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Prevent Weed-Flavored Cream

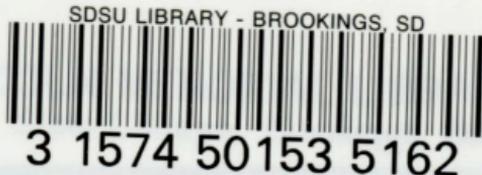
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PREVENT

Weed-Flavored

CREAM

1. Keep milk cows off pastures infested with French weed, wild onions and other weeds which flavor milk during the spring months.
2. Rid old pastures of weeds by mowing them when they are in bloom.
3. Keep cows off rye pasture for three hours before milking.
4. Provide temporary pasture program:
 - a. Fall sown rye April 20 to June 1.
 - b. Early sown mixture of small grain June 1 to July 10.
 - c. Sudangrass July 10 to September 20.
5. Restore old pastures by resting through entire season and mowing weeds.

EXTENSION SERVICE
SOUTH DAKOTA STATE COLLEGE
Brookings, South Dakota

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Loss from Weedy Flavored Cream

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South Dakota milk producers as well as everyone connected with the dairy industry in the state have suffered heavy losses because flavors from French weed, wild onions, and possibly other weeds have contaminated the butter during the spring months and reduced its market value. Of course objectionable flavors from other sources must be guarded against throughout the year but weedy flavors are most prevalent from April to July.

Continued marketing of weedy flavored cream in the spring months each year not only causes immediate losses because of rejection or lowered price for the cream, but it brands South Dakota as a low quality butter producing state and eastern buyers discriminate against all South Dakota butter.

Remedy

Producers can prevent the weedy flavors from getting into the cream by keeping their cows off the pastures infested with objectionable weeds. In order to do this, temporary pasture crops can be used to take the place of the weedy pastures.

The first step is to sow a mixture of small grains as early as possible. This mixture may consist of one bushel of oats, one bushel of barley and one-half bushel of rye to the acre. The acreage should be sufficient to carry the milking herd throughout June and the first week in July.

If fall rye were sown for spring pasture it will last until June first. If no fall rye is available the

milking cows will have to receive winter feed until the small grain pasture is ready for grazing.

The rye pasture will often cause objectionable flavors in milk but these flavors can be avoided by keeping the cows off the rye for three hours before milking.

The sowing of fall rye for early spring pasture is a good sound farm practice for livestock owners in all parts of the state.

After the first week in July there is little trouble from weedy flavors as the weeds dry up and go to seed. The cows do not eat them as readily and the weeds do not flavor the milk as much as when they were green.

Pasture Improvement

A large percentage of our weedy, drought damaged pastures can be improved marvelously and rid of most of the weeds by keeping the stock off for the entire season and mowing the weeds when they are in bloom.

This method of resting pastures in order to allow them to recover their former productiveness was especially successful in 1937 and 1938.

Sudan grass sown at corn planting time will be ready for grazing early in July and with normal moisture will last until well into September. It can follow the small grain pasture mentioned in the program to prevent weedy flavors in cream.

Resting the permanent pasture qualifies the owner for increased soil building payments under the Agricultural Conservation program and the use of temporary pastures to take its place does not increase soil depleting acreage.

SUMMARY

The establishment of South Dakota as a high quality butter producing state means more money in the pockets of every cream producer and creamery in the state.

Weedy flavors can be kept out of South Dakota butter if producers will keep the milk cows off the weedy pastures and creameries will make no butter out of weedy flavored cream.

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