

# Confidence visible

(Continued from Page 1)

of the corn grown by Landis goes into the silo too. Any corn he needs for protein is purchased from other farmers and stored in another Harvestore in the high moisture and shelled state.

"We used to have a trench here, and I was so glad to get rid of that," Landis said with his characteristic smile and sparkling eyes. Also, he confessed to having a preference for mechanical labor savers, claiming that they are sometimes more dependable than hired help.

Milking in his rotary parlor, which was completed just several months ago, takes about two hours. Although it was something to get used to - and occasionally frustrating - Landis is well

pleased with the way things are operating in building the eight-stall carousel parlor, the enthusiastic dairyman incorporated a moving catwalk which he finds very handy during milking. Automatic detachers are also featured. The walls underneath the cows' platforms are sloped for easier cleaning - another customized feature of the Landis carousel.

Outside of the carousel is a unique holding area which doubles as facilities to prep incoming cows and hold any individuals which might need special attention. A system of gates does the trick.

The cows are housed in a long, four-year old free-stall barn which is just about the way Landis wants to except

that it isn't equipped for long term manure handling. He plans on making that one of his next major moves. At present he hauls up to three loads per day.

The feeding system at this farm is just about fully automated. Feeds move in proper proportions from any of the three Harvestores via a system of conveyors and into the feed bunk. The cows are allowed to have all the haylage they want, and receive their high moisture shelled corn in amounts determined by their level of production. Landis has his herd grouped for this purpose. Producers of more than 60 pounds of milk per day receive at least 25 pounds of high moisture corn and have access to a magnet feeder which contains an 18 percent protein ration.

Large louvers in the roof of his new barn open and close according to weather conditions. Besides letting in abundant light, the openings also facilitate good air movement.

Another unique feature at the farm is the irrigation unit. Powered by a 50-horsepower electric motor, Landis has things fixed up so that he only has to move the lines once a day. There's even an automatic timer so that if the end of a cycle comes at an inconvenient

time, the unit will shut itself off. When operating normally, it travels on a fixed path via a cable arrangement which is powered by the force of the water.

Landis handles all of his waste water from the barn, parlor and milk house with another "irrigation" system he had installed expressly for that purpose. Once a week a motor kicks on and pumps 6000 gallons of water to the top of a small hill from where it seeps into the surrounding area.

A member of Lehigh Valley Dairy Cooperative, Landis expressed faith in not just the dairy business as a whole, but also his cooperative. "I had an \$8000 disaster a year or two ago," he recollected without losing his smile, "but I can understand that ... we all make mistakes sometimes." The friendly dairyman also believes in registered Holsteins, claiming that "I think you have a little more interest in 'em that way." Ron Kelchner is herdsman.

Other unique features which can be found on the Landis farm are calf hutches, a ventilation system in the carousel which keeps odors out and fresh air in, a work shop area, two sizes of free stalls, and sawdust bedding.

## Ag economy conference slated

UNIVERSITY PARK — Approximately 2500 agricultural economists and members of their families from the United States and many foreign countries will arrive at The Pennsylvania State University August 15 for the first joint annual meeting of the American Agricultural Economics Association and the Northeastern Agricultural Economics Council.

Highlights of the three day conference, which runs through August 18, will include the presentation of more than 150 technical papers, association business meetings, special activities for family members, and the Association's annual awards program.

Dr. James S. Holt, professor of agricultural economics, is serving as general chairman for conference arrangements.

Sessions will get under way Monday morning, August 16, in University Auditorium. The presidential address will be

presented by Dr. Kenneth R. Farrell of the Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Dr. Russell E. Larson, Provost of Penn State, will present welcoming remarks. Special programs beginning the afternoon of August 16 will include sessions on the economics of the farm family, antitrust policy for agriculture, small farmer resources in rural development, land use policy issues, rural development, policy and regional growth, the demographic shift to rural areas, and others. The presentation of more than 100 contributed research papers will also begin August 16.

Heading the 1976 annual meetings are Dr. James T. Bonnen of Michigan State University, president of the American Agricultural Economics Association, and Dr. Frederic O. Sargent of the University of Vermont, president of the Northeastern Agricultural Economics Council.

## Bicentennial program offered

"Bread basket of the colonies" is a name frequently given to colonial Pennsylvania.

The Commonwealth's fertile soil, nearness to the sea-coast, and its large population centers and navigable inland rivers all stimulated settlement and the opening of the land for farming.


Another factor contributing to Pennsylvania's role as "bread basket of the colonies" was the excellent farming techniques of the early German settlers. The Germans introduced the European practice of rotating crops to help maintain soil fertility.

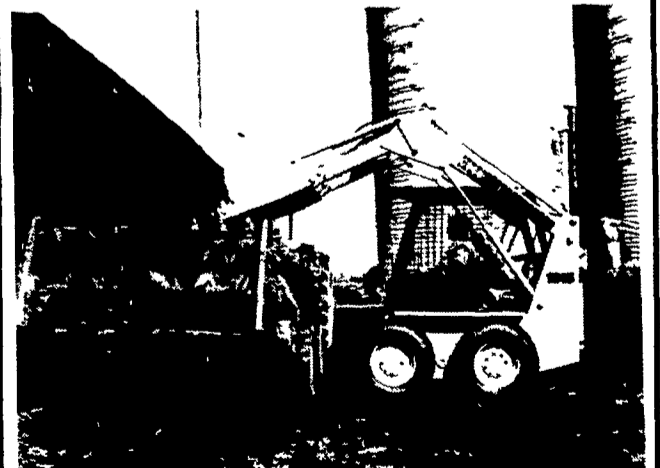
You can learn more about Pennsylvania's unique history in "Heritage-Horizons '76" a Bicentennial program that focuses on the Pennsylvania family - past, present, and future.

"Heritage-Horizons '76" is available, free of charge, to civic and social groups, schools, youth organizations, historical societies, and church groups. The program includes a color filmstrip and audio tape cassette, richly illustrated commemorative booklets for program participants, and a leader's program manual. The program manual offers suggestions for setting up and presenting a Bicentennial program as well as discussion questions and activities.

To order "Heritage-Horizons '76" for your group contact the Pennsylvania Cooperative Extension Service in Schuylkill County at 385-3431.

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