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offers hog farmers in Lancaster
county a new program to help
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- Stevens Pig Grower JJ 250
- Stevens Hog Grower
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STEVENS FEED MILL, INC.

Stevens, Pa. Ph: 215-267-2150
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Success

[Continued From Page 1]

56 heifers, calves and dry cows and, this year, 12 steers. They grow 72-acres of alfalfa, 117 acres of corn, 12 acres of wheat and they have some land in pasture. The bulk of the corn crop is sold on the open market as ear corn. Some 56 acres of corn are put into one of the two

Harvestores on the farm as high moisture shelled corn. Haylage goes into the other Harvestore, a 20' x 70' unit with a bottom unloader.

"We've been on a haylage program since 1971," Bill said, "and I'm convinced that it's paying out for us. Since we started with haylage, we've cut back on our purchased protein by at least two-thirds."

Before they started with haylage, Bill said they were buying about 36 tons of 36-

percent protein every year for the same size herd they now have. Now they're buying some ten tons of protein annually, to supplement the haylage which comes out of the silo with an approximately 18-percent protein content.

Fresh cows and cows in full production are fed supplemental protein until their daily milk production drops below 50 pounds. After that they get only haylage, along with the rest of the animals.

With the Mertzes relative independence from outside feed sources, they would seem to be in pretty good shape to weather the economic crisis facing many of their dairy colleagues who must buy all of their protein. "But even though we make our own feed, we'll still be making less money this year than last," Bill said. "Fertilizer and fuel are up way out of proportion, and our milk price has actually dropped below last year's. "In 1973, our bill for spring

fertilizer was \$6000. This year we paid \$8125 for the same amount of fertilizer. I don't know what we're going to pay next year. I don't want to think about it. I was told we could probably get nitrogen, but nobody knows yet what the price is going to be."

With prices going up daily even as milk prices take a nosedive, the Mertzes plan to stick with their haylage program. "We feel we get more milk to the acre with haylage," Bill said. "This year we took off ten tons of 45-percent moisture haylage to the acre. It's feed and it saves on labor, too. With just the two of us, we had our first cutting into the silo by the end of May. We don't lose very much of our crop to the weather, either."

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Good Use Club
Spreads Cheer
For Christmas

by: Tillie M. Gibson
 Extension Nutrition Aide
 Supervisor,
 Lancaster County

A family of foster mother, daughter and her children will have a pleasant holiday because of the teens and leaders of the Good Use 4-H Community Club.

The Club packed a Christmas box of presents and food for the two little boys and women. Nancy Garman crocheted a scarf and Joe Forry and Rosezella Thomas got toys. The rest of the group supplied the ham, rice, collard greens, slab bacon (to cook with greens), sweet potatoes, fruit and Henry Gibson baked the Christmas cookies. The Christmas story was read from Luke 2:1-16 by Bonita Dennison. The rest of the Club sang Christmas Carols with a closing prayer by David Weaver. The Good Use Club meets in Lancaster inner-city at the South Christian Street Mennonite Church.



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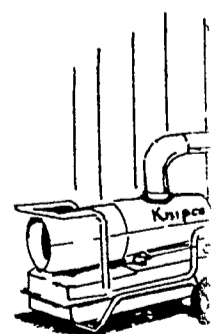
The Friendly People at

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Join to Wish You and Yours a Joyous Holiday Season. We Will Be Closed
 from Tuesday, Dec. 24 at 12 Noon to Thursday Morning, Dec. 26 at 7:00 A.M.

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