



Eric Rogers, is one of the newer arrivals at Teen Challenge Farm, coming to the rehabilitation center from Chicago. Like most others who live and work at the Berks County facility, he finds his responsibilities fulfilling.

People are main

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person for that task, but I love it." Hameloth stated with sincerity. "There is always a new challenge."

Teen Challenge to teach his students more about agriculture than they can learn from just working on the farm. "I am trying to get outside help to come and speak on agriculture to the

students," he said. The farm supervisor also expressed the desire to take his students on more field trips as well. The field trips give the students more meaning and expose them to many

To run a farm used for educational purposes requires exceptionally good management to be profitable but Gordon Hameloth seems to have accomplished this. He has all of the dairy herd replacements raised on the farm. The bull calves are sold except for two or three which come from exceptionally good cows. These are raised and sold at a later date.

The heifers are all pasture bred by one of the young bulls. From then on all of the cows are bred A.I.

The young bulls are not kept for more than one season for safety reasons. "There are too many people around the farm to keep mature bulls on the farm," the supervisor explained.

The major field crops are corn and alfalfa. The concentrates for the dairy feed are bought. The dairy herd is housed in a free stall barn and divided into high and low producers so they can be managed separately.

The calves are given fresh milk for the first week, then switched to fermented milk. They are always kept in sanitary conditions, and, says Hameloth, they have very few losses.

Hameloth plans to start raising hogs on the farm as well. A farrowing house is planned for the near future. The pigs will not be finished out but sold as feeders instead.

Hameloth is also trying to

new ideas they can't learn from one operation.

There is no racial barrier at Teen Challenge. Everyone lives together in a Christian atmosphere, housed in rooms very similar to a college dormitory. It is this "Jesus Factor" which has been attributed to the success of Teen Challenge. There are men on parole at the center who have served time in prisons. Some have

no more than a fourth grade education when they arrive, and none of them have any belongings except the clothes they are wearing. Teen Challenge has to provide for these needs through donations and funds that they can raise.

Once the men graduate after their eight month stay they are usually sent back to the induction centers for a short time. Many of them

want to go back "home" to help their friends. A study done on Teen Challenge last summer has shown that approximately 13 per cent of the former addicts that graduate have gone into the ministry, 76 per cent never went back to drugs or alcohol, and 86 per cent are living "straight".

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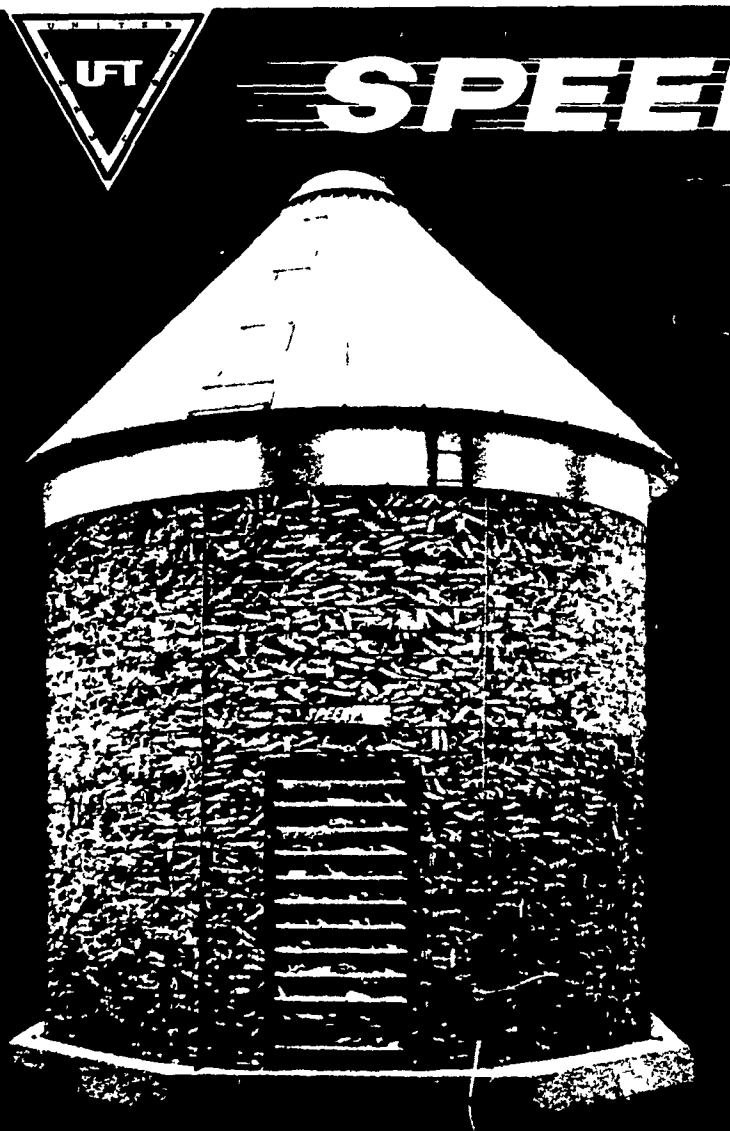
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