

Youngsters learn about animals by visiting "down on the farm"

By Melissa Piper
ANNVILLE — "How ya gonna keep em down on the farm" has been a popular quip for many years, but one sure way to keep children coming back to visit a farm is to take them to Raymond Funck's animal preserve near Lebanon.

Coincidentally named "Down on the Farm," the Funcks have been entertaining adults as well as children for the past few years by giving new insights to "city cousins" as well as to seasoned farmers.

The Funcks began their animal farm about six years ago after their children had begun a collection of stray and pet animals. For the first few years, the Funcks kept their farm on a relatively private basis giving educational field trips to schools. However, as their popularity began to spread, Raymond Funck decided to open his doors to the public.

Since that time, bus loads of school children along with many visiting tourists and neighbors alike have driven to Annaville to view Funck's many native and special animals.

Raymond Funck, who admits "I do this cause I like

children" likes to treat visiting school children to a milking contest. "We have 75 Holsteins which is our primary source of income and we allow the children to try their hand at milking."

"You'd be surprised at how many of our city cousins don't know where milk comes from," Funck commented.

"So along with giving an educational view I allow them to have a milking contest usually between the boys and girls."

Funck keeps many animals native to both Pa. and the country on his farm so that children as well as adults can see wildlife close-up. White-tailed deer, native birds, fawns, and groundhogs are all to be seen. Two particularly seasoned favorites at the farm are Toby and Tammy, the bears, which entertain for the visitors in reward for a sip of carbonated soft drink.

Also to be found as native animals are a host of wild turkeys, raccoons, a fox and many kinds of pheasants.

Heading the line up of "special animals" is Sam the elk, which reigns supreme in a pasture of his own. Carrying a large rack, Sam is a popular attraction. Also popular on the tour is Funck's Fallow deer native to Asia, a pair of bison and pygmy goats.

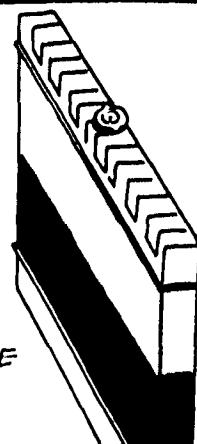
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Raymond Funck, owner of "Down on the Farm" offers a snack to Bambi and Bimbo two fawns at the farm.

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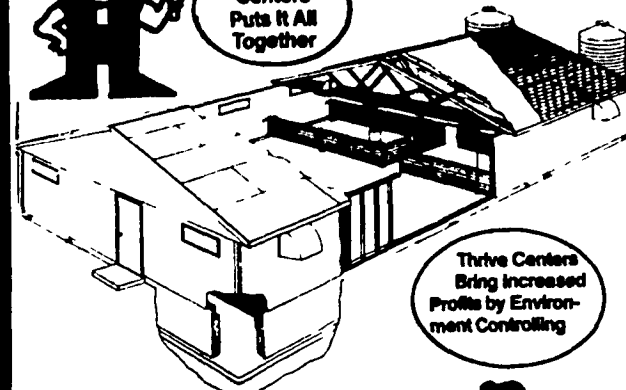


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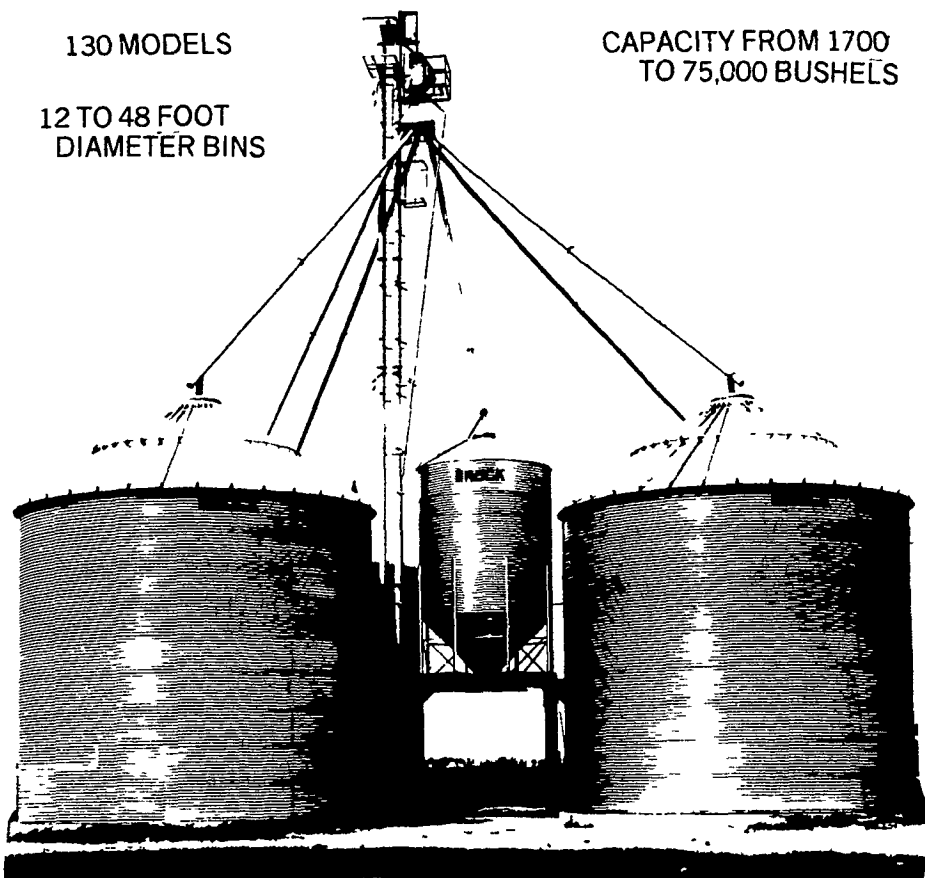
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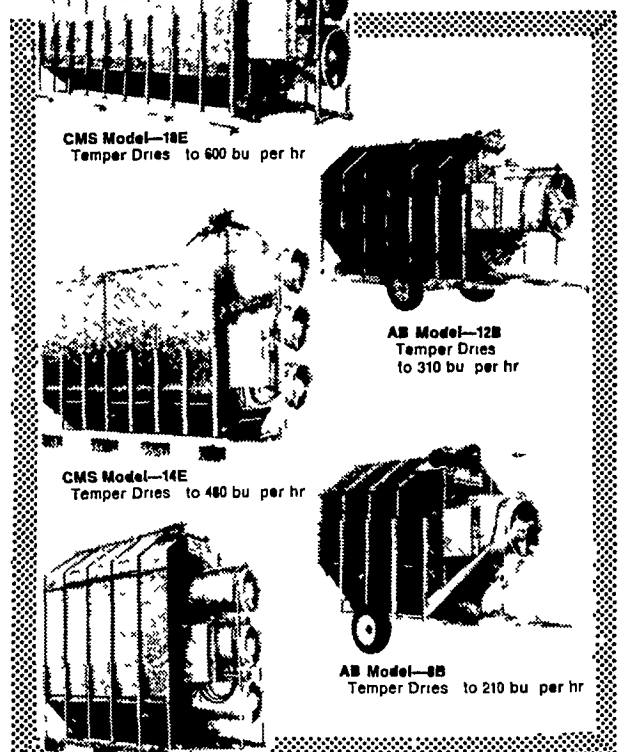


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