

Caleb M. Wenger Firm Launches New Livestock Building Concept

Caleb M Wenger's mechanized farm equipment company, of Quarryville RD1, this week announced a new type of free-stall housing for livestock.

The new system features an automatic opening and closing roof to allow direct sunlight and air for drying and ventilation

The system involves an enclosed feedlot with free stall housing for animals

The first of the new type of unit is being completed this week at the Ernest Sauder farm at Silver Springs

Sauder's son Paul explained this week that the system is being used on the farm in order to go to pushbutton feeding and to keep the animals under roof during feeding. The system involves automatic feeding of haylage and corn. The Sauders' Holsteins are put in the barn for milking

Paul noted that his brother Jonas recently started teaching at Weavertown Mennonite School and he indicated the new system will enable the farm to continue with less labor

Caleb Wenger said many of the features of the new building are patented and were developed by himself and his staff. The firm previously has been well established in building gates, feeders and other farm equipment. This equipment is being put into the new building to develop an integrated and automated feeding and housing system.

A striking and novel feature of the new housing is a large section of roof on the south side of the building which opens automatically when the sun is shining. A sun sensor automatically directs the metal roof panels to open when the sun is shining.

Wenger explained that "everybody housing animals faces an enormous moisture problem. The only economical way to dispose of it is evaporation. The sun gives this evaporation."

The open roof and the sunshine causes the evaporation to occur at the same time that it enables the moisture to escape, according to Wenger. And the automatic controls makes it possible for the roof to be closed during unfavorable weather and open during good drying weather without the farmer having to be around or struggle to open the roof manually.

Wenger emphasizes that success of the new concept required that the building be oriented to the south.

The building was also designed for unlimited future expansion by adding to one end of the building.

It was also designed for efficient and rapid cleaning and minimum of waste runoff problems.

Farm Show Brief

The Pennsylvania Farm Show is now the largest free indoor agricultural exhibit in the United States to be held under one roof.

Farm Show Brief

About 40 statewide agricultural organizations will meet in Harrisburg during Farm Show Week. The Farm Show buildings have many meeting rooms, including Auditorium "A" with a seating capacity of 500 persons.

Farm Show Brief

The main building of the Pennsylvania Farm Show complex is approximately 11 acres under one continuous roof. Built at a cost of \$1,250,000, the building was dedicated January 19, 1931.

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