COWS SHOWN IN THE FREE STALLS on the Jay Garber farm during the DHIA-member tour this week Garber remodeled his old dairy barn with 66 stalls like these about one year ago. L. F. Photo

● Dairy Tour

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allows the side shields to swing free, then when the attachment is lowered the shields are in reverse position.

Garber's stalls are about 7 feet long and 42 inches wide. The alleys are 8 feet wide, and he says his entire daily cleaning operation takes about one half hour

Garber uses a bunk feeder that is filled directly from the silo He runs this feeder three or four times a day. He finds it especially helpful in giving the cows a late feeding that they can work on at night in the summertime

The cows enter the milking parlor via a concrete runway which Garber said can be readily cleaned with the tractor scraper blade. "The way to choose a parlor is to go watch somebody else milk," Garber told the group. He approached the problem in this way himself, and consequently had a good idea of what to look for when he put in his milking set-up He has homemade electric "helpers" which stop or move the cows as they approach in the milk line He has his heaviest milkers move in first, and tries to group them all on one side of his double-herringbone, eight-place parlor. This permits the big producers a little extra time to eat. He claims that he has no trouble getting 12 pounds of grain per feeding into them with this method

Roger Grout, extension engineer, made an interesting observation in discussing free stall housing He said he had noticed in other free stall installations that generally every cow will lie down with feet all pointing in one direction He attributed this to the slope of the barn floors.

Leon Kreider farm

The group next stopped at the farm of Leon Kreider, Quarryville R1 This was also a recently converted free stall housing milking parlor operation Kreider's was the most highly mechanized operation that we saw Milk is completely handled in bulk right from the six-place, side-opening parlor through a glass pipeline to the tank. Silage is augered into a feed bunk directly from a silo. Manure is scraped from the alleyways and concreted barnyard into an underground tank which is set at the lowest point in the area. The eight-foot tank holds 18,000 gallons of liquefied manure It has a built in agitator which can be run independently of the pump. At least once a day a load is pumped into an 800 gallon portable tank for spreading on the fields It takes about ten minutes, Kreider said, to fill the spreader from the underground tank. He related a humorous incident which was perhaps not so funny at the time it happened He said that the other day a cow had managed to reach the pump switch and turn it on. With no wagon to receive it, the liquid manure began flowing out onto the ground at about 80 gallons per minute! Luckily it wasn't long before someone caught the mistake. (Perhaps this was one cow's way of protesting the age of automation!)

Kreider's stalls are 7½ feet long and slightly under 4 feet wide He was able to buy some new-reject, 2-inch piping which he bent to fit in making his 72 stalls. After they were completed, he welded a rod across the width of the front of each stall. He felt this was helpful in keeping the cows far enough back in the stalls to assure the manure dropping into the gutter.

Kreider told the group that the cows have been freshening right in the stalls. He felt this made a rough start for some of the calves, but it was often unavoidable. The only problem that bothered him in this new operation was waiting for his high producers to eat enough grain

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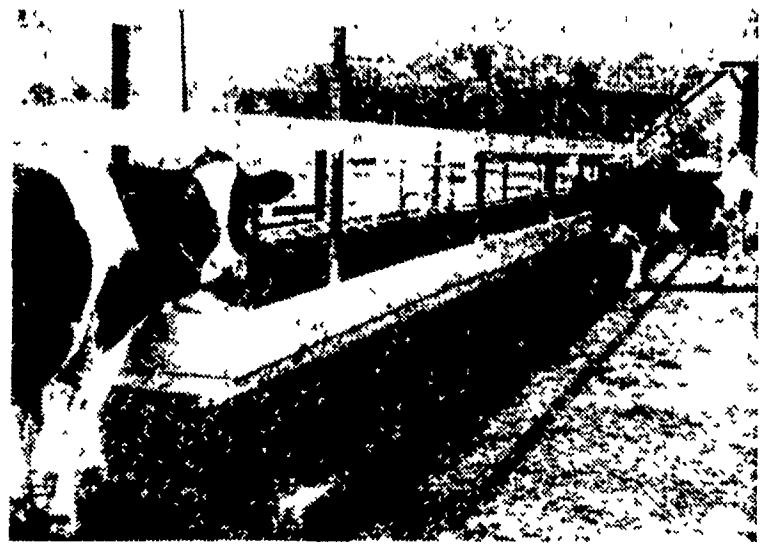

CORN SILAGE IS AUGERED three to four times a day to cows in the Jay Garber herd. He said he does not feel a roof over the bunk is necessary since the cows keep the feed cleaned up promptly. He likes to give them a late feeding in the summer so they can eat during the cooler hours. L. F. Photo