

Co. agent worked with farmers

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periences in Australia, Freund stated that that country is "more akin" to the United States. He thought of Australia as highly mechanical, with

broad scale farming, and very efficient.

"The climate there is mostly very arid," he commented, "with very few places as fertile as south-central Pa."

Livestock in Australia

depends mainly on pasture and grazing for its food, according to Freund. "There is no lot feeding or intensive farming," he explained. "The returns in Australia just don't justify the methods."

Improved pastures are seen, though, he added, with alfalfa, clover, and rye grass mixtures being the common type.

Sheep are a more important agricultural product than cattle in Australia, Freund noted. In the past, Australia has had as many sheep as the U.S. had people, with the number of sheep being close to 200 million.

Population of Australia is about the same as that for the state of Pa. — around 14.6 million. But Australia is the size of the United States.

And it's a sad fact, Freund stated, that as in this country, some of Australia's best farmland is going under concrete.

Some things that Pa. farmers might learn from the Australians are the more efficient use of poorer classes of land, Freund thought. Such items as pasturing, grazing

management, and crop rotation are well managed in Australia. Because of the extremely high cost of fertilizer in Australia, farmers use a legume program to add nutrients to their soil.

Very few places in Australia ever have snow, Freund remembered. And Summer is the drought time, when there might be feed shortages. Of course, in Australia, the seasons are reversed, too, with Summer in December and temperatures around 100°F. on Christmas. Winter comes in July.

One aspect of Pa. farming that impressed Freund was the efficient use of fodder products for livestock. He also liked the high intensity dairy farming that he found in the area. He stated that there is an extremely high level of production on farms and that he noted the high capitol investment required to be in farming today.

His main responsibilities in Cumberland County deal with farm management and livestock programs, both with adults and youth. He feels that there is a great

need for more programs and thinks that more individuals should become more involved in farm management. He, himself, would like to become more involved, but added with a smile, that it is a slow process.

He lives in Carlisle with his wife and son, Ernest, who

will be five years old in August. When he has time he likes to work with photography, or do wood working, or even restore antique cars. But as he stated, he has lots of hobbies, little time.

He plans to stay in the Cumberland County area for the foreseeable future.

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Playground being built

YORK — Members of the Thomasville 4-H Club are creating a playground for the York County 4-H Center. Tom Welsh, a teen leader for the club, is heading the committee.

The play area will be located to the rear of the main building. Items to be included are: swings, a seesaw, an obstacle course, and a sand box. It should be completed by the June 17 4-H Chicken Bar-B-Que.

Members of the club attended the Paradise Holtzschwamm United Church of Christ on Sunday morning in observance of Rural Life Sunday. Joanne Haskins and Jonathan Myers participated in the service.

Julie Kline, Teri and Michelle Lehugh, Joanne Haskins and Mike Welsh were county finalists in the recent poster contest. Their posters will go to state competition at Penn State.

Small animals and pets are needed for the Petting Zoo to be held at the Indian Rock Elementary School on May 13. Interested persons should bring their animals to the zoo by 11 a.m. on the 13.

Gabi Wolhrab, a German Exchange student, presented slides and information on her home, school, and city to the club.

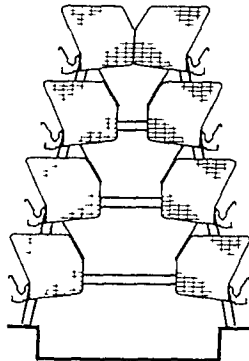
The next meeting will be on May 23 at 7:30 p.m. at the 4-H Center.

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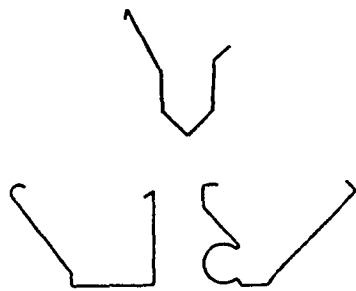
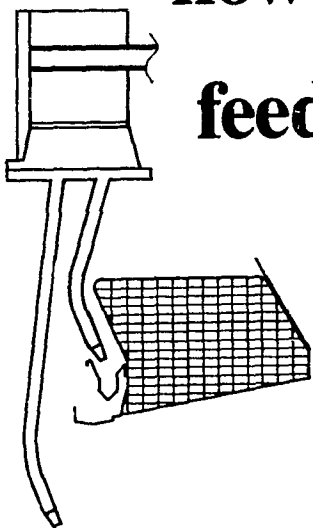


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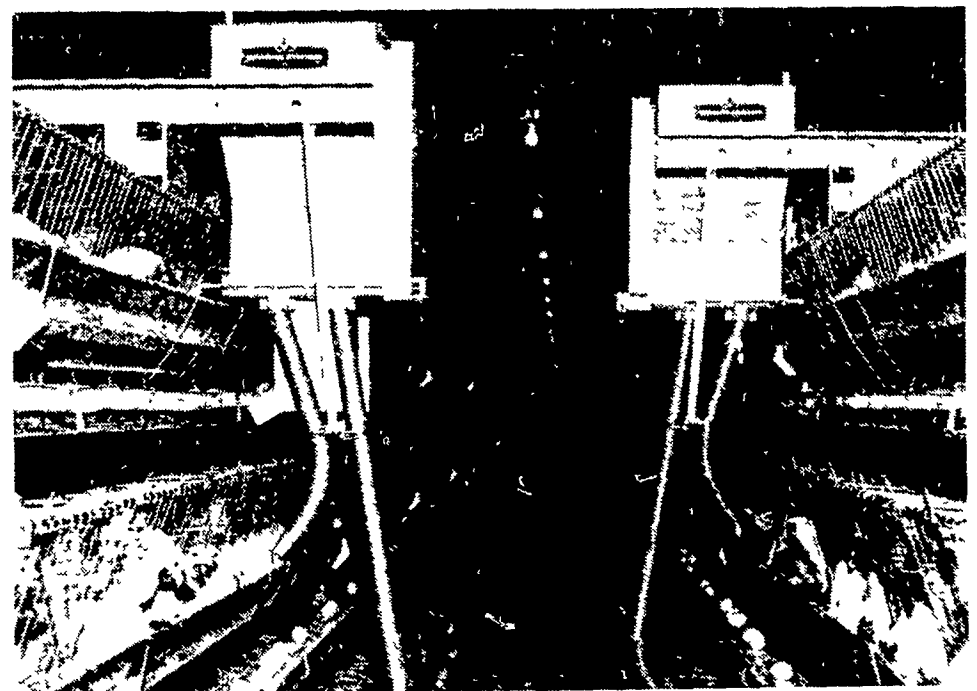
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