Bigger barn

(Continued from Page 95)

when feed vehicles drive through. Manure alleys are 11½ feet in width. "When this barn was designed, different people wanted to sell me on the idea of narrower alleys,' Williams remembered. All of his dairy animals are housed indoors at all time, and he therefore prefers roomy facilities. Floors in the new barn were designed to be skidproof. "I wouldn't want to be without that," the dairyman noted.

One item Williams is doing without is an automatic scraper. Considering them to be a costly machine requiring high maintenance, Williams prefers to clean the barn using a skid loader. Manure is scraped into a centraily located gutter, from which the droppings are mechanically conveyed into a holding pit, and finally into a Slurrystore.

Should automated mechanical scraping mechanisms be desired at a future date, Williams had his floors designed so that they can be easily installed.

A change Williams would make if he had to build his barn over again would be to install the feed trough bars at an angle instead of directly vertical. He also wouldn't install fibreglass doors again since his cows have a habit of licking them until holes appear.

The new loose housing facility is naturally ventilated and is generally 10 degrees cooler during the Summer than outside air. While last Winter's harsh cold was an exception, the barn generally stays warm enough to not have water pipes freeze. Manure freezes on very cold

To help boost production to even higher levels, Williams is considering fans over his feeding area so that cows might be persuaded to go there to keep cool during the Summer and take in a little more feed while they're there. "If they eat more, they produce more," deducts Williams.

The Williams herd is milked in a 14-stall rotary parlor equipped with DeLaval Model 200 milkers. Unconcerned

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Farming 1700 acres to feed his 450 head of Holsteins, Glen Williams of Walnut Port R1 believes in doing things in a big way.

about the length of time it takes to milk his herd, and noting that it varies according to the number of fresh cows, first-calf heifers, total production, etc., Williams is primarily interested in the amount of milk he gets in his bulk tank. He has two men milking.

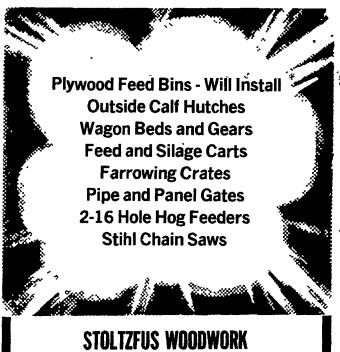
The young dairyman, who received his initial farming experience while spending Summers on his grandfather's farm, markets nearly all of his milk through his modern dairy store. Processing and bottling is done right at the farm. Although this marketing channel has demanded greater investments, more work, and extra book work, Williams sees no reason why a dairyman shouldn't be entitled to better potentials for profits. As a member of the National Farmers Organization (NFO), he makes no excuses for his aggressive views on agricultural economics.

Grown to the size operation which he's presently satisfied with, Williams now wants to "fine-tune" it. Among other goals, he will concentrate now on raising all of his own herd replacements. It's a plan which is already underway. Calves are housed in a near hospital-like facility which was formerly the old dairy barn. Heifers and dry cows are kept in the old barn as well.

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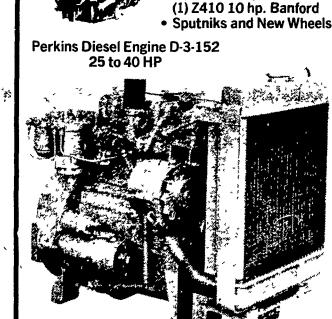
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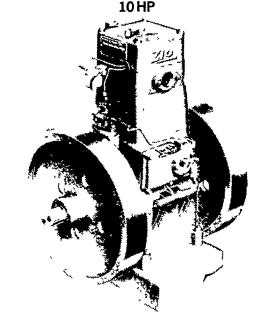
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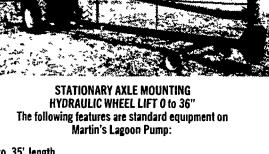
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