

## Winchester, Va. Fast Becoming Market Center

WINCHESTER, Va. — Long noted as the "Apple Capital" of the East, Winchester is now also becoming one of the important livestock market centers in the East.

Two livestock markets handle stock of every description in all the northern Virginia counties as well as the pan-handle of West Virginia. These two markets alone do a gross business of \$7,162,377.65 annually.

In addition to these, the Northern Virginia Livestock Producers Assn., Inc. holds three feeder sales handling over 6,000 head of feeder calves, yearling steers and heifers. The first of these sales is generally held about the middle of April, when 1,500 or more head are sold. The Yearling Steer Sale is held in late September when 1,500 or more yearlings are handled.

The largest sale, as well as the oldest, in the Feeder Calf Sale, held the second Friday of October each year. This sale sometimes handles as many as 4,000 head.

These sales are made possible through the cooperation of the Virginia Agricultural Extension Service, the Virginia Division of Markets, the Virginia Beef Cattle Producers Assn. and the Northern Virginia Livestock Producers Assn. More than 275 leading livestock farmers in Northern Virginia provide these feeders and prepare to meet the highest requirements of buyers who are looking for feeder animals.

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## Trenches Aren't Pretty — But They Make Feeding Cheaper

By Bob Best

A 65 foot tile silo towers over the John Sangrey farmstead, R1 Conestoga, in the rolling lands of Southern Lancaster County. But this year it will be only a supplement in the Sangrey steer feeding program.

The dominating factor in the feed lot will be a new trench silo, just completed and filled with corn silage. This silo, 90 feet long, 18 feet wide and averaging eight feet deep, almost triples the silage storing capacity of the farm.

Sangrey, who feeds a hundred to 120 steers a year, now plans to hold 140 head this fall.

Actually a trench silo is not brand new on the Sangrey farm. For the past few years, he has had dirt trenches. These were simply a big ditch cut with a bull-dozer and filled with silage. While a good quality of silage can be made with them, and the cost is low, they are definitely unpleasant to feed from in wet weather.

Sangrey therefore decided this summer that he would make the trench or bunker type silo a permanent installation on the farm.

It is located on the west side of the bank barn, with the barn foundation making one of the sides for part of the length of the silo. The other side is of concrete block construction.

The blocks were laid in two courses with tie bolts between. The holes in the blocks were packed with cement for greater strength. Then the exterior of the blocks and the barn foundation were finished with plastering cement to give a smooth surface.

To give the west side of the bunker added strength, a dirt bank has been pushed against it.

When asked why he chose cement block construction, San-

grey said that he felt it was the most economical. He cited the high labor costs involved in making forms and working with the forms.

Sangrey's normal feeding program works like this.

He buys feeders at six to seven hundred pounds. They then go on pasture as long as pasture lasts and then into the feed lot. In the lot they receive silage and about two pounds of supplement. For the last 90 days they are grain finished.

The silage will be self fed from the trench using a portable rack. A tractor loader will be used to keep the floor of the silo clean, and may be used to knock down the silage and to move the rack forward.

The rack will be constructed with a floor for the front feet of steers to prevent the animals from pushing over the rack and spoiling and wasting silage.

This feeding system does not produce high prime cattle, Sangrey says. But he doubts the value of the extra cost involved in feeding steers to high prime.

