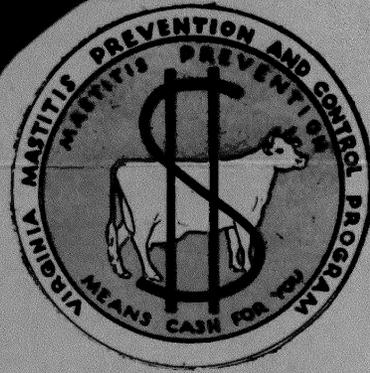
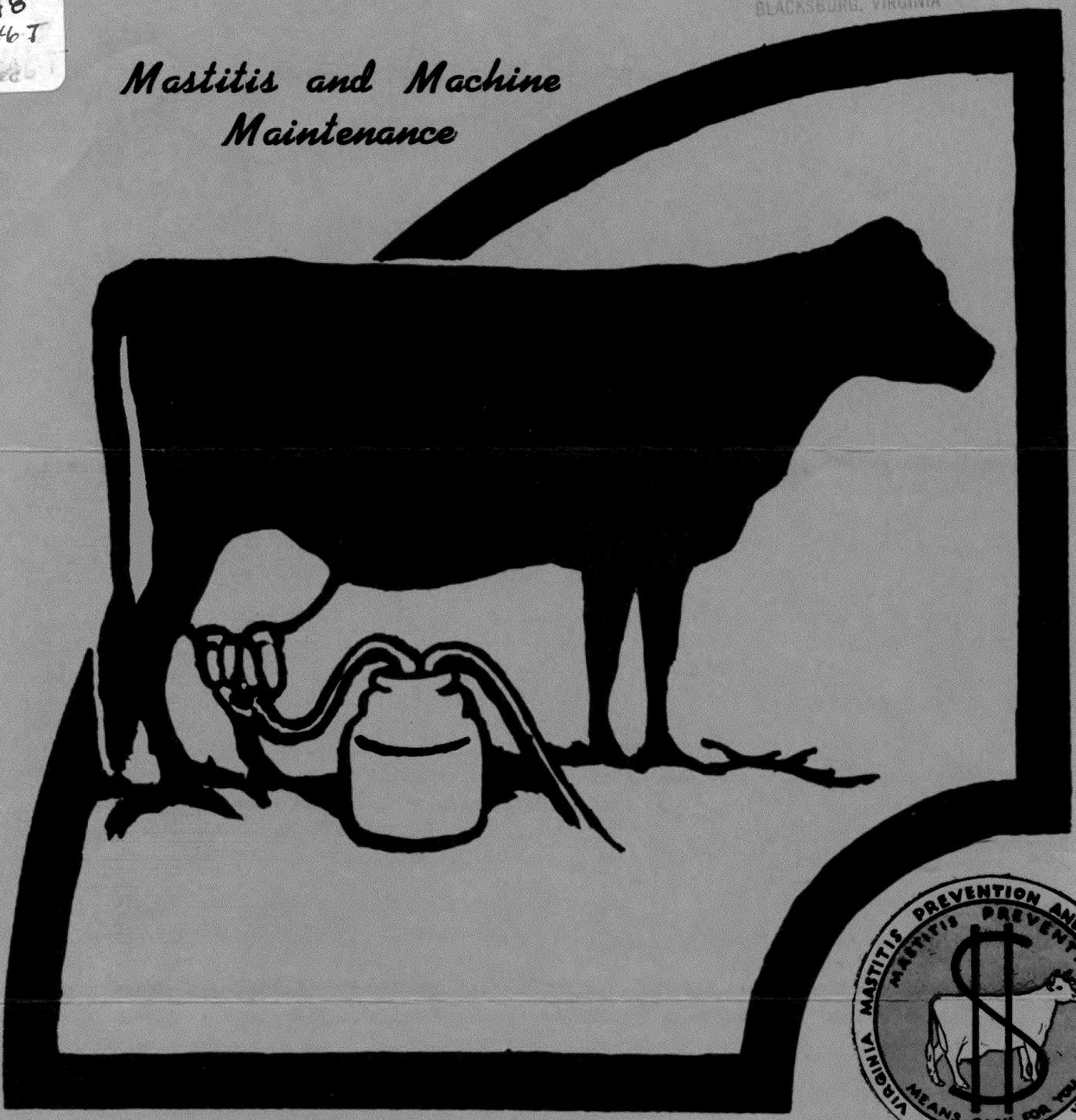


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Mastitis and Machine Maintenance



PREPARED FOR THE
VIRGINIA MASTITIS PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROGRAM

Sponsored by state educational agencies and
by all organizations associated with the
Virginia Dairy Industry BY:
V.P.I. Agricultural Extension Service, Blacksburg, Va.
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MASTITIS AND MACHINE MAINTENANCE

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1.

It's a mastitis fact sheet, as you will see;
Mastitis and Machine Maintenance, the title be.
It's all about care of that milking contraption
In verse, for a change, and for your benefaction.

2.

Let's look at the line, the artery of the system.
It holds the vacuum from the machine to the piston.
Have you ever looked in to see what was there
Besides the vacuum, that means a lack of air?

3.

Many lines are clogged with sucked-in dust,
Or filled to the brim with lots of rust.
Maybe they're caked with dried milk scale
From an overflowed milker or an upset pail.

4.

The lines should be cleaned often enough
To keep them from filling with this awful stuff.
Get V. P. I. Circular, number five - o - one;
It explains how the cleaning job is done.

5.

The vacuum regulator is at the heart
Of a lot of trouble from the start.
Do you make an effort to keep it clean?
Dust causes sticking, and clogs the air screen.

6.

Is the vacuum too high or is it too low?
An extra gage would let you know.
For you can't depend on the gage in the line;
It may work wrong or it may work fine.

7.

How about the pump? Is it serviced at all?
Or do you depend on the serviceman's call?
Some day you'll need him, in a hurry I mean,
When you can't pull vacuum to run your machine.

8.

Lack of lubrication will cause it to wear.
It can't get the oil if the oil isn't there.
Check on the oil level every few days.
Like check-ups on cars, you'll find it pays.

9.

Too many machines on a vacuum pump
Can cause poor recovery and vacuum to slump.
If two units is all your pump was designed for,
You're headed for trouble if you add any more.

10.

Don't try to alter the milker's pulsations;
It works best at the manufacturer's recommendations.
If you don't follow his specified directions,
Your herd will be full of mastitic infections.

11.

The same goes for vacuum: It must be just right.
It can't be too strong or it can't be too light.
The udder is made of delicate membrane;
It can't stand rough treatment, and it can't stand strain.

12.

The use of worn, cracked, or deformed inflations
Is the cause of many udder inflammations
Due to harsh treatment of teats and udders,
And the spread of germs from one cow to others.

13.

We had a lot of fun writing this verse.
If we had it to do over, we couldn't do worse.
We had one problem that seemed to spite us –
To find a line that rhymed with mastitis.

14.

We finally did it. Hot dog and you - all!
Our poem's most finished, but don't drop the ball.
Take hold of the message that's mixed between,
And keep a trained eye on your milking machine.