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"Dairymen Association Voices Approval for Vaccination of Calves", December 19, 1940

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DAIRYMEN ASSOCIATION VOICES APPROVAL FOR VACCINATION OF CALVES

Whatcom Milk Farmers in Favor of New Program for Bang's Eradication

The only resolution passed last Saturday by the members of the Whatcom County Dairymen's Association at their annual nominating meeting was a unanimous approval of calf vaccination as a means of controlling Bang's disease.

Given the O. K. by the federal bureau of animal industry just the week before the Whatcom meeting, the vaccine method of wiping out the abortion scourge from dairy herds was explained to the members fully by R. B. LeCocq, Livestock Attorney, Ayrshire breeder and president of the Washington Dairymen's Childhood Vaccination Association.

"This time," LeCocq stated, "the farmer is the chooser and the master mind behind the desk isn't going to tell us what to do."

Under the new Bang's eradication set-up, to go into effect as soon as minor details about state control can be ironed out, the dairyman may choose to blood test his herd and slaughter his reactors, if badly infected he may choose to keep his reactors in a quarantined herd, so the slaughter won't put him entirely out of business; and in either case, he may vaccinate his calves to build up immunity against re-infection in the herd.

BUILDS IMMUNITY

LeCocq is a member of a group of dairy farmers in this state who have actively advocated the vaccine method of controlling Bangs ever since 1933. He stated the blood-test-and-slaughter program was adopted principally as a method of cutting down the number of dairy cattle in the country at a time when cotton was being plowed under and pigs killed.

LeCocq was high in his praise of vaccination as a means of building up immunity in a herd. Where all disease has been cleaned from a herd and there is no immunity, cows are ripe for re-infection, he pointed out.

"Reports show some herds have tested and slaughtered their reactors as many as 22 times and the cows were always re-infected," he said.

LeCocq also pointed out that federal indemnities will be paid on any vaccinated heifers which later react to the blood test. Because some chemical houses have sent bad vaccine to farmers doing their own vaccinating, all vaccination work must be under control of federal veterinarians, LeCocq emphasized.