

# History and Land

(Continued from Page 15)

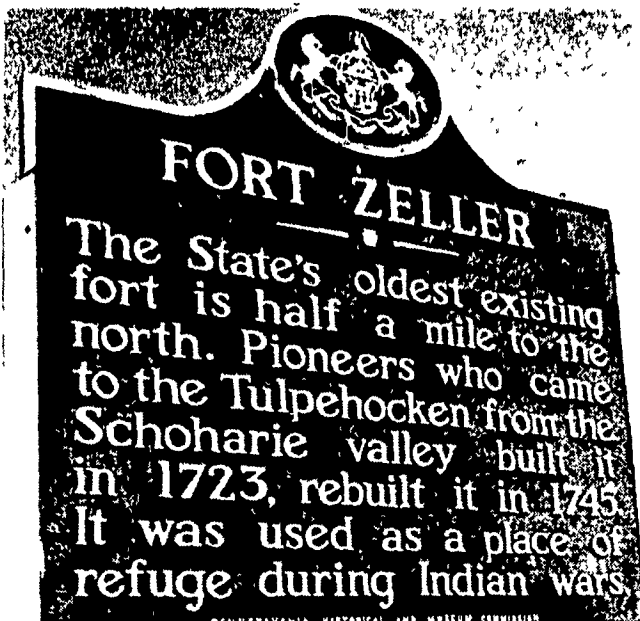
perfect knowledge and imperfect knowledge, and that intuitive knowledge is perfect while abstract knowledge is imperfect. People who farm have intuitive knowledge of farming, and they know what's best for farming. I think we need more farmers helping to make regulations for agriculture."

Soil erosion and animal runoff are two aspects of farming which are coming in for more and more government regulation. As both a

politicians are carrying it. We have to work through our legislators, to let them know what we need, and what's best for the country. "And yet," he mused, "do we know what's right? Do we know what's best for the country and for farming?" To answer his own question, Hoffman cited the writings of Leibnitz, the German philosopher and mathematician who invented the calculus. "Leibnitz said there is

perfect knowledge and imperfect knowledge, and that intuitive knowledge is perfect while abstract knowledge is imperfect. People who farm have intuitive knowledge of farming, and they know what's best for farming. I think we need more farmers helping to make regulations for agriculture."

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hope I've left a few things; with them, too."

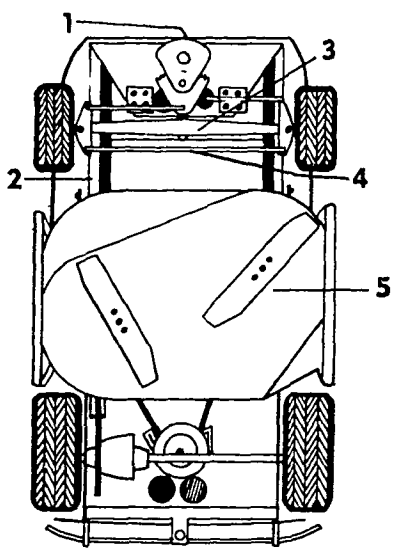
Hoffman is a full-time dairyman, with 50 Holsteins on DHIA test. He's a member and former director of the Cleona Milk Producers Cooperative. He's also a past secretary-treasurer of that organization. He's a Lebanon County director for the Pennsylvania Farmers Association, president of the Lebanon County Extension Association and a member of a number of historical societies.

As a man who grew up not

wanting to farm, Hoffman has put an awful lot of enthusiasm into the job of being a full-time farmer. Has he any regrets? "Absolutely not," is his quick reply. "You can't find a better living anywhere, nor a better place to raise children. I don't regret a single thing about farming."

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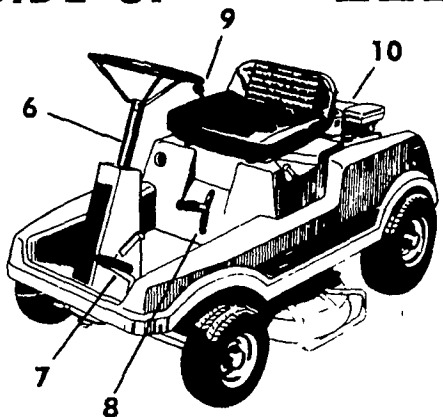
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farmer and a former technician for the Lebanon County Soil and Conservation Service, Hoffman has more than a passing interest in soil conservation techniques. His land was in contour strips since before he bought it, and he has since plowed in his own diversion terrace. To further reduce his soil loss and fuel requirements, last year he switched to minimum till planting equipment," Hoffman said. "This year I disced my fields first, then I double-cropped corn in wheat stubble for silage. Last year I did the same thing in barley stubble, and it was the best barley-planted corn I ever had. My soil didn't seem to dry up as much with minimum till."

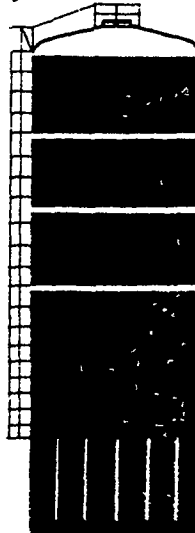
Hoffman grows corn, hay and small grain on his largely Duffield soil. What does he think of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources requirement that all Commonwealth farms must have implemented conservation plans by July 1, 1977? "I don't see how they're ever going to make their deadline," Hoffman said. "I don't think they'll be able to get all the farms laid out by then. They won't even come close."

About the increasingly stringent environmental regulations, Hoffman said, "You can't put people in bottles to protect them. We've got to find a point of equilibrium. If we go over that point, we've got pollution. And if we go under, we run the risk of not producing enough food."

His interest in the interactions between agriculture and the rest of society led Hoffman to apply for - and get - a Kellogg Foundation Fellowship. The fellowship, awarded to some 60 Pennsylvania residents annually, is administered through Penn State's Rural Leadership Development Program, and calls for program participants to meet at various times over a period of two years.

Some of the meetings last for a few days, some for a week. All are aimed at probing the problems and potentials of life in rural Pennsylvania. "I've been very happy with my experiences in the program. I think it's helped me, especially in speaking before groups. I've learned a lot from the other participants and the instructors, and I

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