Live Stock Needs Pure, Warm Water

Freezing Drink Temperature Lowers Vitality of All Farm Animals.

By Prof. R. H. Ruffner, Head of North Carolina State College Animal Husbandry Dept.—WNU Service.

One of the most expensive ways a farmer can heat water for his livestock is to let the animals drink it cold and warm it with their bodies. Giving the animals water at freezing temperature lowers their vitality, and seriously curtails the production of dairy cattle.

Can you imagine a beef animal fattening, a calf growing, or a cow producing large quantities of milk after becoming thoroughly chilled and shivering for an hour in overcoming the effects of 10 to 20 gallons of ice cold water?

It is estimated that a cow producing 25 pounds of milk a day burns up more than a pound of corn in warming the water she drinks when it is taken into the body at freezing temperature.

At the State college dairy barn, where water is supplied at a moderate temperature, there are seven cows producing more than 50 pounds of milk a day.

The food burned to warm the water is needed to maintain the animal's vitality, promote growth, and to produce milk. To attain her full milk-producing capacity a cow should be given all the fresh water she will drink at a temperature of 70 degrees. If the water is too cold, she will not drink enough to maintain a full milk flow. The resulting loss may be far more than the slight cost of providing animals with water from which the chill has been taken.

Cleaning Up the Orchard

Just how to clean up the orchard depends upon individual conditions. Orchards on a slope, for illustration, require different treatment than where planted on level ground not subject to erosion. Where an orchard is located on land subject to erosion orchardists have a dual problem, for it is only half a job to combat insect pests and disease if the soil fertility is allowed to wash away and thereby starve next year's fruit crop. It is for this reason that the orchard on level ground is more simply kept sanitary—cultivation can be practiced and is probably the most effective means of keeping the orchard healthy. On hillside orchards, notwithstanding cultivation helps the trees and makes for longevity, an encroaching gully and sheet erosion is about as serious a threat as anything can be, and it therefore behooves the hillside orchardist to plow and cultivate as little as possible.—Missouri Farmer.

More Colts

More than 900,000 horse and mule colts have been produced the past year, largest number in recent history. High prices for horses have stimulated production for past three seasons. Heavy demand exists for young mares according to the bureau of agricultural economics. Any considerable increase in colt production will result in a supply of work animals three to five years hence somewhat in excess of number now on farms. Producers of horse and mule colts for sale are advised to study closely trend of next few years, also use of mechanical power, in order to adjust production to future demand.

Planting Cherry Seeds

Cherry seeds have a thin shell and do not need the freezing to crack them. For that reason spring planting is preferable. If planted in the fall, they may start germination and the new seedlings will be frozen. It is desirable to stratify the seed in sand during the winter to keep them from drying out, and then plant in the open in early spring. It is important to remember that the cherry is propagated by budding and grafting on certain varieties of stocks.

Town on the Farm

The corn plant has more than 1,000 possible industrial uses.

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Florida, low ranking dairy state, is increasing the number of its cows.

* * *

Pruning of fruit trees may be done in the early winter, as well as in the spring months.

* * *

Eighty-five out of every one hundred farms in this country have no electricity of any kind.

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Fewer Apples and Better Prices, Present Outlook

Apple production the next five years may average slightly less than in the last five years, with moderate improvement in average prices to growers, says the annual outlook report of the bureau of agricultural economics.

Moderate increases in replacements and plantings will be necessary, the report says, if the average volume of production of the last few years is to be maintained ten to fifteen years hence. This is especially true of late apples.

United States apple exporters may expect increased competition in foreign markets, since foreign countries are working toward increased production and improved quality of apples. Recent tendencies of many countries to impose trade restrictions also continue an unfavorable factor in the export outlook, it is stated.

Producers of early apples are reported to have had considerable difficulty in marketing several of the crops of the last seven years. Low returns have resulted in tree removals, abandonment, and neglect of orchards. Despite this, early apples will continue plentiful for several years, says the report.

Seed Crops Below Average

Red clover seed production is estimated at about 45,000,000 pounds compared with 50,000,000 in 1934 and an average of 60,000,000 pounds from 1928 to 1932. Alsike clover seed crop is estimated at about 17,000,000 pounds compared with 22.5 million last year and a five-year average of 25,000,000 pounds. For sweet clover, the totals are 47,000,000 pounds the past year, 34.8 million in 1934 and an average of 53.5 million pounds. Alfalfa seed production is placed at 48,000,000 pounds against 50,000,000 last year and a 1928-32 average of 40.4 million pounds.

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