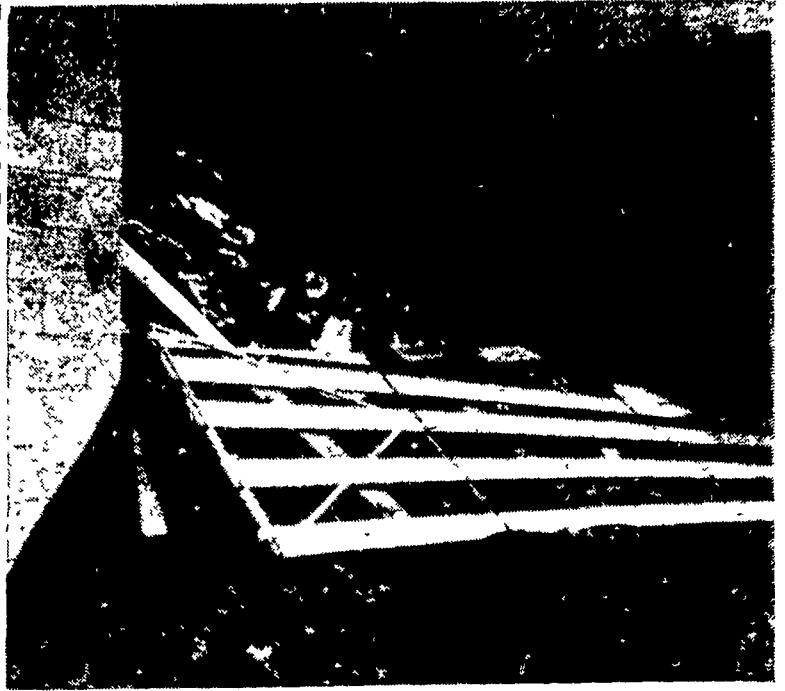
The system works. A load Sangrey sold Monday brought \$25 a hundredweight in a weakening market.

This fall Sangrey has two problems confronting him. The soybean and sorghum mixture he planted for silage has been badly hurt by the drought. And the corn crop is down considerably from normal. Therefore he feels that his feeding program will have to include four or five pounds of grain a day to make up for the lack of quality in the silage. And the added acres of corn that will have to go to fill the silos will cut down on the grain available.

Added to this is the difficulty in obtaining good stock cattle at a low price this fall.

However Sangrey believes that he has found the answer to economical steer feeding with a minimum of work by using all the plant in the silo.

At the highest reasonable estimate, the cost of a mandatory federal poultry inspection service would be less than 10 cents per person per year, the American Veterinary Medical Association says.



DIRT WAS PILED OVER the end of the black plastic cover to make a good seal on the silo cover. Sangrey has arranged fences so that cattle will have free access from the feed lot this winter. (LF Photo)

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- Hens are too large
- Poor feed efficiency
- Eggs are too large
- No breeding program
- Eggs are too small
- Worst chicks you can buy
- Winning Egg Laying Test doesn't mean anything

I can't understand it! Lancaster County poultrymen bought a quarter of a million of these terrible pullets in 1957! And they're ordering again for '58!

I guess that 80 and 90% production sort of confuses them, and they just up and re-order without thinking!

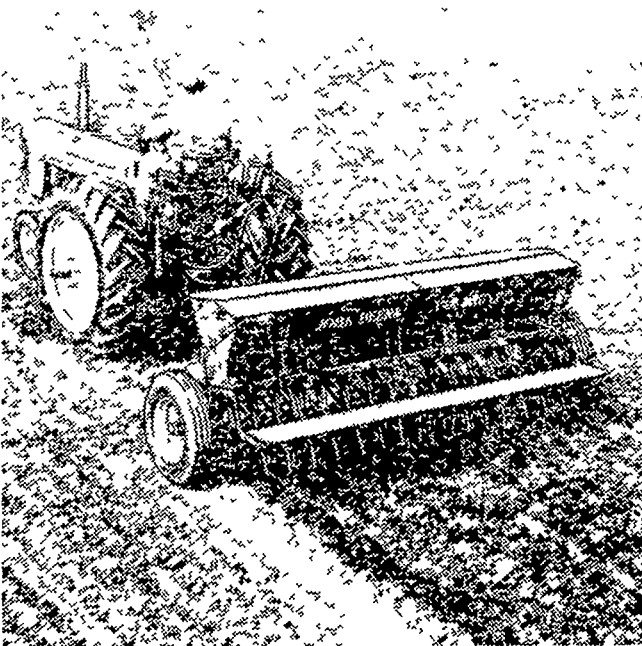
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