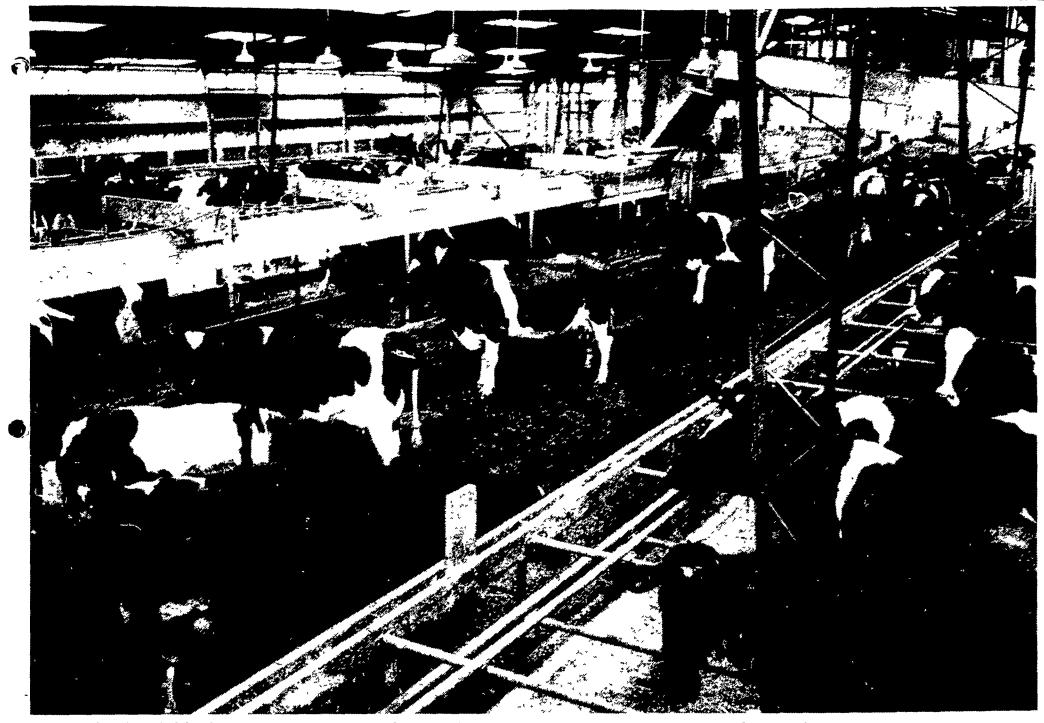
Lancaster Farming, Saturday, June 5, 1976-99



The interior of Oliver's free-stall barn is exceptionally well lit by both artificial and natural means. Cows are let out of the barn for only very short periods of time. An automated feeding system has been a help in increasing efficiency and production. Lancaster Farming Photo' by Dieter Krieg

airyman

[Continued from Page 92] facilities, a milking parlor and milk house in 1968 for \$60,000. Less than two years ago he found it necessary to build a simple 32 by 80 foot addition to the original 128 by 80 foot structure. He and his movable side on an overhead hired man, Foster, helped with the actual construction but the bill when it was all done still added up to \$11,000. Oliver proudly.

That's how inflation has hit farms. The addition included no equipment other than a home-made hay feeder which Oliver has found ideal for feeding hay stacks. The feeder, which incorporates a track, was built by Foster. "He's a better carpenter than I'll ever be," said

Very well lit with 68 proximately 1000 loads of transparent roof panels and manure are hauled each 37 artificial lighting devices, the roomy free-stall barn serves as the cows' home for most parts of the day and night. It is divided into nine sections to allow certain cow groups to be together and make management easier.

In spite of all the gates and petitions within the barn, Oliver claims he can still clean it in 45 minutes, including hauling time. He proudly noted that apyear, but only about three are loaded by hand.

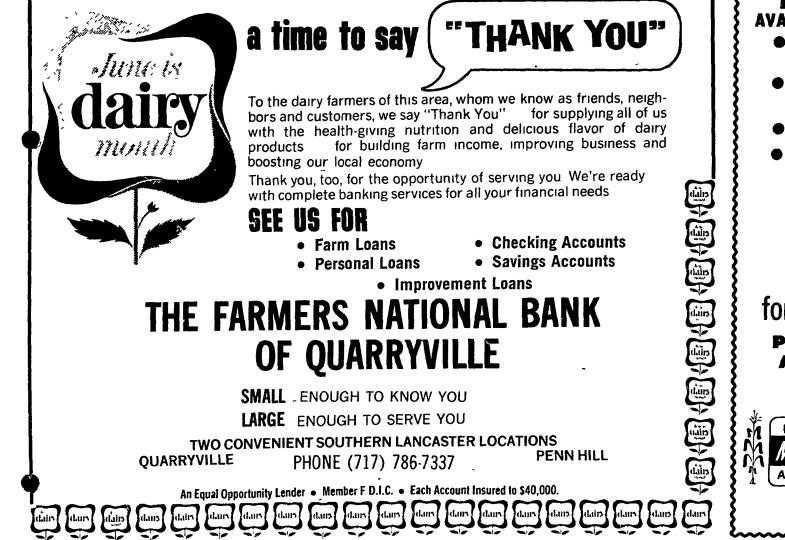
Oliver beds his stalls primarily with sawdust. A little soil added keeps the material in the stalls a little longer. At a cost of less than \$9 per ton, and only about 65 tons needed per year, Oliver figures he's doing pretty well on bedding costs. He beds his stalls every ten days with an average of two shovelfuls of sawdust per stall.

When milking time arrives, the cows enter a double-six milking parlor. The cows' udders are washed with warm water which has a disinfectant already metered into it. Working with DeLaval Model 200 milkers, Oliver and his son, Chris, have been able to milk 55 to 60 cows per hour. Someday, Oliver proclaims, he'll have a few

changes made so that the entire milking operation can be done by one man without sacrificing either time or production.

A very conscientious record keeper, Oliver is proud of the fact that he has kept statistics on his herd for the past 14 years. To facilitate his breeding programs, he uses a Bray [Continued on Page 110]





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