemical seed treatment controls most seed-borne diseases. It prevents stinking smut of wheat, loose and covered smut of oats, covered and black loose smut of barley, and the seed-borne stripe disease of barley. It also helps

to minimize losses from scab of wheat and barley and from seedling blights and seed rots of wheat, oats, rye, and barley. But chemical seed treatment will not control brown loose smut of barley and loose smut of wheat.

The recommended materials for treating oats, rye, barley, and wheat are Cergsan M, Panogen, Ceresan 100 and Ortho L.M. Seed Protectant. These materials should be used according to manufacturer's directions.

It is best to treat the seed at least 24 hours and preferably a week before planting. This gives the chemicals time to penetrate under the hull of the kernels and kill the disease producing organisms. Seed may be treated two to three months before planting time providing the proper amount of the chemical is applied and the seed are stored in a cool, dry place.

The cost of seed treatment per acre of small grain planted varies with the kind and quantity of treating material purchased and the rate at which the seed are sown. The cost of materials for treating one bushel of seed ranges from three to five cents, or about 10 cents per acre, which is a very cheap insurance.



SEE WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE?

Freshman Steve Heafner is shown examining the rings of Franklin High seniors Harold Elliott and Jean Franklin. The rings, which arrived last week, are the same style as those worn by the 1958 graduating class. (Staff Photo)

promising leads from research he has been carrying out at Evergreen.

Dr. Klingman has been experimenting primarily with chemicals that will kill the witchweed without affecting corn.

"The results have been encouraging so far," he said, "but there is a lot of work that remains to be done."

Ed Robinson, of the United States Department of Agriculture, has been getting similar results from an experiment at Whiteville. Other research is being done at Red Springs.

Witchweed is a parasite which attaches itself to grasses. While there are about 60 grasses that can serve as its host, the greatest loss comes when it attaches itself to the roots of corn.

Some fields of corn have been completely destroyed by witchweed. Others have been severely damaged.

Affected fields are quarantined. When infested spots are relatively small, soil fumigants may be used to kill the seeds.

However, when the infestation is more extensive, farmers are urged to grow "catch crops."

Don't use plant pesticides on animals.

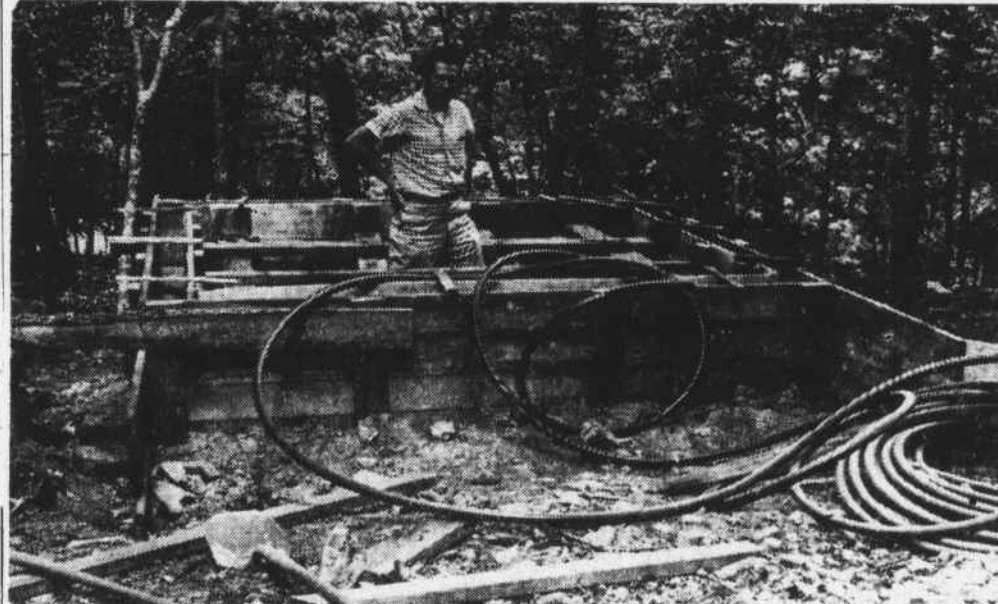
Woodlands pasture is poor fare for cattle.

Breed sows for two litters per year.

