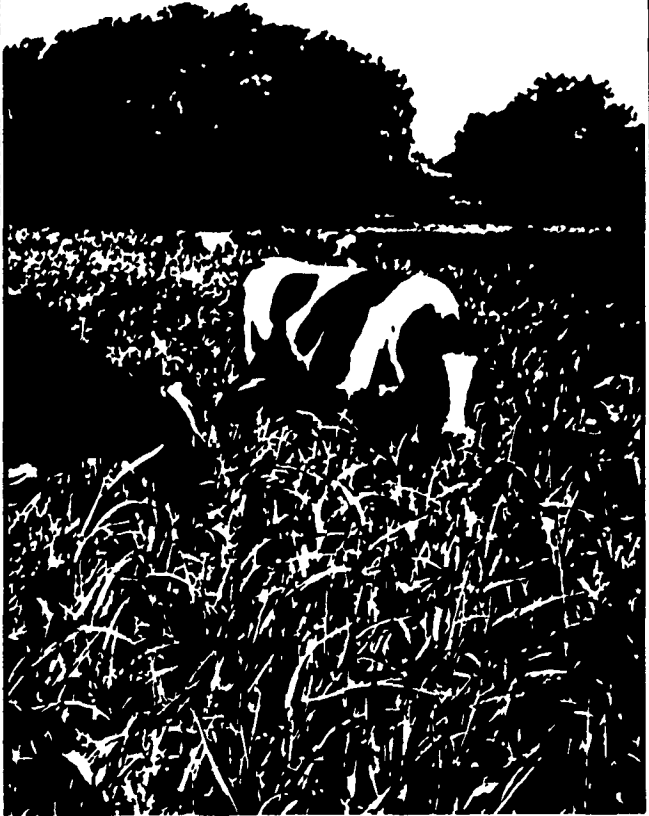


Getting Their Farm

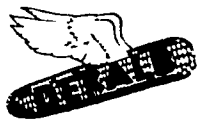
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(Continued From Page 1)

"Lancaster Farming," Andrien said. "I don't think we'll get anything in Chester County. In our area, West Bradford Township, just about all the farmers have been approached by developers who want to buy their farms. Just a few months ago, a farmer near here sold 33 acres for \$250,000. You just can't pay that kind of money for a farm and expect to make enough from farming to pay off the mortgage."

Ten years ago in Bradford Township there were perhaps 40 milk shippers. Today there are only ten, and the Andriens, with their seven milking cows, are one of those.

How do you make any money with seven cows, we asked Andrien. "Well, we don't. The farming operation is in the red sometimes, and sometimes it's in the black. We've put about \$20,000 into buildings, animals and equipment so far, and we're just about breaking even. We made some profit over the summer, but mostly because we were picking up prize money at fairs.

"Actually, the dairy operation would probably be self-sufficient right now, even with milk prices down, if it weren't for the freeloaders."

"You're not selling the horses!" Mrs. Andrien and the children said almost in unison. The horses are one of the things the Andriens like about living in the country. They also like making their own butter, eating eggs from their own chickens, drinking milk from their own cows, and eating beef from their own steers.



Denise, the 15-year-old daughter of Bruce and Loraine Andrien, was the

catalyst who started the family on the road to farming.

"We even make our own fudge," Lorin said.

Both Bruce and Loraine Andrien are Chester County natives. Bruce grew up on his grandfather's 60-acre farm. Mrs. Andrien never lived on a farm but enjoyed visits to a relative's farm as a child. Many of those early experiences helped them to decide that they wanted to become a full-time farm family. That, and a daughter who wanted "just on cow".

Denise is now a frehsman at Downingtown Junior High School. She said she's always loved animals, and that she hopes to become a

