

Farm wife

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Guernsey Pavillion near Lancaster on September 11. Helene indicated that it was really quite a job to get the information needed to put the catalogue together, adding that "that is when OPC records really come in handy."

Helene and Bob have also just completed a directory of all the Jersey breeders in Pennsylvania. The directory will be available to Extension Services, AI units, and anyone who is interested in buying a Jersey. "We put a lot of work into that project," she told me, "but I enjoyed it. It was a lot of fun."

The Dreisbach children, Patty age ten and Carol age nine, are both 4-H members and handle their own animals. "As a family," Helene pointed out, "we are production oriented. We are most interested in high producing cows, but we do go to a few fairs just for fun." April Green, a neighbor of the Dreisbach's originally handled most of their show string, but Helene noted that she and the girls are becoming increasingly involved in showing the animals. They show mainly at the Kutztown, Reading, Allentown, and Bloomsburg fairs, and at the girls' 4-H District Show; and a sizeable number of blue ribbons on one wall in the large family kitchen indicate that they are frequently winners.

Helene is a member of the Board of Directors for the Berks County Dairy Association, and as we discussed the upcoming Dairy Week, she mentioned that she had had to miss a recent planning meeting because "I was busy washing cows." The cows, I might point out, were being primed for their part in a 4-H judging clinic which took place in the clinic ranged in age from eight up to teens. "I think the kids are really great," Helene said, "and their reasons for judging... they are so sure of themselves... and so enthusiastic. Of all the things we have at the farm, that is one of my favorites."

A person can tell just listening to Helene talk about her Jersey herd, that her enthusiasm for the dairy business is based on a genuine affection for her animals. Furthermore, it was obvious when we drove down to the meadow later for some picture-taking, that the feeling is mutual. Immediately recognizing Helene, a number of her cows came eagerly to greet her in the open pasture. When I remarked on how glad they seemed to see her, Helene readily admitted that she talks to them, and jokingly added, "sometimes more than I talk to my husband."

AGWAY

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Bob Engle (left), Farm System Salesman for Agway, Wilmer Hostetter (center), R1 Oxford and Wilmer's son, Bill, check on their Sta-Rite Pipeline. Mr. Hostetter had his first Sta-Rite Pipeline installed in 1975.

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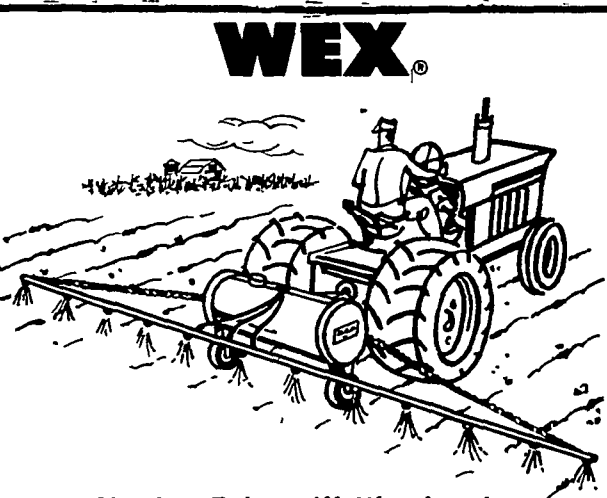
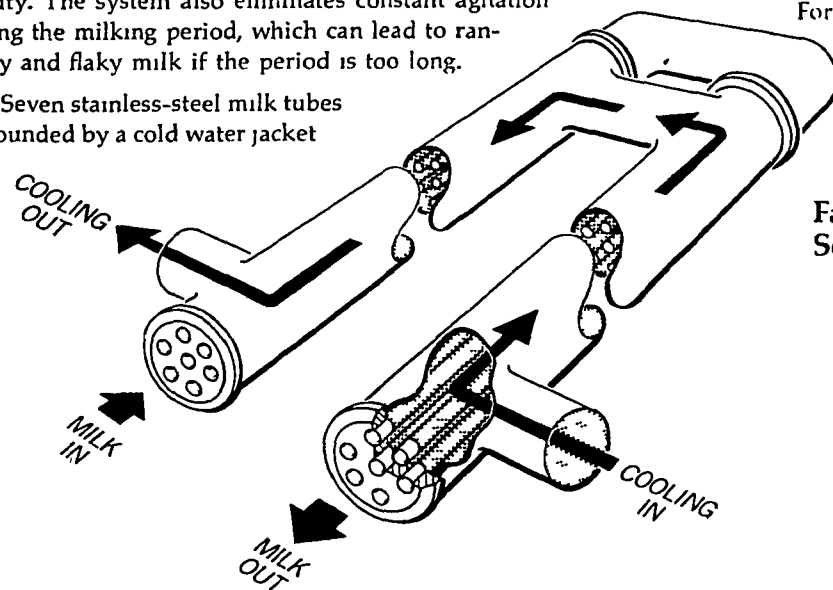
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