

Beckers' Turkeys Are Featured at Local Holiday Feasts

John B and Evelyn Becker, Dressed weight of the turkeys Ronks RD1, play a big role in many Thanksgiving, Christmas and special event dinners and banquets in this area

They dress more than 2,000 turkeys a year, some 1,100 for this Thanksgiving

This includes a ton and a half of dressed turkeys for one restaurant, the Plain and Fancy, for Thanksgiving Day alone!

The turkeys are purchased from Harvey High of Bareville at about three months old, then are grown by the Beckers for another one to three months, depending partly on customer demand.

The Beckers have a 102 acre general farm on Route 896 about three miles east of Strasburg on which they produce corn, wheat, barley, hay and tobacco. Becker also does some custom work. He used to keep steers, but now it's mostly turkeys.

They have one son, Clair, 21, married and working in Boston, and a daughter, Alma, 17, a senior at Pequea High School, who is also studying food trades at the new Brownstown Vo-Tech School.



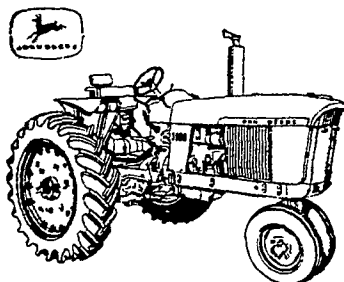
John Beck displays a live turkey, one of about 1,100 which the Becks processed for Thanksgiving dinner in this area. He noted that the trend is definitely toward white, rather than black, turkeys because black pinfeathers and stain interfere with the dressed appearance of the black birds.



Somebody enjoyed this plump 21-pound turkey on Thanksgiving Day. At least, Mrs. Becker shows it was ready in time.

The large dressed turkey is one of several turkeys the Beckers prepared Wednesday to meet last minute orders for the holiday.

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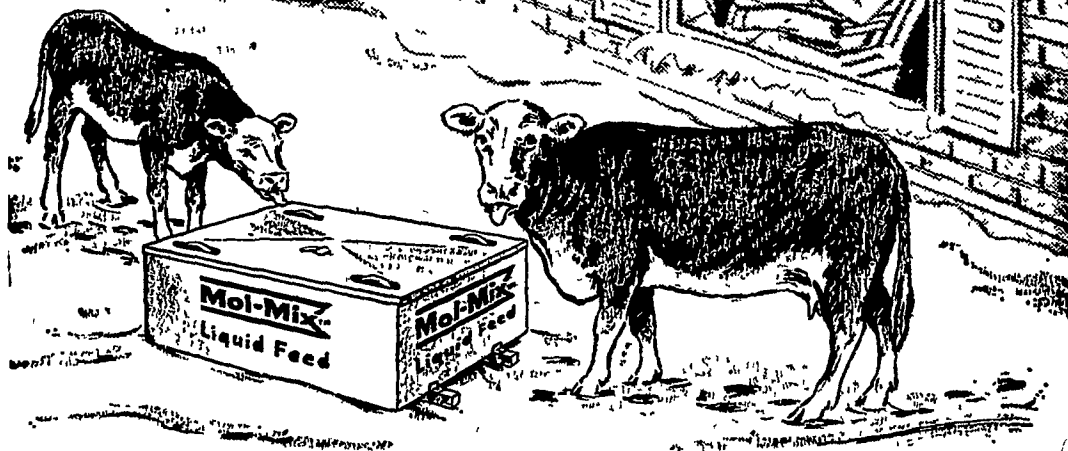
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