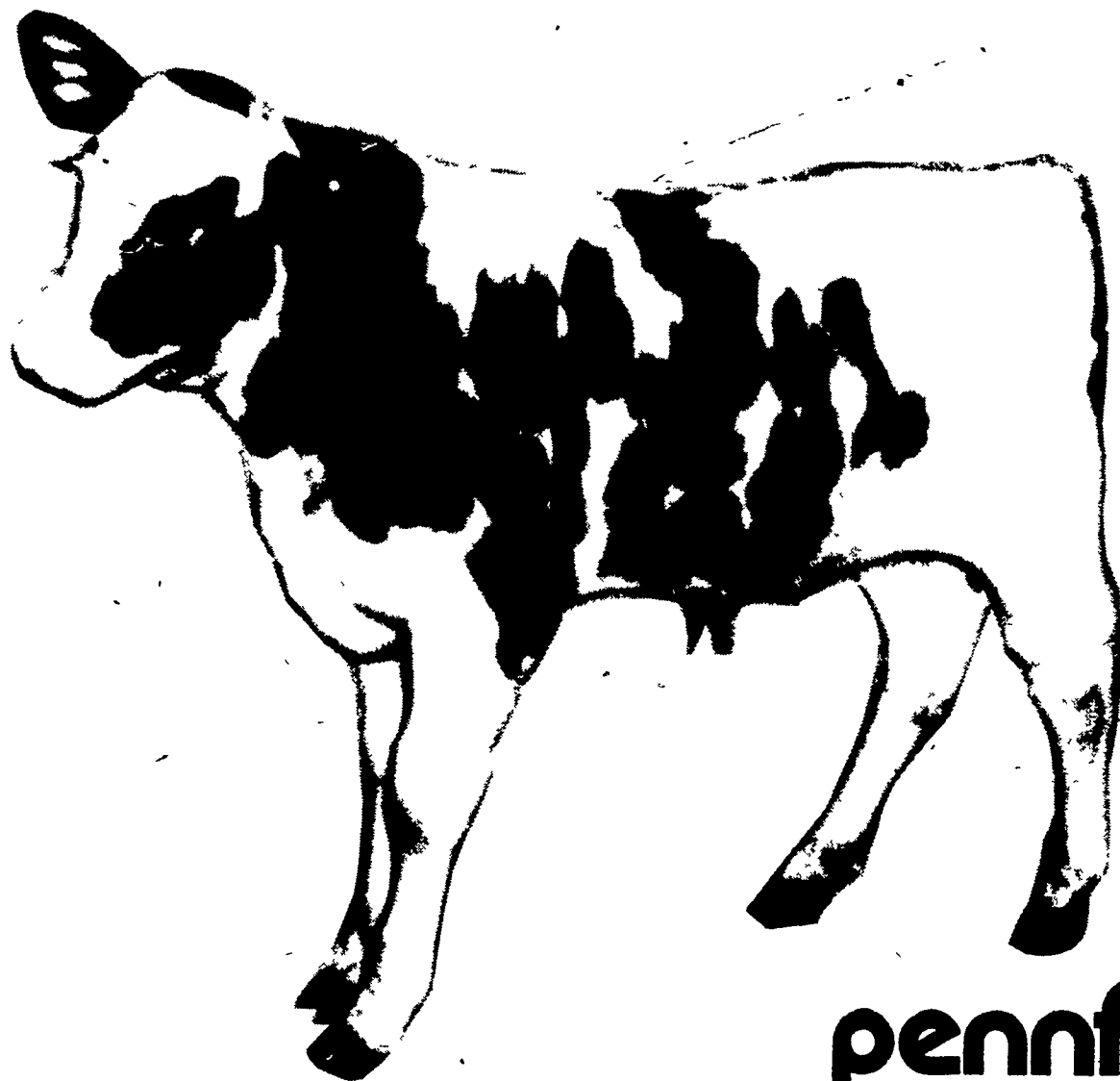
veterinarian. Denise is also responsible for that lone Guernsey in the Andrien herd. She's in love with Guernseys, she said. Why? "I like their eyes."

Denise and her two brothers are all members of the Tri-Community 4-H club.

But her father's in love with Jerseys. "When we do get a farm, I'd like to stick with purebred Jerseys. I like their temperment, especially with children in the barn. They're easy to control, and they seem more intelligent to me than the other breeds. And they take less feed and less work for the amount of milk you get."

Andrien now ships all his milk to the Lengachre cheese plant in Kinzers. This means all his output is sold at manufacturing milk prices, but Andrien said it's an inconvenience he'll put up with until he gets better milking facilities. Because he wasn't planning on doing any milking, the barn wasn't built for milking, Andrien explained. All the cows in the herd are enrolled in the DHIA testing program.

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