

Mortality rate high

The high mortality of dairy heifer calves under average farm conditions has forced many dairymen to keep more replacement heifers than is necessary, thus creating a drain on dairymen's profits.

This fact is pointed out in a discussion of "The Dairy Herd Replacement Program" in an issue of Nutrition News Bulletin published by the Ralston Purina Company for veterinarians.

"Many dairymen have had to keep every heifer calf in order to provide sufficient replacements," the paper states. "Estimates of dairy calf mortality range from 10% to 20% and higher, with 15% being a commonly accepted figure. Most of these losses occur during the first 30 days after birth."

The paper indicates



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that the average investment in a replacement heifer up to the time of first calving is about \$325 to \$350. "Carrying more heifers than necessary results in a severe drain on profits and a tendency toward less care per animal," according to the bulletin. "Reduction of heifer mortal-

ity through proper sanitation, feeding and management can reduce the number of replacement calves required and increase the dairyman's profit."

"Because of the high cost of developing replacement heifers, it behooves every dairyman to select only heifers

from the highest producing cows and sired by a production tested bull.

These calves must be given every opportunity to grow rapidly. Further, these heifers should be bred at an early age so as to calve early and enter the milking herd and repay the investment. Heifers can be grown to calve as two-year-olds, rather than two and a half to three year olds."

Guest speaker

BLOOMINGTON — Miss Jennison of the Child Evangelism Mission of Ontario was the guest speaker at the missionary meeting of the Women's Fellowship, held in the church. In addition to her talk, she also showed pictures of her work.

The meeting, that was well attended, was in charge of Mrs. Eugene Lemon. Readings were presented by Mrs. Elmer Burnett and Mrs. Dawson. Refreshments were served by Mrs. Vince Wagg and Mrs. Lemon.

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