

Beefalo Calves

(Continued From Page 1)

trying to cross buffalo and beef animals when he owned a buffalo ranch in Wyoming, and says he went through 1000 breeding failures before achieving what he calls the perfect marriage.

Basolo says he was getting nothing but sterile, sickly animals until 1970, when he successfully crossed a Holstein cow with a buffalo bull. That mating did the trick, and Basolo is now selling cows, bulls and beefalo sperm to other ranchers. He expects beefalo meat to start appearing in California markets this year.

The Canadian government feels so strongly about the future of the breed, that they recently plunked down \$2.5 million for an outstanding sire. That is a lot of nickels.

Kohut got his start in Beefalo with the purchase of 12 ampules of semen. "At first, we had a very, very bad conception rate," Kohut told us at Graterford. "But then suddenly it got better. I tend to believe that our original problem was caused by some damage to the semen while it was being shipped here. The container seemed to have lost a lot of nitrogen by the time we got it."

Now, Kohut is well-pleased with the conception rate, and he's very happy with the healthy looking Beefalo calves he'll be rearing with the help of Graterford inmates. The calves are out of a Holstein dam, an Angus-

Holstein cross, and a Charolais-Angus cross. Kohut plans to breed his half-beefalo heifers back to Beefalo sires, and hopes to develop a purebred herd by 1980.

Kohut's objective is to find out if prison farms can provide all the beef requirements for the state's six correctional institutes. A secondary objective is to provide rewarding work experience to inmates, many of whom never saw a farm animal before they went to prison. There are about 80 inmates working at various jobs on the 1760-acre Graterford farm. It's an experience which many of them find quite rewarding, according to Kohut. And the beefalo calves really stirred up some excitement.

"When that first calf was born," Kohut said, "I saw a man serving a life sentence watching that calf like a mother hen."

In addition to Kohut, the farm staff includes two assistant managers, a dairy herdsman and three assistants, a swine herdsman, shop foreman and a detail officer. Using inmate labor, the staff produces much of the food used at Graterford and some other institutions. They farm 300 acres of corn, 200 acres of barley, 28 acres of oats and 350 acres of hay. In addition to a beef operation, there's a dairy herd with 141 head milking, they're building a farrowing house for a feeder

swine operation, and they grow all the fruits and vegetables used in the prison.

Rockview Penitentiary, near State College, has the biggest farm in the state prison system, but Graterford runs a close second.

"The nice thing about getting inmates involved in farm work, is that there are so many skills to be learned," Kohut said. "We're putting up a new free stall dairy barn, and most of the finishing work - including carpentry, plumbing and electrical - is going to be handled by inmates. Our people learn to drive trucks, they learn to handle heavy equipment, bricklaying, plumbing. They learn how to work hard. I know that most of them won't go into farming when they get out of here. I know most of them will go right back to the streets of Philadelphia. "But when they do go back, I like to think that the exposure they've gotten to farming, and the skills they



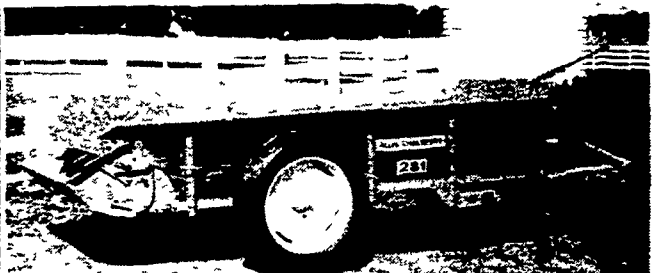
Nick Kohut, left, farm program director at the Graterford Correctional Institute in Montgomery County, explained the potential of

Beefalo animals to a Philadelphia TV reporter shortly after three Beefalo calves were born on the farm.

