

*Avoid
Drug
Residues
in
Milk*

TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

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Avoid Drug Residues in Milk

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PUBLIC CONCERN over adulterants in human food is mounting. This concern is sure to involve your milk market if purity of the product is not maintained. Antibiotics, sulfonamides or other drugs from veterinary remedies are becoming all too common adulterants of the public milk supply.

Adulterants Are Hazardous.

Continued exposure to certain drugs, particularly penicillin, produces allergy in a significant number of persons. In many instances the reaction of such persons to milk containing penicillin is severe; in all cases uncomfortable.

Another hazard is the resistance developed by disease-producing germs when frequently exposed to small amounts of a drug. The medical profession fears that many additional germs may develop resistance to antibiotics, as has the dreaded *Staphylococcus* that is now causing trouble in many hospitals.

Other drugs in milk, such as cortisone-like agents taken over long periods, may have damaging effects on health.

Further still, heavy use of such drugs in a dairy herd will grad-

ually change the whole mastitis picture. Types of the disease, once easily cured, will become resistant to treatment. Finally, as bacterial types of udder invaders are eliminated, they may be replaced with fungus types of mastitis for which no cure is available.

The Problem Is Serious.

Rapid tests for adulterants in milk are now in use. Milk found to contain objectionable adulterants must be diverted from use as human food. While this could mean a loss to you as a dairy producer, a much greater loss would be caused by undue public fear of contaminated milk. If this happens, the effect on milk markets could be disastrous.

To assure a continual supply of wholesome milk for an unrestricted market:

You Should Not:

- Sell milk from a cow for 72 hours (6 milkings) following the last infusion into the udder.
- Sell milk from a cow which has been given drugs by mouth, into the vein or into a muscle for at least 6 days following the last administration, unless your veterinarian states that the drug will be eliminated completely from the milk in less time. This applies not only to milk

from cows treated for mastitis, but also to milk from cattle treated for footrot, pneumonia or other illness.

- Use any chemicals for cleaning and sterilizing milking machines, milk utensils or udders that are not approved for that purpose by the supervising department of health.

- Use any insecticide that is not approved for use on lactating dairy animals.

You Should:

- Make every effort to prevent mastitis. Proper operation and use of your milking machine, sanitation in barns and lots, prompt attention to udder injuries and careful selection of replacements will reduce the need for mastitis remedies.

- Practice managed milking. Udder injury and improper use of the milking machine cause most mastitis problems.

- Keep holding lots clean. Udders soiled by manure are in real danger.

- Don't run cows. Udders are easily bruised in this manner.

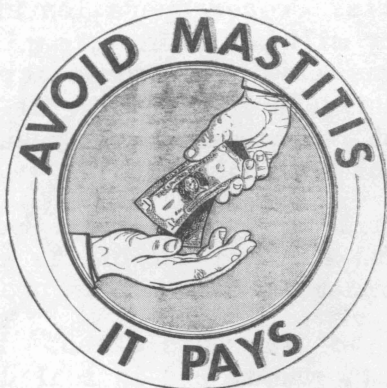
- Allow cows that are lying down plenty of time to get up. If forced to get up in a hurry they frequently injure the udder and teats.

- Remove all rubbish and thorny plants that could cause injury to the udder

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and teats from sheds, lots and pastures.

- Avoid using any instrument or drug unless definite and reliable information on its use has been obtained. (Severe irritation can be caused by some so-called mastitis cures.)
- Remove mastitis-affected cows from the herd.
- Tighten all loose fences to stop "fence crawlers."
- Ask your veterinarian to help you with any mastitis problem. Reckless use of antibiotics may do your cows more harm than good.



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS
Texas A. and M. College System and United States Department of Agriculture cooperating
COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS



EXTENSION SERVICE
COUNTY AGENT WORK

Dear Dairyman:

This leaflet deals with a problem that is causing many dairymen concern. The suggestions it contains may help you protect your milk check, your milk market and the quality of milk you sell.

Sincerely,

County Agricultural Agent