

# New hog fattening unit displayed near Manheim

By JOANNE SPAHR  
**MANHEIM, Pa.** - With the price of corn as low as it is, the idea of fattening hogs doesn't sound unreasonable to many a farmer right now. Because of this, more than one eye is keeping watch over the various types of growing-finishing buildings available on the market today, comparing the positive versus the negative aspects of each operation.

Last Tuesday morning and afternoon, farmers in Lancaster County were given the chance to view the building which is currently generating the most interest in growing and fattening structures - the "Nebraska Unit."

Harold Kurtz, Manheim, who recently erected a Modified Open Front Nebraska Unit on his nine acre farm was host for the

event along with the John B. Kurtz Purina Dealership and Ralston Purina Feeds.

Designed by Dr. Robert Fritchen at the University of Nebraska about three years ago, the system has gradually been working its way into the Northeast where it has become popular over the past year.

Basically, the unit is a single sloped building featuring natural flow

ventilation, automatic feeding, individually controlled rooms, and slats over a manure pit for easy manure handling.

The key to the unit is the mono sloped roof, finished on the underside with six inches of insulation in the ceiling to keep the heat in during the Winter and the heat out in the Summer.

Although it is open in the front, a curtain which is

thermostatically controlled regulates the flow of air into the unit, and windows in the back can be opened for maximum ventilation from April 15 through October. In Winter the unit can be closed tight to keep the temperature at 55 degrees F. with minimum ventilation, provided the pigs are at the right density.

Since it utilizes natural flow ventilation, there is no need for electricity except for generating light, running the feeders, and controlling the front curtain.

Kurtz' structure is divided

into four rooms, each individually controlled for administering medication, as well as for feeding and regulating temperature.

Differing from the original design of Nebraska Unit which is an "all in, all out," type facility, Kurtz' fattening unit is set up to accommodate groups of pigs as the animals move from 45 pounds to market weight.

Room One has the capacity to house 300 45 pound pigs giving each 4.25 square feet of space. This

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Interested individuals visited the Kurtz farm to get a view of the Nebraska Unit last Tuesday.

## Farm Calendar

Thursday, Sept. 15

Oley Fair begins in Oley Pa. It will continue through Sept. 17.

Friday, Sept. 16

"Date with an egg" - The Pennsylvania Egg Marketing Association meets at the Sheraton-Conestoga, 7 p.m.

Blue Mountain Dairy Goat Association meets at Penn State's Schuylkill campus, Schuylkill Haven. Topic: "Myths about selling goat milk" begins at 7:45 p.m. Public invited.

Saturday, Sept. 17

Southeastern Pennsylvania District Horse Show at Ludwig's Corner.

District 6 4-H horse show, Lancaster Riding Club, Lancaster, 9 a.m.

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Heifer Show, York Fair, 4 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 12

Lancaster County 4-H dairy clubs joint meeting, Safe Harbor Reservation Park, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 13

Southern Lancaster County Community Fair opens in Quarryville.

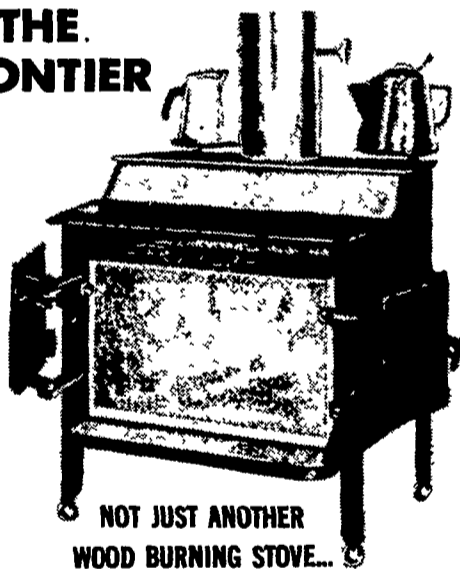
Wednesday Sept. 14

Lebanon County Conservation District board of directors meets at 8 p.m. at its headquarters.

Solanco Fair officially opened by Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Kent Shelhamer.

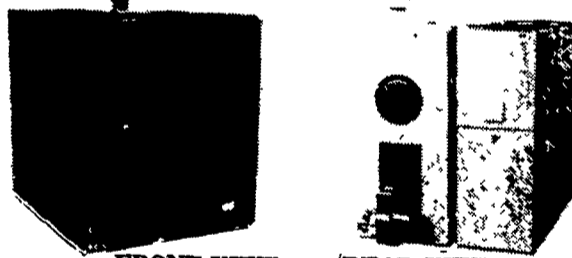
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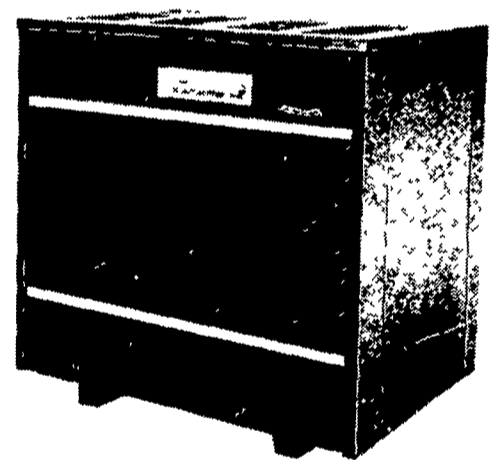
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