

# Lancaster Farming

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**JACOB HOUSER, JR.'S COWS SNUGGLE IN THEIR NEW BEDS.** Houser has built 42 free-stalls to handle more cows with less effort. He finds that older cows take about two weeks to adjust to the stalls, but heifers take to them immediately. L. F. Photo

## Free-Stall Housing Will Reduce Per Cow Handling Costs, Dairymen Report

(Ed note this as a two-part look at free-stall housing as a system of managing dairy cows Part I deals with observations on a medium-sized herd, and Part II with the experiences of a large operator over a three-year period)

### PART I

by Everett Newswanger  
Staff Reporter

"We believe we can handle 40 cows as easily as we could care for 20 cows," says Jacob Houser Jr., 1520 Lampeter Road, Lampeter. "The only exception would be the longer milking time needed"

Jacob recently built a 18'x50' silo, arranged 42 free-stalls in a 50'x64' three-sided aluminum building; made a holding pen; constructed a bunk feeder; and dug a 39 ft x12ft x9ft deep pit to hold all the accumulation of manure for a two-month period. A hay rack built on the side of the original barn can be filled from the hay mow.

Each free-stall is 4' wide and 7'3" long. Bedding consists of sawdust placed on a base of crushed stones and ground limestone or sawdust on top of dry stable manure.

"We have no trouble — no cows lay on the pavement," Houser said. "Our cows have become accustomed to the stalls in two weeks. Heifers took to them immediately."

### HANDLING THE MANURE

The entire area — barnyard and behind the free-stalls — is scraped into the manure pit every day except Sunday. This takes about one-half hour with the seven-foot blade behind the tractor. Very little hand scraping is needed.

In the pit the manure is mixed with water (all the available rain water is used) by an agitator run by the tractor power-takeoff shaft. Houser finds the main problems of liquid manure handling are: keeping the manure thoroughly mixed, having it

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## Gov.'s Conference On Agr. Will Feature Farm & Business Panel

A special feature of the Governor's Conference on Agriculture which is to be held in Harrisburg on April 7 as an afternoon panel session that will reveal the progress made by some of the State's outstanding Agribusiness leaders and their future potentialities, as they see them.

The four participants on the panel will be: Alan Wareheim, president, Hanover Canning Company, Hanover; Sam Dunn, dairy producer, East Petersburg; Walter Wulwarth, poultry producer, Harford; and Siegfried Weis, president, Weis Markets, Sunbury. Dr. Russel E. Larson, dean of the College of Agriculture, the Penn State University, will serve as moderator of the afternoon seminar. He will also participate in the morning program, for which three outstanding education and industry leaders have accepted Governor Scranton's invitation to serve as speakers.

The morning speakers are Dr. Eric Walker, president,

### Weather Forecast

Temperatures for the five-day period, Saturday through Wednesday, are expected to average below normal. Normal for the period is a high of 54 and a low of 34 degrees. It will be cool throughout the period.

Precipitation is expected to total 1/2-1 inch. This will occur as rain through early Saturday and again Monday

the Penn State University, Edmund Fallon, executive vice president and general manager, Agway, Inc., Syracuse, N.Y., and Bennett S. Chapple, Jr., vice president, United States Steel Corporation, Pittsburgh.

The afternoon panelists are projecting their thinking forward to anticipate the ever-

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## Pa., A 10-Million Case Egg Market

Pennsylvania, with nearly 11.5 million people in 1964, ranks third in population among the 50 states. If egg consumption averages 314 eggs per person, this represents an annual egg market of about 10 million cases. Of importance to Pennsylvania poultrymen is how this population is distributed throughout the state and the rate of population growth. For purposes such as egg marketing it is necessary to consider population in and around cities with related economic systems.

Metropolitan areas with a population of 100,000 or more account for a little over three-fourths of the state's population. These 12 standard metropolitan statistical areas may include several urban centers and the surrounding area. All but three of these areas are

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## Farmers Hear About Profit-Conservation Link At SC&WD Meet

Farmers in the northern part of the county were told this week that the understanding and application of sound soil conservation practices can mean increased farm earning power. The discussion leader, Wayne F. Maresch, county conservationist with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, pointed out that soils information can be used effectively in selecting the most profitable crop a farmer can grow under such given circumstances as soil type and condition, moisture, climate, etc. Maresch illustrated his points with slides depicting the benefits of conservation.

SCS Conservationists use the Lancaster County Soil Survey Report in making these

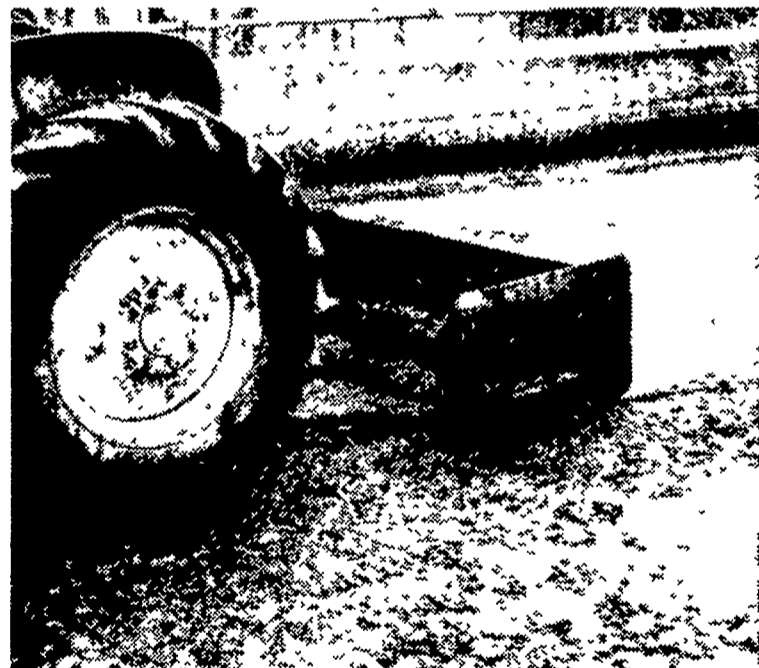
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## Fertilizer, Key To Corn Profit In Dry Year Too

Given the right soil situation, corn can be grown profitably in Delaware even under extremely dry weather conditions. Statistics, just released by the University of Delaware covering two dry years and one normal year, show that it was still possible to produce yields close to 100 bushels per acre in the driest year. The tests were conducted in 1962, 1963 and 1964.

The key to high yields was fertilizer use. Heavy applications gave big yields in a

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**EVEN ON A WET DAY MANURE IS HANDLED EFFICIENTLY** with this tractor-drawn scraper at the Stroud Dairy. The scraping and cleaning operation is performed daily by two men in about two hours. L. F. Photo

## Poultry Short Course Set For April 6 and 7

Penn State University announced recently that the annual Poultry Sales and Service Short Course will be held on the University campus on April 6 and 7.

Included in the program are such subjects as The Pennsylvania Started Pullet Program, Sanitation — the Key; Light Control Regimes, Housing — Equipment — Ventilation; A Vaccination Schedule to Live With, A Pullet Feeding Program; Coccidiosis.

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## Farm Calendar

Mar 29 — 1:30 p.m. A joint Young Farmer Meeting at Lancaster Stockyards. Subj: "What livestock to buy" — 7:30 p.m. Cattle Feeder meeting at Brecht School, Litzitz Pike, Lancaster. Penn State specialists Lester Burdette and Dr. Samuel Guss will discuss "Automation and labor saving" and "Disease and insect control" — 7:30 p.m. Ephrata Young Adult farm welding class. Subj: "Welding farm equipment, Part II"

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