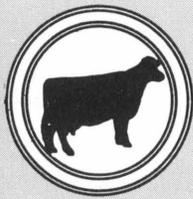


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# Dairy Guidelines

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE, V.P.I., BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA

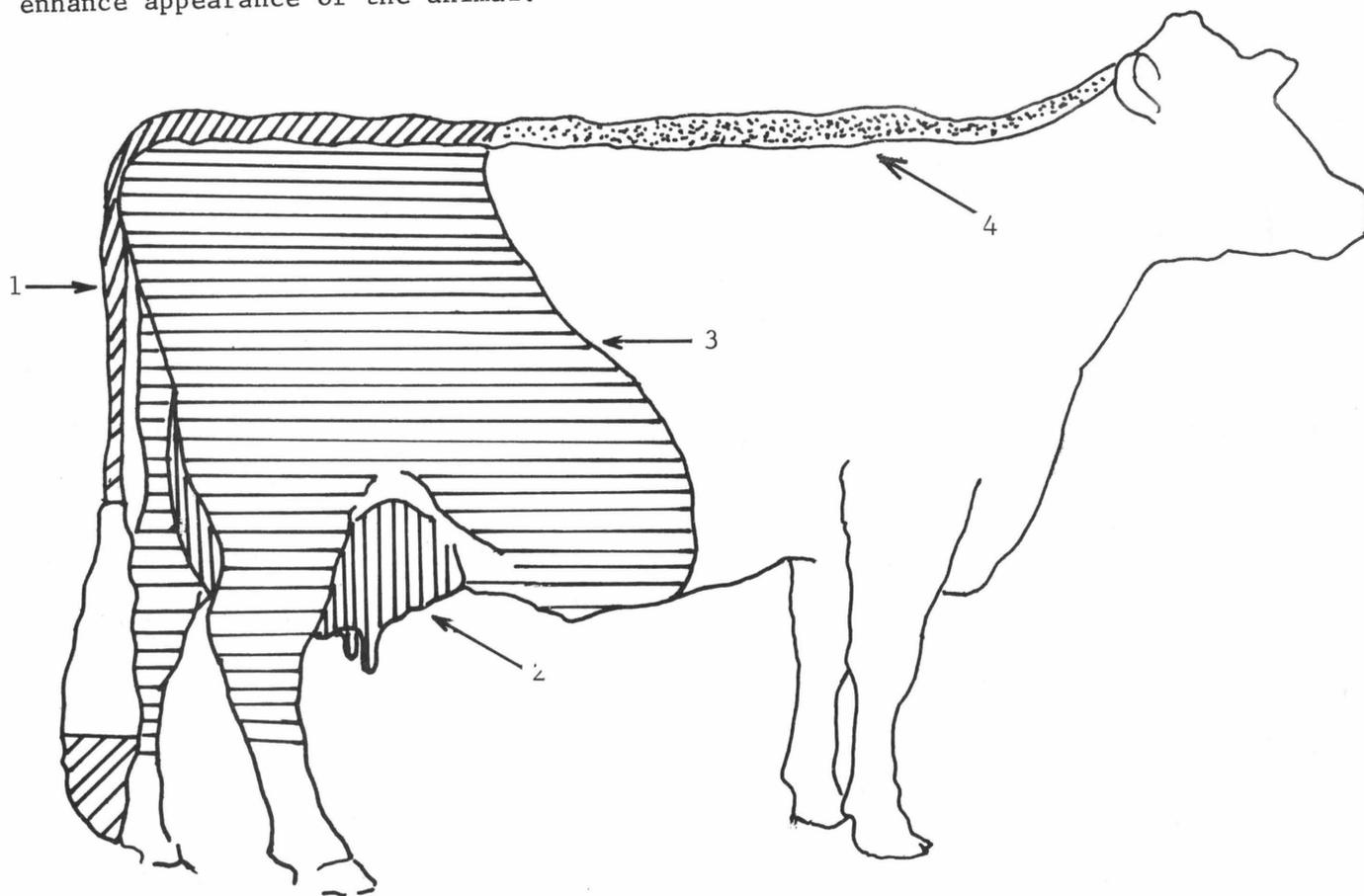
Series 475 - October 1966

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## Clipping Cows in Milk

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Clipping cows will reduce time in preparing cows for milking, make it easier to keep cows clean, lower bacteria count, reduce sediment, help control lice, and enhance appearance of the animal.



To do a good job of clipping, follow the numbered steps above.

1. Clip off the tip of switch about 1 ft. from the ground. Clip the tail, tailhead, and backbone up to the hook bones.
2. Clip the udder.
3. Clip the legs, underline, flanks, and thighs.
4. Clip a clipper-width on each side of the backbone.

### Clipping Tips

Blend clipped and unclipped areas by clipping with the lay of the hair. Clip against the lay of the hair for a short clip.

Virginia regulations governing sanitary requirements for the production of milk state: "The hind legs, flanks, and udders of cows shall be clipped so that their hair is kept short on these parts at all times. The flanks, bellies, and tails of all milking cows shall be free from visible dirt at time of milking. All brushing shall be completed before milking commences."

Usually a clipping in the fall and another during late winter is sufficient.

### Additional Tips For Show Cows

Clip the head also, if you plan to show the animal or want her to look her best. When clipping show animals, remove a minimum amount of hair from the underline--just enough to reveal the milk veins and be consistent with sanitary milk production. (See Dairy Guidelines Series 675.)

Animals properly cared for will require less grooming than neglected animals. Frequent brushing reduces the need for clipping. To gain experience in the use of clippers, practice on an animal you do not plan to show.

### Clipper Care

Proper use, care, and preventive maintenance of clippers will pay big dividends in preventing malfunctions and expensive repairs. Proper care includes:

1. Oil through the 2 holes in the top of the head.
2. Remove blades occasionally and clean dirt and hair out of head of clippers.
3. Always use sharp blades. Dull blades will not do a satisfactory job and may overload the motor and cause damage.
4. Adjust tension to a minimum to get clippers to cut. Excessive tension will wear blades and dull them, as well as overload the motor and make it overheat.
5. Occasionally dip clipper head, while running, in a container of fuel oil or similar light lubricant to flush out dirt and hair and to lubricate the blades. Let excess drip off before using. The bottom half of a gallon plastic jug is ideal for this purpose.
6. Be careful with clipper blades--they are hard and brittle. Dropping or striking them against metal or concrete can break teeth and destroy the set of blades.
7. Always keep at least 2 sharp sets of blades on hand. Blades can be resharpened several times by manufacturer or local service shop.

### Routine Maintenance

Depending upon how much the clippers are used, they should be taken apart occasionally and the following done:

1. Clean and replace grease in clipper head.
2. Remove screens at each end of clipper and blow out accumulated dirt and hair.
3. Oil motor armature shaft through holes in case. These are wick-fed, so do not remove the wick from the holes.
4. If serious trouble develops with your clipper, return it to the manufacturer or a repair service center for reconditioning.

### Storage of Clippers

Always store clippers in a safe, dry place. Use a covered container to prevent dust settling on clipper heads. Oil clipper blades before storing to prevent rust. Store with the head lower than the motor to prevent oil running back from the head into the motor and causing damage.