

Modern dairy

(Continued from Page 133) of time, the family and lost a tobacco shed, a bank barn, and two dairy extensions attached to it. One of those extensions had not been built more than several months previous.

That was a year ago - March 1, 1977 - and just last weekend the Landis's held an open house for all those interested to tour their new facilities.

"We thought people could learn from our experiences

and maybe get some ideas of their own from seeing what we did," says Mrs. Landis.

What they did was a monumental task - they started over completely as far as the buildings were concerned, although Landis and others had saved the herd of 135 Holsteins on the night of the fire.

"That was a shaky feeling," remarks Landis. "You know that what you build is going to last for quite some time, so you want to do

it right." Unfortunately, Landis was not able to make up his mind slowly—he had to decide in a very short time exactly what he wanted, which wasn't always easy.

"Oh, I had some ideas and knew basically what I wanted, but some of the decisions like the height of the curbs I just wasn't sure of. Now I'd know," he said.

To make the right decision, he called on N. Alan Bair, Lancaster County Extension agent, and Gerald Bodman, Penn State assistant professor of ag engineering. They came to the Landis farm the day



John Landis works on DHIA records in the newly built office area close to the milking parlor. In the background is a aerial view of the farm before the buildings burned.

after the fire and drew up tentative plans for the new dairy complex.

According to Bodman, the main concern was in utilizing the four existing tower silos as well as tying

into the earthen bank manure storage area remaining intact after the fire. The resulting system was a four-row drive-through free-stall barn divided into six sections.

Four of these sections house lactating and dry animals; a fifth, dairy replacements or heifers; and still another section houses a milking center plus box stalls for calves and freshening animals. That same corner includes stalls for a hospital/treatment area.

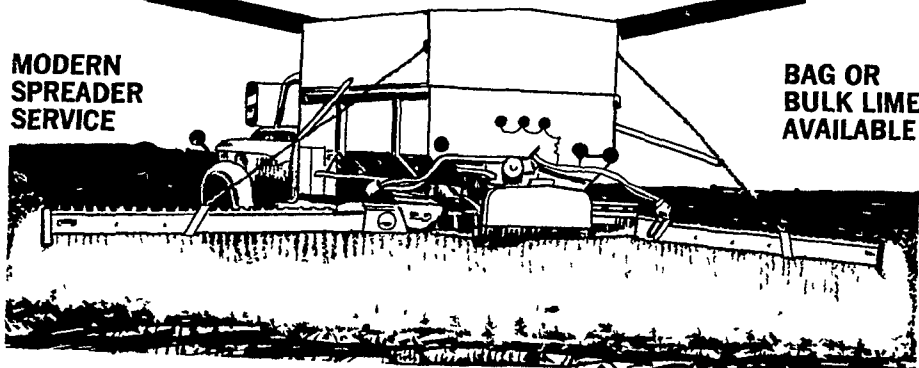
The dairy barn is 88 by 360 feet with a 40 by 52 foot milking parlor wing. It is designed for a non-mechanical ventilation with openings at the eaves and open ridges for normal ventilation, plus additional side wall drop panels for increased Summer air flow within the animal zone.

The alleys are roughened

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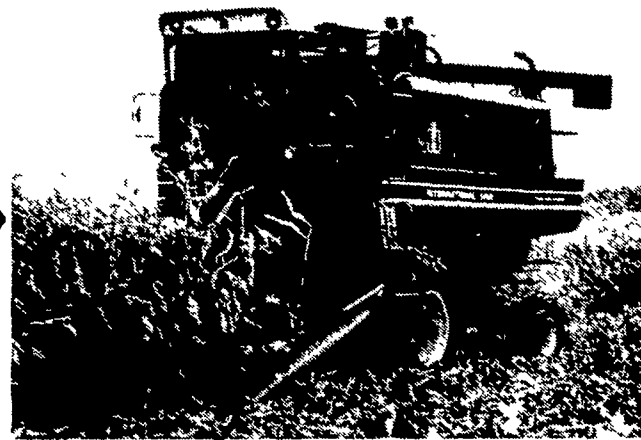
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