

Once worthless colostrum now an economical staple

More than half of the nation's dairy calves are being fed from food milked from what was once a worthless substance. And the milk producers can "udder" a few words of thanks to UNL researchers for it.

Colostrum, a special secretion of a cow's mammary glands that is produced during the first three to four days after calving, was thought to be so worthless that its sale to humans was forbidden.

According to Foster Owen, professor of animal science, the change to colostrum, instead of milk of milk substitutes as a food substance for newborn calves, has taken place only in the last five years.

Thirteen years of research and tests conducted on 80 Holstein cows proved colostrum to be more economical and time-saving than former methods, he said.

Savings possible

In a recent report on the research, the Dairy Research Center at the NU Mead Field Laboratory concluded that savings of up to 80 per cent are possible with colostrum.

"The new plan is a much simpler and

more economic system," Owen said, "both in terms of feed costs and labor convenience."

The plan involves the feeding of colostrum to newborn calves until they reach the age of 21 days. Once calves reach 21 days, they can be weaned. The dairyman, in some instances, can continue to feed colostrum to the calves if the calves look weak or sickly, he said.

Colostrum is higher in protein solids, antibodies, vitamins A and D and trace minerals than normal milk.

Less scour cases

Owen said one side-effect of the new program has proven beneficial. Because calves fed on colostrum are weaned after three weeks, while calves fed with conventional methods need six weeks or more before weaning, the number of scour cases in calves has been cut in half. Scour is a form of diarrhea caused by liquid diets.

"As soon as we can get calves off liquid diets," Owen said, "we almost do away with scour problems."

Colostrum collected from cows should be placed in freezers for storage, Owen said. Some British scientists have said colostrum should be stored at room temperature.

"When stored at room temperature, protein breakdown begins at about three to four weeks," Owen said, "and the

possibility of contamination, although remote, is considerably greater."

"We think we have pretty well established that this method of starting calves can be effectively used and provide excellent replacement heifers, yet is simpler and considerably less expensive than usual methods."

Mao, Chinese populism topics of lecture series

A series of lectures discussing China after Mao Tse-Tung begins today and continues through April, according to Henry Holtzclaw, dean of Graduate Studies and member of the UNL Research Council.

Holtzclaw said the lectures are part of the James Montgomery lecture series that began at UNL in 1948 to discuss contemporary issues. This year, the series will bring authorities on China, its society and future to UNL, he said.

Today's lecture will discuss *Chinese Populism and the Legacy of Mao Tse-Tung* and will be presented by James R. Townsend, a former member of National Committee for United States-China Relations and a political science professor at the University of Washington, Holtzclaw said.

The lecture will begin at 10:30 a.m. in the Union Small Auditorium and a seminar will follow at 1:30 p.m. in Oldfather Hall 507.

Holtzclaw said other speakers will discuss the future of China, Chinese Socialism, China and the Third World, Chinese Agriculture and China's current political power struggle.

The lectures are sponsored by the committee for Asian Studies, the Union Program Council Human Potentials and Talk and Topics committees and the UNL Research Council.

"We have been looking forward to this series for a long time and are expecting wide interest on campus and in the community," Holtzclaw said. "It's a very timely subject."

Bill restoring student loan budget passed by Congress

A bill restoring funds to the National Direct Student Loan (NDSL) program has passed both houses of Congress and is currently in a conference committee.

In the committee, a \$21 million difference between the House and Senate versions of the fiscal year 1977 Supplemental Appropriations Bill will be worked out. The House voted to restore \$300 million and the Senate voted to restore \$321 million to the bill.

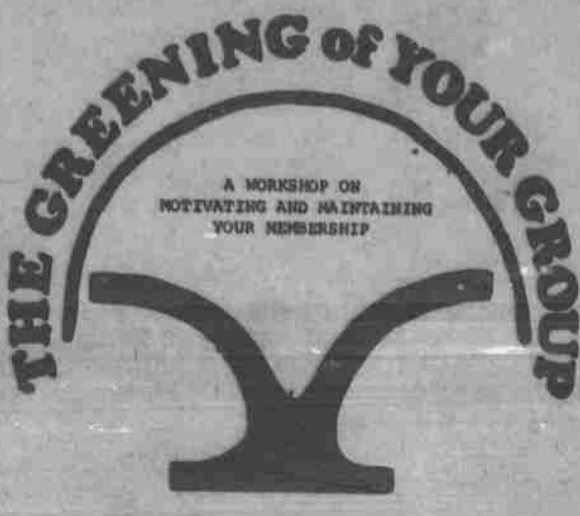
Cuts in the budget had been proposed by President Jimmy Carter. Former President Gerald Ford had also recommended some cuts in student aid programs.

Before Congress approved the restora-

tion, John Welch, former co-chairman of the ASUN Government Liaison Committee, had contacted Nebraska Sen. Edward Zorinsky to urge his support of the funding.

Zorinsky told the committee that he had written a letter urging Washington Sen. Warren Magnuson, chairman of the subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee, to restore the funding.

Welch said the ASUN Government Liaison Committee "had wanted to do something more on a national level" for some time and urging Zorinsky to support the NDSL program seemed a good way to do it.



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