

# Kreider

(Continued From Page 1)

which includes \$2 per hour for labor." The Master Farmer and his herdsman, Melvin Brandt, milk

the 133 cows in a modern milking parlor in about 2½ hours or about a cow a minute.

Cows receive corn silage and high moisture corn with a top-dressing of 36 percent protein supplement in the bunk. In addition, they are fed top quality

alfalfa which tests 16 to 18 percent protein. Twenty percent alfalfa pellets are fed in the parlor.

Kreider started farming in 1953 following his marriage to the former Eleanor Hostetter. They formed a partnership with his parents, saved enough money to buy a herd in 1956 and the farm and an additional 30 acres in 1958.

The growth has been steady, if not spectacular, ever since. Herd size has tripled, acres doubled, and a new home constructed.

As an added efficiency dimension, dry cows are separated from the herd and not brought back until a couple of weeks before freshening. Heifers then get a preview of herd life and the milking parlor prior to calving.

"All bull calves end up at the bull feeding operation on a second farm," the Master Farmer points out. "The bulls are fed to 1,300 or 1,400 pounds and then sold."

There are no trade secrets on how Kreider produced corn at the rate of 160 bushels per acre or 33 tons of silage on some fields during one of the worst growing seasons on record. He uses full season corn varieties, fertilizes according to soil tests, controls weeds, and protects the land with such good practices as contour strips, a sod waterway, and rye cover.

"William Waltman, my crops man the past nine years, likes to plow the land in March. About 100 pounds of actual phosphorus,

potassium, and liquid manure are applied the previous fall. The balance of the fertilizer is plowed down in the spring and a starter solution is applied at planting," the award winner said.

The young Lancaster Countian solves the chore of opening a corn field each fall by seeding two drill widths of wheat along the field. It saves soil as well as hand work.

"Using the Farm Business Analysis System, we have figured that crop value per total crop acre is \$173.41 for alfalfa and corn," Kreider emphasizes.

Mrs. Kreider, Cynthia Sue, and Palela Kay, both daughters, assist with farm chores when needed. So does son Tom, 16, when high school sports don't interfere.

Along the way, the Master Farmer also has expanded participation in his church, community, and agricultural organizations.

He has served as president of the Lancaster County Farmers' Association, local of Inter-State Milk Producers Cooperative, and Solanco Fair Association. He was vice president of the Lancaster

County Extension Association and director of the county Dairy Herd Improvement Association, Atlantic Breeders Cooperative, and Solanco Fair Association.

Kreider also is an Agway committeeman and a deacon of the Mechanic Grove Church of the Brethren.

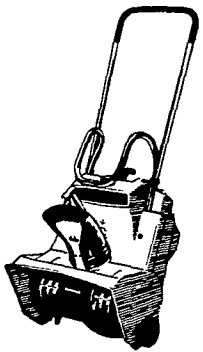
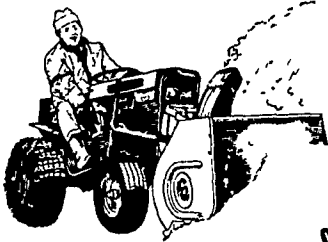
There are now five Pennsylvania Master Farmers residing in the county, the most recent before Kreider being Noah W. Kreider in 1970. Other Master Farmers in the county are Amos Funk, Millersville R1; B. Snively Garber, Willow Street R1, and Earl L. Groff, Strasburg R1.

Only six Master Farmers were named for the entire state. Those from other areas include M. Everett Weiser, Adams County; George H. Wolf, York County; Ray E. McMillen, Perry County; Budd E. Ott, Northampton County, and Daniel C. Schrack, Clinton County.

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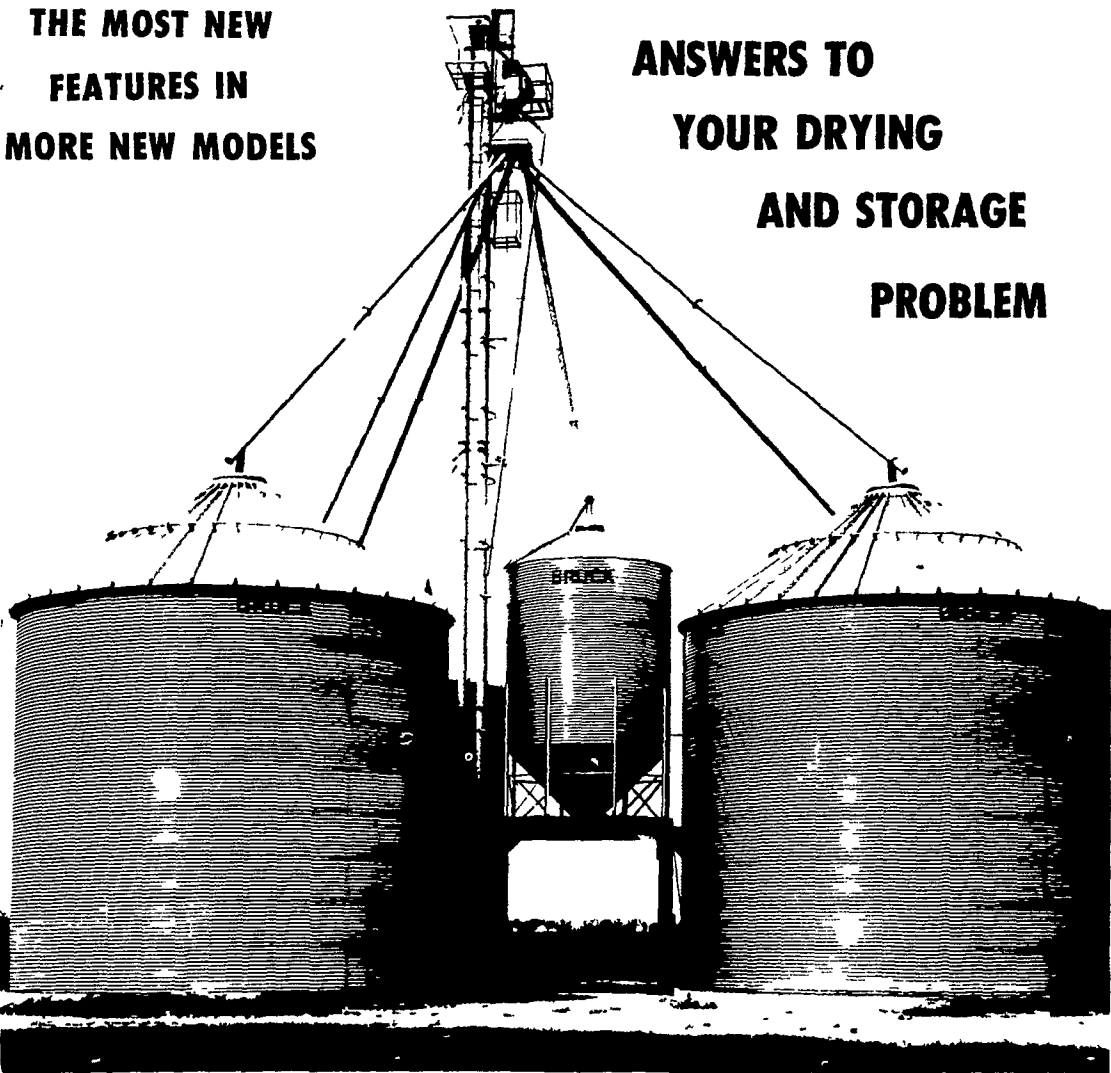
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