

## High Capacity Permanent Hay Dryer Being Used by Masonic Homes Farm

A new permanent type baled hay dryer, one of the first in Lancaster County, went into operation this week at Masonic Homes Farms, Elizabethtown.

The new installation, capable of handling seven two and one-half ton wagons at one time, was started late this spring. It is built of native lumber, except for the doors, which are of finished pine.

The dryer was considered a necessity by farm manager Carlton Schultz after experiencing extremely difficult hay drying conditions last year.

"We had to leave several acres of alfalfa on the ground last fall," he said. "It got caught by rain in the windrow. It seemed that every time that we got it turned and dry, it rained again."

"We finally finished by taking a field chopper into the field, chopping it and letting it lie. Some of it we managed to bale for bedding for dairy cattle. But this was certainly not satisfactory."

During the winter he said that he heard and saw plans for various types of hay drying systems. The farms already had an unheated air mow finisher in the dairy barn, but Schultz said that this was not adequate for the volume of hay produced.

The permanent building was decided on for the following reasons:

First, the high initial cost can be depreciated over a greater number of years, giving a greater saving.

Second, the structure allows

drying of all types of crops under all weather conditions.

Third, heavy duty equipment can be used, thus giving a greater drying capacity. But at the same time, the number of units can be reduced, thus giving a greater potential economy of operation.

And last, the system is simple and is designed to be as free as possible from mechanical breakdown.

The dryer is actually two systems integrated. One is a forced air system that completely bypasses the heater. The second is the heating system with its own blowers. When the two are operated together, air is forced into the hay by three 42 inch fans powered by 75 hp motors.

The heating unit, an oil fired furnace, is capable of producing 1,250,000 BTU an hour (A BTU is the amount of heat required to raise the temperature of a pound of water one degree Fahrenheit). It heats the air to 160 degrees F.

The air is forced the length of the 92 foot shed in a four by eight foot duct. Trap doors over the wagon stalls control the air entering each wagon.

Each stall is equipped with a raisable canvas hood that is clamped to a slotting floor metal wagon. The seal is tailor made for each wagon to assure the tightest fit possible.

During the period that heated air is used, the shed doors are closed and the air is recirculated.

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THIS IS THE NEW permanent hay dryer now in operation at Masonic Homes Farms, Elizabethtown. The building has sliding doors on both sides allowing the wagons

to be driven through. The heat unit is at the far end of the building. The building is of native wood and cement blocks with a reinforced cement floor. (LF Photo)

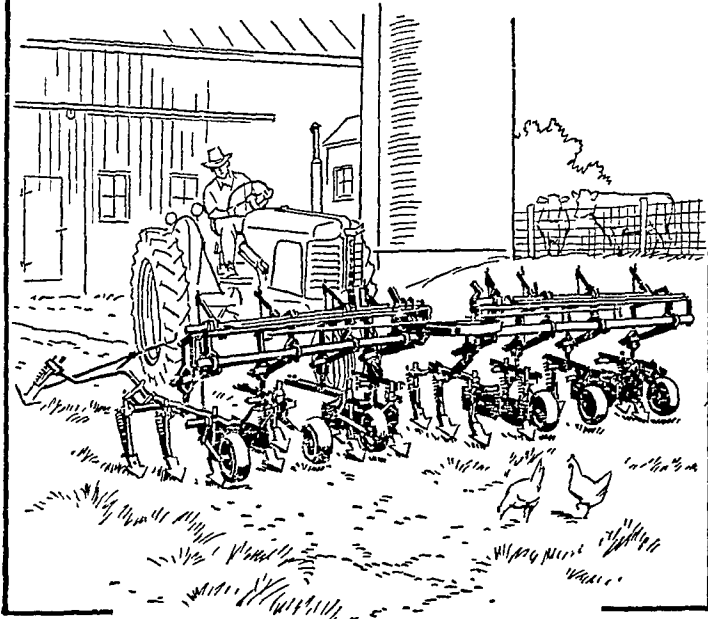


arrangement used to direct heated air from the overhead duct into the drying wagons. The lever at the left is used to

raise the hood through a series of pulleys and cables. Each hood is tailor made to fit each wagon, thus assuring the tightest possible fit. (LF Photo)

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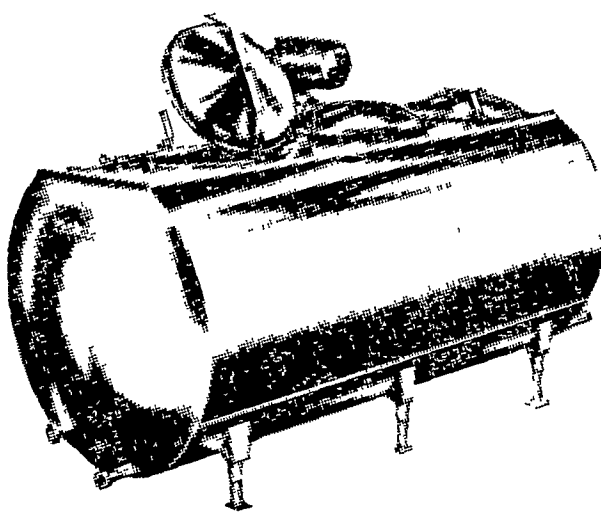
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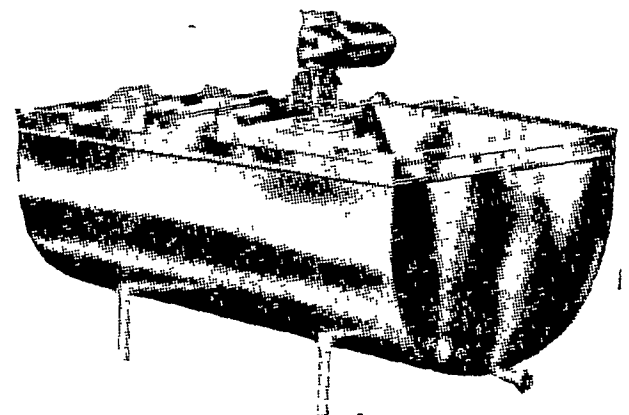


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