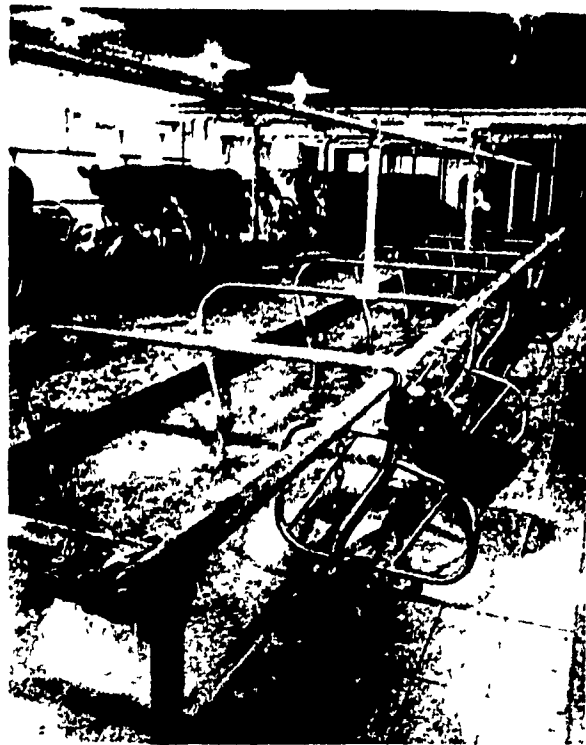


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As most people in Lancaster County know, the economic outlook is very uncertain. Unemployment keeps pushing upward, inflation seems to be uncontrolled and farm prices are considerably lower than last year's at this time. Many farmers are feeling the squeeze between weak farm prices and high production expenses. Many farmers across Pennsylvania are experiencing this problem and are trying to figure a way to get out of this decline profitable.

Farming today in Lancaster County is big business. As any businessman will tell you, in order to stay in the black the business must be operated as efficiently as possible. One answer to today's problems in farming would certainly be inefficiency with which farms are being operated.

An area of importance in farming today which must be mentioned is the care and management of calves on dairy farms. Even though veal calves, dairy bulls and heifers are not as valuable as they have been in the past, it is important that farmers strive to attain 100 percent success with the calf growing operation. If improvements can be made

**Thoughts
in Passing**



raising calves then the efficiency of the farming operation has been increased.

Keeping calves healthy and alive on a farm consists of many hours of hard work and proper care and management. The chances for survival increase rapidly as the animal passes through its first few days of life. Therefore, it is important that the diarmen act promptly to insure a healthy calf.

One of the most important areas of calf raising is sanitation. Calves are like babies, they must spend the first few days of life in sanitary, dry, germ-free quarters. Maternity pens should be used only for



begin eating it. A good 14-16 percent calf ration is recommended. The calves should be weaned at 30 days if they are thrifty and eating about 2 pounds of grain per day along with green leafy hay and water. Vaccinate calves at 3-6 months of age.

The preceding tips on calf care and management do not cover by any means the complete picture of an efficient calf management program. Hopefully, this will emphasize the most important areas of calf management and will stimulate better care of dairy calves.

If dairy farmers in Lancaster County can raise 100 percent of their remaining calf crop instead of 50-60 percent it will certainly raise the efficiency level of the farming program and perhaps help in the present squeeze the farmers face today.

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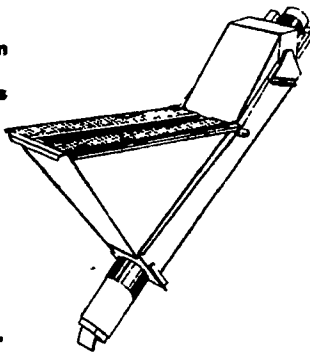
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