Cattle Shelter, Fences, Corrals, Silo Costs Reviewed Here

some 200 head cattle lots with Hughes said in this type of feeding.

feiled to as a "Cadillac style area is the land itself, he said. operation" still should consider least equal to what they could system and it is only part of the get for leaving the money in system The farmer must think the bank to draw interest and, in terms of how the silo will fit in addition, they should get a into the system and help make leturn for their labor

Farmers who do not have the capital for "Cadillac style" farming, but who borrow the money, should take into account the high cost of borrowing money. Some farmers pay as much as 15 to 18 per cent interest to buy machinery and tem or an addition to the sysequipment, it was noted.

two farmers that he knows will not exceed added returns. about One farmer with a 50 to 60 cow dairy herd has outstand- toward substitution of capitol ing debts totaling about \$250.-000 and has recently realized that he's not making out very well; Hughes indicated he's not silo actually will reduce labor sure if there is a solution for requirements this type situation In getting into this situation, Hughes said. it would pay for itself and how comments earlier in the even-

latively small overall invest than a new \$10,000 silo

to themselves in light of the ers cannot expect to get much this should include annually relatively small profit margins of their investment in buildings five per cent for depreciation, and machinery back when they three to nine per cent for in-Farmers who have the capi- sell a farm The important fac- terest, one to two per cent for tal to afford what Hughes re- tor in determining price in this repairs and about one per cent In speaking specifically on the fact that they ought to get silos, Hughes said the silo must a return on their investment at fit into the overall farming

> profits, he said. cheapest source of feed, the fore and the five per cent defaimer must analyze his future preciation figure representing building plans in relation to what he now has.

When going into a new system, Hughes said the farmer Hughes cited examples of must be sure that added costs There is a trend in farming for labor and building a silo is one way of doing this. But the farmer must be sure that the

In deciding if he wants a new the farmer kept buying all the silo, the farmer should also conlatest type of expensive equip- sider alternative uses for his money annually when figured ment without regard to whether money. Referring to Burdette's it would benefit his operation ing, Hughes noted that \$1,500 The other farmer with about spent on a corral, with all the a 100 head dauy herd has in- management benefits that a expensive type machinery and good corral can provide, could equipment and maintains a re- turn out to give a bigger return tion" This is all right if the

Hughes also said that farm. of its yearly cost. For a silo, costs to a minimum. each for taxes and insurance This indicates 11 to 18 per cent of the initial cost as the annual cost of ownership and this annual cost goes up to about 18 to 25 per cent when additional necessary equipment is added, according to Hughes.

He noted that conditions While corn silage is the change faster today than be-20 years, may actually be too low. A 10 to 15 year depreciation schedule may be better, he said.

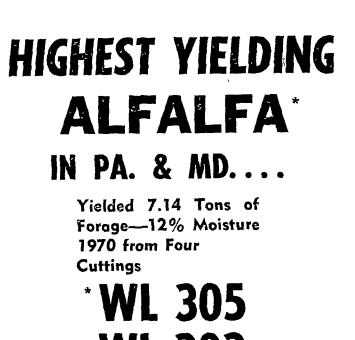
> Noting that costs for an 800 ton silage storage can range from just over one dollar a ton to over five dollars a ton, Hughes said each steer consumes three to five tons during a feeding cycle. This can result in a cost per animal of \$15 or over for silage storage alone And the difference between this cost and the lower cost storage facility can mean the difference of large sums of over the number of head the farmer feeds each year, Hughes explained.

Some farmers may want to spend some of their profits for "some of the Cadillacs of operafarmer has an adequate profit

(Continued from Page 11) ment, but this farmer reported In anlayzing the cost of a new level. But "if getting enough He also stated, "If you have a Hughes, and he wondered how a \$47,000 net profit last year, item, including a silo, the farm- net profit is a problem" Hughes high cost operation, it's no-



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