



Gary Harsman (foreground) was the first place showman and Corinna Moyer placed first in fitting during the recently held Berks County Junior Holstein Day. Phoebe Ruth (far left) and John Stump, helpers at the program, look on.



Some of the winners of the Berks County Junior Holstein Day are (from left): Penny Bicksler, 1st - fitting; David Schantz, helper; Helen Seidel 1st - showing and Mark Wicks, older member.

Berks Co. youths exhibit holsteins

Consider the little seeds

Today, as in countless past generations, Man depends more on the little seeds of the world for food, clothing, and shelter than any other source of the items we need to sustain life.

As you give that some thought, consider, too, that almost everything with any real lasting importance to Man is connected, in one way or another, with the seeds of the world. So many things come from seeds.

For example, consider the many wooden items around you which are direct results of tree seeds. Consider your cotton cloth items, and the host of other products that come from cotton seeds. Consider, too, all the products grown from seeds of corn, wheat, soybeans, rice, and the other cereal plants around the world.

Think about the countless seeds that once grew into plants, eons before Man ever walked this earth. Ancient plants that grew and fell with the massive reptiles that fed upon them. Through nature's time and pressure they were turned into the fossil fuels we use today to make our life more comfortable, more colorful, and more liveable.

Consider a glass of milk. The cow that produced the milk in her body could not have done so without the feed the farmer provided for her, be it the seed-produced grasses of a pasture, or a mixture of seed-produced corn and oats. The very same thing could be said, of course, for the other farm animal products — pork-chops, steaks, hamburger,

drumsticks, eggs, lamb-chops, and other foods.

Consider your total lawn. Most of the living things that you see around the outside of your home either grow from, or depend on the products of seed-produced plants. This includes the multicolored birds that flutter into, fly over, or dart past your lawn.

Your pet, be it cat or dog, lying in the backyard sun, is as dependent on seed products as you are, since most pet foods come from byproducts of seed-produced cereal or seed-dependent meat sources. Your vegetable garden and flowers, the bushes, and the trees are all seed related.

For as long as the sun has beamed down on this earth, the seeds of the world have shown a remarkable ability to adapt to extremes. On the tundra of the cold north, with its lengthy and deep cover of snow and ice, lie little seeds which spring up into beautiful wildflowers during the brief moments of the warmer weeks of the year. In the pressure-cooker heat of the earth's desert sands, seeds lie dormant for years waiting for that brief but glorious moment when a freak rain springs them into life.

Living between these geographic extremes, Man has constantly used the natural adaptability of seeds for his own ends. Over the years, Man has made such dramatic changes in seed-produced plants that it is often impossible to compare new plants of today with fossilized remnants of the

original parent plant lines.

Man-induced changes in plants and seeds sometimes are of a very minute nature. A plant breeder may well spend months or years working with a single kind of plant striving through cross-pollination and other methods to create one minor change in the germ plasm of a variety. When he fails, it's a weed to him, but when he succeeds, it is an achievement of consequence for all of us.

A plant breeder may just as well have a number of things he wants to accomplish in his work. He may seek the creation of the world's smallest blooming marigold, while he also seeks the world's largest single sunflower. Or, he may strive for new flower colors in blooms that have never been seen before.

With farm crops, research workers often try to increase a plant's resistance to predators and diseases to protect the plant naturally, which also gives us a greater yield from the plant at harvest. Sometimes their work is pointed more to a particular part of a plant, such as a new peanut variety which produces slightly more oil when the nut is processed.

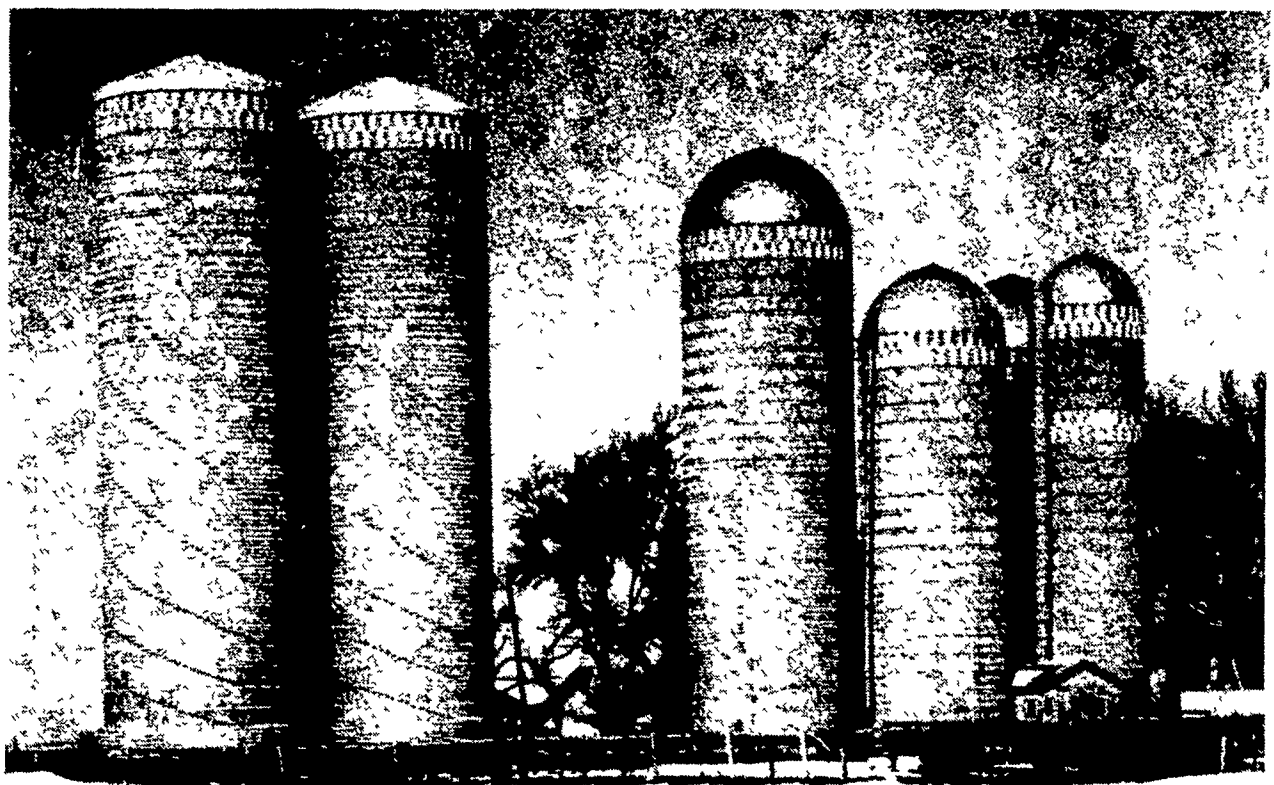
Whatever the plant breeder is striving for, his work consumes a great deal of his time and energy. He keeps meticulous and methodical records for each step he has taken as well as each result he has achieved.

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