



**AARON FINDS** frequent uses for his arc welding unit shop. Here he is making hardware for the silage handler. He also uses an acetylene welding and cutting torch unit in repair and construction work on the farm. **LF PHOTO**



**ONE OF THE** handiest items in the shop is this "pegboard" tool rack Aaron has utilized the material for tool racks in several accessible locations around the shop, with custom holders for each hand tool he uses. **LF PHOTO**

Aaron J. Brubaker, 1836 Marietta Avenue, is known in the Rohrerstown community as the fellow who farms more than 200 acres bordering the borough on the southeast.

A lesser known part of his operation is one of the finest farm shops to be found anywhere. The shop is located, for convenience and efficiency, in the heart of the Brubaker farmstead in a new concrete-block addition to the farm garage.

From the new forced-air heating system and double-tube fluorescent light fixtures, to the extra-large overhead shop doors and large, unobstructed work area of the shop; it is a mechanic's idea of paradise. In fact, a great many "commercial" garages are less favored in facilities.

This modern shop is a direct outgrowth of Brubaker's first welding outfit purchased "... when I was about 18 or 19," according to this expert farm mechanic.

Today that one acetylene welding unit has grown to include both gas and arc welding rigs, metal lathe, power metal saw, two different sizes of portable electric drills, two sizes of drill pres-

ses, a wide assortment of hand tools, table saw, steam cleaner and a power grinder.

Not to be overlooked is an air compressor with hose outlets in the garage, at a reel near the shop doors and at the work bench. This unit is completed by a portable air tank for the field, and a professional type spark plug cleaner.

Some folks might think this is too much equipment for a farm shop, but Brubaker wouldn't part with one item. He maintains a well-equipped farm shop does not cost, but pays.

He points out how the shop fits in his operation. He owns 175 acres and rents the

neighboring farm. He feeds steers, has 10,000 layers, potatoes, tomatoes, corn and wheat in the operation.

To handle this operation, he runs six tractors, five trucks, two cars and the stationary power units on such equipment as the combine. In addition to "home" jobs, the power equipment occasionally gets use on custom jobs for neighbors, if there is time.

This means there are at least one and one-half dozen internal-combustion engines on the farm. These are all repaired, tuned, adjusted or overhauled in the shop. Considering the price of a motor overhaul, Brubaker figures these jobs save much more than the cost of the shop tools.

In addition, they can be scheduled during off-season days, making full use of idled labor in winter months.

Every piece of equipment on the farm is inspected and repaired during these winter months, right in the shop.

During rush seasons, if a machine breaks down, Aaron reports, "We can always get it to the shop and here we often can make repairs, right on the machine. If I had it done, we would have to dismantle the equipment and take the broken piece to town, losing time all around."

If a major overhaul is indicated during the rush season, the job may go to town, "But, that doesn't happen very often," he adds.

A prime indication of this farm mechanic's talent may be found in the shop building. Wanting an unobstructed work area, convenience and speed; he decided to build the shop without center pillars.

Since the building is capable of housing several large pieces of equipment at one time, this offered complications. However, Aaron solved it by designing sturdy cable-trussed, wide-span girders of regular two-inch lumber, thus saving the cost of

heavy timbers and providing reliable roof support.

This ability to improvise possibly stems from Brubaker's preference for working with metal, rather than wood. "There's not much I can't make from metal," he says, "and it's not much more expensive."

What particularly does he like about metal work?

"Oh, I don't know, except that I have the tools for it and it is really easy to work with. Besides, when you make something of metal, you know it is going to last. And I sure like that."

That's how one Lancaster County farmer has found a way to profit from off-season months by combining a functional farm-shop building, modern tools and ingenuity.

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