

Chen Ho-Cheng - He Wants To Be A Dairy Farmer

Milk is an important food to the citizens of Formosa, the island of some 15 million people which is home for the Nationalist

Republic of China. There are very few dairy cows on the island, though, and still fewer dairy farmers.

An Elizabeth Township farm couple, Mr. and Mrs. John Farrington, Speedwell Forge Road, are helping to solve the milk shortage in Formosa which is also known as Taiwan. A young Formosan, Chen Ho-Cheng, is staying on the Farrington farm learning all he can about dairying. Chen will be with the Farringtons for 17 months, then he'll go either to the University of Maryland or Penn State for another three months of intensive training. Sometime around March or April of 1975, Chen will be returning home with enough dairy knowledge to manage a small farm.

Chen Ho-Cheng is an intense young man who's very eager to learn about dairy farming. He said most of his country's milk now is imported from the U. S., New Zealand or Japan, an expensive way to fill a country's milk needs. A dairy industry takes time to develop, however, and the Formosan government is now trying to develop enough dairy farmers with the knowledge to sustain a dependable supply of milk.

Chen is one of 32 young Formosans brought to this country through the cooperation of the Formosan government and the National 4-H Council here in the U. S. Another 25 went to New Zealand. All were hand-picked from a group of over 1000 applicants.

Although he does get homesick, Chen reported that he's pleased



Chen Ho-Cheng, a young Formosan farmer, is learning to be a dairy farmer during a 17-month stay on the John Farrington farm, Lititz RD2.

with the U. S. and is enjoying his stay here. Of the 31 other potential dairymen who came here with Chen in June, only one has so far returned home. There are five more Formosans in Lancaster County and one each in Berks and Lebanon Counties.

grow mostly asparagus and rice. Chen lived with his parents before coming here and helped them with the farm chores. He also worked full-time for the Taiwan Fertilizer Company on their experimental farm. Chen's father works off the farm, too, for a pineapple company.

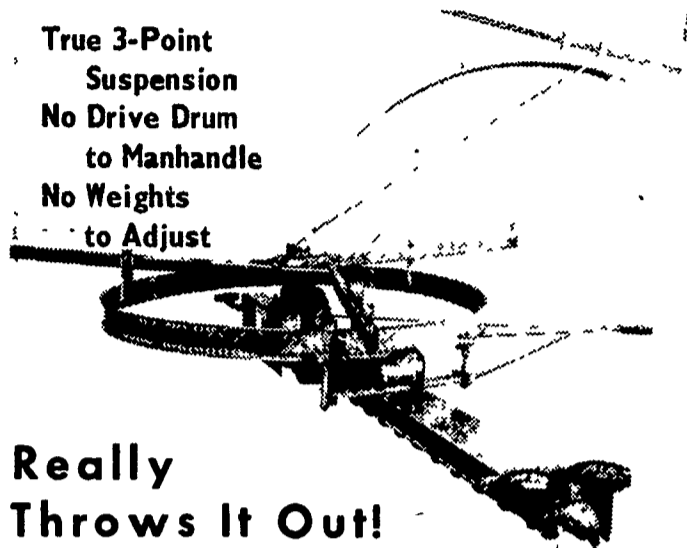
Like Chen, most of the group went to small family operations, because that's the kind of farm they'll be operating when they return home. The Formosan government will probably help the young trainees get into the milk business. Chen said he expects to start farming with anywhere from four to six hectares when he return home. A hectare is about two-and-a-half acres.

Chen's English is a thousand times better than most Americans' Chinese, but he still has some trouble communicating. In conversation, he smiles a lot, gestures, and occasionally grabs for the Chinese-English phrase book he always carries with him. The exact words don't always come through, but he does manage to convey his enthusiasm for dairy farming, and his eagerness to help solve his country's milk supply problems.

Chen's parents now live on a one hectare farm where they

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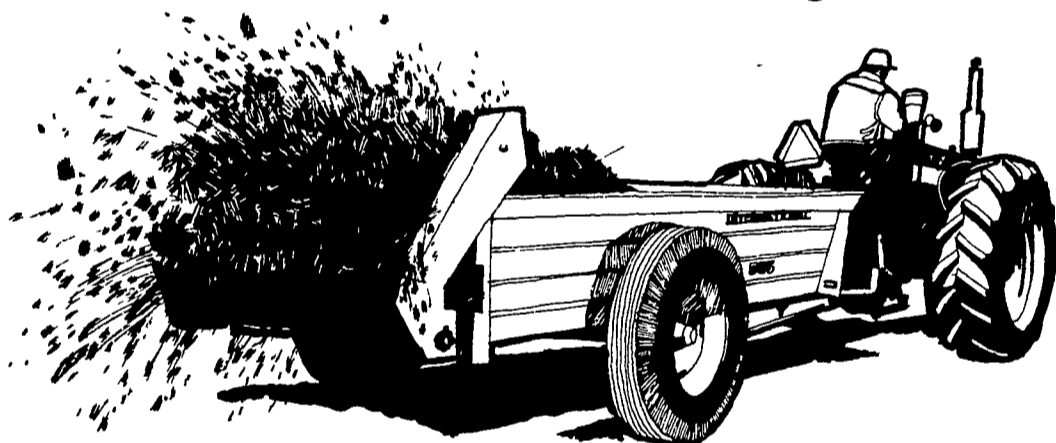
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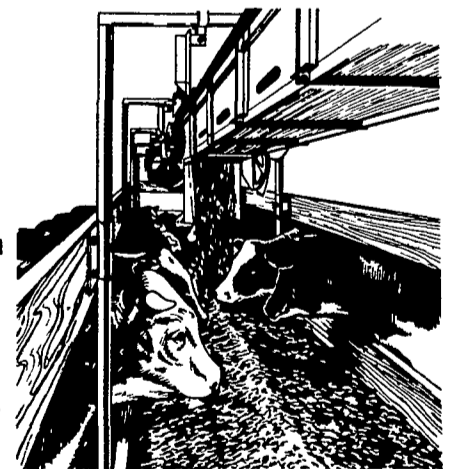
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