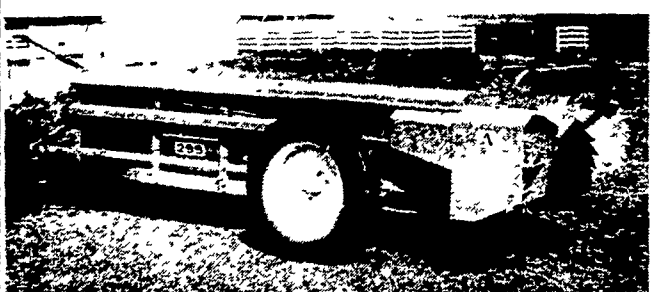
learned here, will put them in much better positions to be good citizens.

"We try to produce food like to think we help to produce better citizens, too," Kohut concluded.

ALLIS-CHALMERS MANURE SPREADERS



281 spreader with optional pan attachment



299 spreader with optional rear endgate

THE WORD'S SPREADING - with 281 or 299 spreaders that work well with tractor loaders or barn cleaners - team with equipment you already have.

BLANKET COVERAGE - comes with the 14 big, buzz saw paddles that rip, shred and spread the load.

- Husky Tongue and Undercarriage
- Box combines steel for strength... wood for durability.
- Rugged drive and gear box.
- Aggressive, self-cleaning paddles.
- Four spreading rates.
- Low loading height.

Nissley Farm Service
Washington Boro, Pa.

L. H. Brubaker
Lancaster, Pa.

Roy H. Buch, Inc.
Ephrata, R.D. 2

Grumelli Farm Service
Quarryville, Pa.



BHM Farm Equipment, Inc.
Annville, R.D. 1, Pa.

The "Systems Approach" OF Big Dutchman® Lets You PUT IT ALL TOGETHER



Today's profit-minded poultry and livestock producers must think in terms of an automatic system.

Big Dutchman pioneered the system concept for one reason: it is the most profitable and reduces costs for you.

"System thinking" can help you plan your way around problems before you begin building, or it can help you automate away problems in your present buildings.

Hershey Equipment Co. is geared to provide all components of the system, which assures that the pieces fit together in the most profitable package reducing costs dramatically.



Some of Our Systems Include

HOG SYSTEMS

- FARROWING
- DRY CONFINEMENT FEEDING
- LIMITED FEEDING
- AUTOMATIC WATERING
- NURSERY FEEDING
- SLATS & HEATING
- GATES & FENCING
- LIQUID FEEDING



AUTOMATED CAGE SYSTEMS

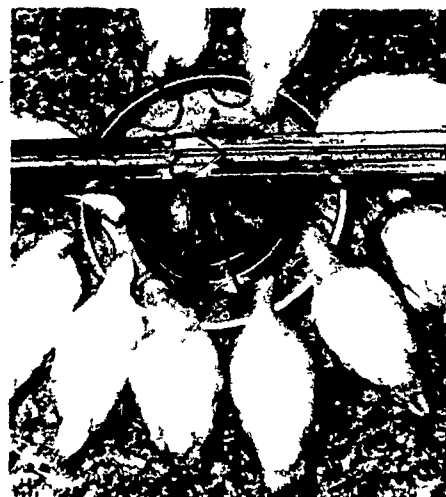
- CHICK START & GROW CAGES
- FLAT DECK
- STAIRSTEP & DOUBLE DECK
- TRI-DECK
- 4 DECK
- CHAMPION FEEDING
- AUTOMATIC WATERING
- ENGINEERED EGG COLLECTION

OTHER SYSTEMS INCLUDE:

- BINS & FEED AUGERING.
- VENTILATION
- AUTOMATIC AIR INLET
- MANURE REMOVAL
- MANURE DRYING
- EGG PROCESSING

TURKEY & BROILERS SYSTEMS

- CHAMPION TROUGH FEEDING
- AUGERMATIC PAN FEEDING
- CHAIN-O-MATIC PAN FEEDING
- WATERING SYSTEMS
- TURKEY FEEDERS
- BROODERS
- CHICK STARTING FOUNTS
- FEED METERING SCALES



HERSHEY EQUIPMENT Co., Inc.

The Systems Company

215 Diller Avenue

New Holland, Pa.

Phone (717) 354-4576

AUTHORIZED
Big Dutchman.
DISTRIBUTOR