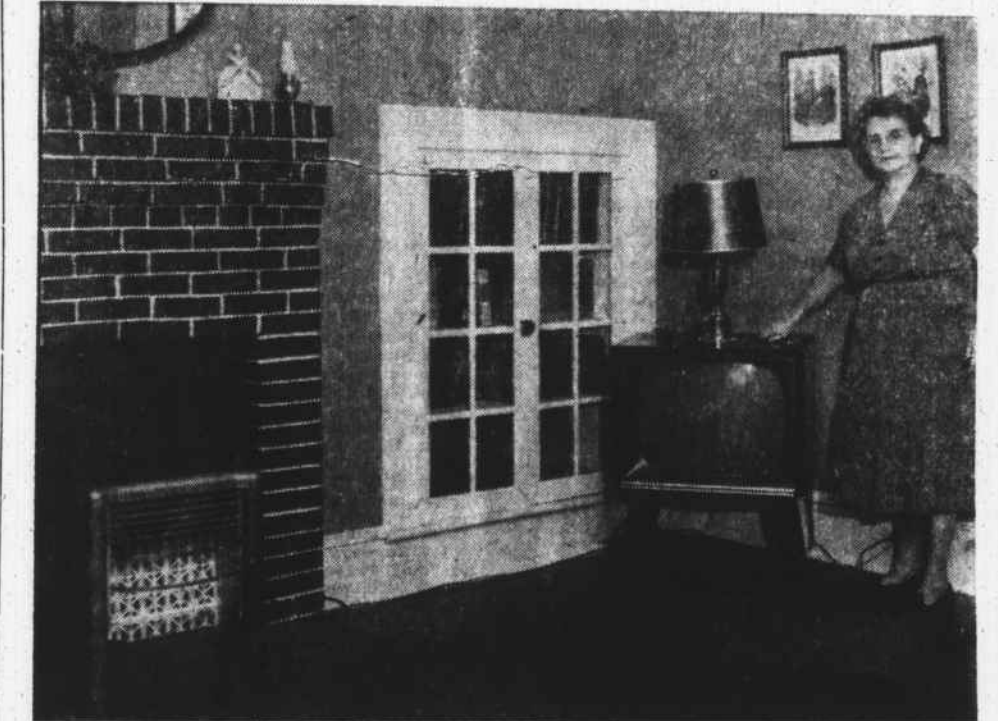
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PICTURED ARE some of the 28 Herefords the Ramseys now have on their Iotla farm. Their goal is a 50-unit herd. (Staff Photo)



BRYAN ANDERS, assistant county agent, stands in the center of the wooden forms for the Ramseys' new water system reservoir. It has a capacity of 3,500 gallons. (Staff Photo)



MRS. RAMSEY is shown in her remodeled living room. Improvements here include refinished floors, new paint, and curtains. (Staff Photo)

ARE REBUILDING BEEF HERD —

Mrs. Ramsey And Her Son Working To Improve Farm

There're many outstanding improvements under way at the Iotla farm of Mrs. Clara Ramsey and her son, Bill.

In the Farm and Home Development Program since 1955, they've instituted an ambitious program of progress for the 150-acre farm, which has 100 acres of cropland, 30 acres of woods pasture, and 20 acres of open pasture.

Rebuilding Herd

To begin, the Ramseys have started rebuilding their beef cat-

tle herd. They now have 28 Herefords and plan to purchase a new bull from N. C. State College. They raise all feed (10 acres of alfalfa) for their cow and calf program. Their goal is a 50-unit herd.

A project now under way is a new water system for the house to replace one that has served 35 years. With the help of W. L. Harper, of the Soil Conservation Service, and Bryan Anders, assistant county agent, Mr. Ramsey is building an eight-by-eight foot concrete water reservoir with a capacity of 3,500 gallons on a hill high behind the house. The "fall" from the reservoir will be suffi-

cient to put running water to the second story of the house—something the old gravity flow system couldn't do.

Inside Improvements

Improvements inside the house have been largely the work of Mrs. Ramsey. These include new sink and cabinets in the kitchen; a rebuilt side porch and installation of a larger freezer; refinished floor in the living room; repainted walls, woodwork, and fireplace; and new curtains.

Both Mrs. Ramsey and her son have many other projects in mind, so their time in the future is spoken for.



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