Halton agriculture report

Treat for Warbles Before December 1st BY MARK J. LEAHY

Don't miss the chance to benefit from warble control. Treat cattle before the December 1st deadline, says John Forsyth, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food beef cattle specialist.

Cuttlemen can safely and effectively treat cattle for warbles until the deadline, using systemic insecticides. Treatment after the deadline is not recommended because the grubs may have migrated to the animal's gullet or spinal

"Killing the grubs at that stage can cause bloat or mild paralysis in the hindquarters," explains Mr. Forsyth.

Animals treated in late November should be observed for the first few hours after treatment, to make sure there are no side effects.

"Don't treat after December 1st unless you have consulted a veterinarian," says Mr. Fors-

Cattlemen can derive a number of benefits from warble control. Treatment can mean increased rate of gain and feed efficiency. For the beef industry, treatment means reduced finanical loss from damaged careasses and hides.

Several systemic insecticides are recommended for warble control. These include Grubex, Co-Op Warble Killer, Co-Ral, Neguvon, and Spotton. Cost of treatment, depending on the animal's weight, ranges from 25 to 60 cents.

"For maximum effectiveness, treat according to the animals' weight," says Mr. Forsyth, "Read the label and follow instructions."

For detailed information about warble control, consult the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food Factsheet No. 420-655, War on Warbles. This factsheet is available from local OMAF offices.

Feed Advisory Program Saves Farmers Money

By MARK J. LEAHY

Dairy farmers report savings of up to \$100 per cow using the Feed Advisory Program offered by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

Last year the program supplied more than 1,200 Ontario dairy producers with computer-formulated rations, says Stewart Cressman, program co-ordinator, "the feed advisory program helps farmers improve herd performance, and cut nutrient and feed costs," he says. Ration formulation begins with a chemical analysis of homegrown feeds. Farmers, with the assistance of ministry extension personnel, take feed samples for testing at the University of Guelph.

Cost of the feed tests range from \$7 to \$16, depending on the type of analysis required. Laboratory tests include tests for dry matter, crude protein, calcium, phosphorus, magensium, potassium, and trace minerals. Last year the feed testing laboratory handled more than 6200 samples.

Although it is possible to formulate rations without feed analysis, Mr. Cressman feels analysis is the key to accurate ration formulation. "If tests show the hay is worse than average, we can increase supplements to balance the ratio properly."

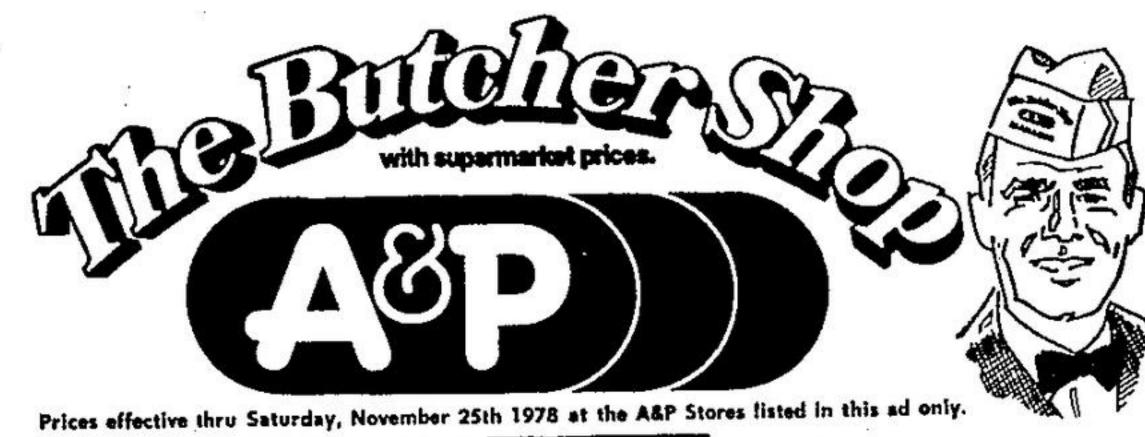
in order to formulate rations quickly and accurafely, the program uses computers at the Canfarm Service Agency of Agriculture Canada. Using the results of feed analysis, the computer calculates a biologically balanced ration.

Mr. Cressman stresses that these rations are developed to make the best possible use of homegrown feeds and purchased supplements. "These rations are custom-built around the existing feeding system, and personal feeding preferences," he says.

Despite the federal government announcement that the Canfarm Service Agency will be closed, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food will continue to formulate rations this feeding year, says Mr. Cressman.

For more information about the Feed Advisory Program, contact local offices of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

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1.8b vac pac 1.38 MAPLE LEAF, SLICED, MAC & CHEESE, CHICKEN, PICKLE & PIMENTO, LUNCHEON, PEPPER 12-OZ VAC P 12-OZ VAC PAC Cooked Meats 1.28

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