

LIFE on the farm

Editor's Note: The Life on the farm columns are written as entertainment for farmers and educational material for readers in town. More than half of the readers of this column are town and city residents.

By DIETER KRIEG

Bankers and other businessmen from town frequently marvel at the innovations and machinery they see at work on the farm. While the degree of mechanization and automation varies from farm to farm, the age of whirring motors, electronics, photo-electric cells, and computers has caught up to quite a number of them.

The latest in milking procedures, for example, involves a milking machine which can sense when a cow is milked out and the teat cups are automatically removed accordingly. These same machines are also programmed to stimulate milk let-down at the beginning of the cycle and aid in the near complete removal of milk during the final stages. The man running the equipment actually works more with switches, dials, and blinking lights than he does with the cow's udder.

There are a number of ways by which cows are "cycled" through the milking process. Portable vacuum-operated milking machines are still popular but the more efficient and more dependable electrically controlled units are gaining ground rapidly. Glass or stainless steel pipelines are appearing on a lot of farms — thereby allowing the milk from the cow to pass directly to the cooler and eliminating the need of

someone having to carry it to the milk house.

Milking parlors have been around for about three decades, possibly longer. These specially constructed and equipped facilities have cows "coming to the milker" rather than have the milker come to the cow. It involves mechanically operated gates, spray nozzles for washing udders, ropes or dials to control feeding, and an automatic pipeline and milk machine cleaning system.

The latest development in the "evolution" of milking systems is the "carousel." Cows step on to a slowly revolving platform to receive their feed and be milked. Automatic washers clean and massage the udder, a system of remote-controlled gates assures orderly traffic patterns. Surrounded by a maze of pipes carrying either milk, feed, water, or vacuum, each cow on the "carousel" completes one revolution before getting off again.

Who knows, with the advances that have taken place on the farm during the last 50 years (especially the last 20), maybe someday we'll have cows milked high atop a silo. The rotating "carousel" milking parlor is, understand, architecturally related to the fancy roof-top rotating restaurants which offer splendid panoramic views.

I'm not predicting the development of such an extravagant milking facility. My point is that farming today involves much more than a pitch fork and milking stool. Sophisticated equipment can be found on farms too, and staggering investments along with them.

Angus photo contest starts

There's no better time than now for photographers to dust off their favorite cameras and start shooting for the top awards and cash prizes in the U.S. Bicentennial Angus Photo Contest. The contest is open to anyone that owns a camera, either professional or amateur, and a total of \$2,500 will be awarded to the winning entries in the event.

The general theme of the contest is the "Advantages of Angus Cattle" and the rules simply require that all entries have all or part of an Angus bull, cow, steer or calf appearing in it. The imagination, creativity and originality is left to the individual. Categories will include both black and white and colored transparency divisions and the winning entries will be selected in both classes.

The entries will be judged separately in two classes and \$400 will be awarded for first prize. There will be a \$300 second, \$200 third and \$100 fourth. Additional entries that receive honorable mention by the panel of professional judges will

receive \$50. All winning entries and honorable mentions will become the property of the American Angus Association.

Anyone wishing to enter may submit a previously taken or new black and white photograph or color transparency that has not been previously published in any magazine or newspaper. Do not send polaroid snapshots or colored prints. Entries open immediately and end September 1, 1976.

The entries in the black and white contest must be printed on 5x7 or larger paper, mounted and submitted with the negative. There is no limitation to the

number of entries from any one individual but all winning entries and negatives will become the property of the American Angus Association. Color transparencies, not colored photographs, will be accepted in 35mm, 4x5, 5x7 or 8x10.

To enter, send your name and address to the Public Relations Department, American Angus Association, 3201 Frederick Blvd., St. Joseph, Missouri for complete rules and instructions. All entries require an official application blank from the American Angus Association.

To this date we have received only a few program booklets for the Farm Women Societies in Lancaster Farming's coverage area. We would certainly like to announce your meeting dates and activities but cannot do this without your help. Please be sending in either the booklets or program dates. Two months of 1976 will soon be gone and the activities are many for this year. We'll be looking forward to receiving your schedule of events! Send to: Women's Editor, Lancaster Farming, Box 266, Lititz, Pa. 17543.



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