

GETTING THE CROP DRYER READY for the first cutting of alfalfa is one the early spring chores for Galen Crouse, Stevens R1. He uses a converted corn-wagon shed as a drying shed. Up to 1,000 bales of hay can be piled three laywagon shed as a drying shed. Up to 1,000 bales of hay can be piled three layed he loads it again and moves 100 head of holsteins on the
deep on the wooden skids inside. When drying is complete, after about 18 it to the barn for storage. But hay fields during the fall and rs, the hay is stored in the barn. Tank in right foreground holds fuel oil for this is work that can be done winter. With this care he can

## Hay Champion

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corn crib-wagon shed into a nurse crop. He puts on about drying barn by building a duct- one and a half bushels of oats work through one crib and lay- per acre and band seeds 25 ing a series of skids on the pounds of alfalfa as early as he floor. A fuel oil fired crop can work the ground. dryer outside the shed forces He eliminates competition as hot air through the ducts and soon as the alfalfa is establishup through the partially cured ed by making oats silage. Last hay. He has found that three year he harvested over a ton layers, or about 700 to 1,000 of alfalfa hay on the first cuttbales, will cure in 18 hours un- ing of a new stand. His estaless the weather is extremely blished stands average better damp. Four layers in the shed than five tons of cured hay takes more time and pushes per acre most years. the cost too high, he says.

finish his alfalfa for about \$3 season, harvesting as soon as to \$4 per ton, but he says the the plants reach the bud stage, hay after is it cured. He un-topdresses with 0-20-20 fertilizloads the wagons in the drying er after the third cutting and shed, and after the hay is cur- spreads the manure from his

side, he points out.

But championship hay does not start at harvesting time. Crouse seeds alfalfa nearly Crouse converted an old every spring with oats as a

Crouse cuts his Flemish type He estimates that he can alfalfa four times during the worst problem is moving the or about every four weeks. He L. F. Photo. when it is not fit to work out-usually keep a stand in good condition for about five years.

He has 36 acres of hay, about 24 of it alfalfa and the other 12 mixed brome, on his 72 acre farm. He makes Rye silage in the spring and corn silage in the fall. With this kind of forage program, he purchases his grain needs.

Earlier in the spring, Crouse turned his 59 milkers out in rye pasture but found they dropped about 150 pounds production per day. When he began chopping the rye and hauling it to them in the barn, production came back to previous levels. He turns the cows out in a 10 acre permanent pasture "mostly for exercise" every morning. They get two feedings of the high quality hay and four feedings of silage every day.

Crouse protects his alfalfa from pests with recommended spray schedules, but this year found that even though he followed directions and sprayed last fall with Dieldrin, he did not get control of the weevils. He plans to spray the stubble as soon as the crop is removed to try to get more time and a better second crop. That's what it takes championship hay.

## Farm Women 2 Add 2 Members

Society of Farm Women 2 met at 'ie home of Mrs. Jay Witmer, Manheim R2. Mrs. Marlin 'H · ler was assisting hostess. Mrs. Ronald Gordley led the group in devotions.

In response to roll call, each member gave a Bible verse beginning with the initial of their first nar.s. Mrs. Alvin Graybill, president, presided over the meeting and the installation of two new members, Mrs. Layser Shenk of Manheim R4 and Mrs. Warren Kline of Manheim R2.

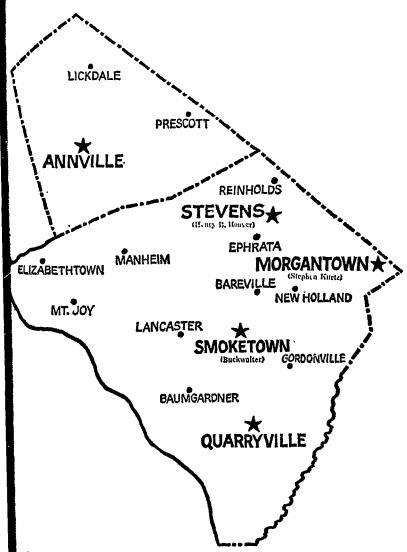
Society 2 will be the guests of Society 17 Saturday, June 6 at the Refton Fire Hall. A donation was given to Darwin Boyd, an exchange student to be located in Korea. Donations were also given to two local families.

The Society will have a food stand at an antique sale in Lititz on May 30. Chicken corn soup, beef pot pie and homemade ice cream and pies will be sold.

The next meeting will be held in East Petersburg with Mrs. Sadie Shenk as hostess.

There is no such thing as reforming the mass without reforming the individuals who compose it. — Henry Ward Beecher.

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