

British compare farming

(Continued from Page 103)

markets for them. Lamb and beef, in particular, are selling on the Continent at record prices. Milk sales in the United Kingdom (U.K.) are also very profitable.

Two-week-old Holstein calves bring up to \$200, while crossbred Holstein/Charolais calves of the same age have been known to go for between \$240-\$260. (In Delaware right now the going price for two-week-old calves runs between \$67 and \$144, according to a spokesman for Carroll's Livestock Sales in Felton.) A yearling steer sells for the equivalent of \$400-\$420 in Scotland, compared to \$300 in Delaware. "Fat lambs" are also bringing record prices.

A lot of British farmers are dairymen who raise beef as a by-product, as well as sheep. Most of their milk cows are Holstein-Friesians, but of a more all-purpose-type than you'll find in that breed as it's been developed in the U.S. It is also common on many British dairy farms to cross breed these Holsteins with a Hereford, Charolais or Simmental bull to get a meatier calf, when replacement heifers aren't needed. By the way, calves destined for the veal or beef market are known as "store" cattle in the U.K.

The visitors were very impressed by the King Cole feedlot operation, which

manages to produce a lot of choice beef on the vegetable wastes from a cannery. But much as the British admire efficient land use, feedlot production of "store" cattle is out of the question for them. Most of their stock must be grass-fed, because of the expense of imported feed grains.

"Our grass-fed beef is different from yours, though," pointed out a farmer who operates a successful dairy/beef operation on 175 acres in Cheshire. In part this may be due to differences in grass varieties. But the main difference is in their nutritional value, explains University of Delaware Extension Dairy Specialist Dr. George Haenlein, a world-recognized authority on dairy nutrition. According to him, British dairy farmers fertilize their forage and pasture grasses heavily, which makes them much higher in protein than often-neglected U.S. pasture grasses.

Though feedlot production of beef may be out of the picture in the British Isles, confinement rearing of pork is definitely in. As a couple of hog farmers pointed out, they and their countrymen have been perfecting the art of confinement production of pigs for a long time. So they feel justifiably ahead of U.S. efforts in this direction. It doesn't surprise them one bit, however, to see American farmers starting

to respond to the pressure on land use in this and other ways.

The business of land use came up frequently during conversations with farmers on the tour. In fact, Stewart Seton sees it as the principle difference between American and British agriculture. "Because we're a small country and operate in small units, we have to be more intensive," he explains. "So we generally find that our yields in terms of livestock units or cropping are higher per acre than yours are. But this is because they have to be. It might not pay you to push yields as high as we have to, because you've got so much extra land - you work on so much bigger scale."

This may be basically true, but a chance to sit down and chat with a few Delaware corn farmers about the rising costs of production and their current efforts to boost yields to 200 bushels an acre might have convinced him that this particular difference isn't as great as it once was.

FFA pumpkin contest held

LEBANON - The Cedar Crest FFA held its annual pumpkin contest at the high school agriculture shop. Third and fourth grade students from the Cornwall-Lebanon School District participated.

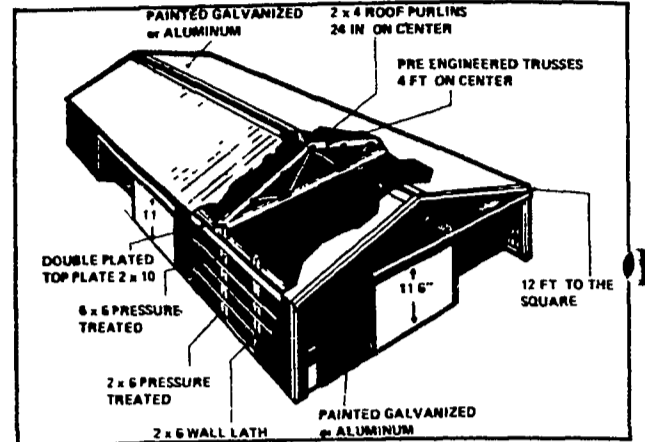
Judges for the contest were Rick Gingrich, former agriculture instructor and Ferne Eberly, high school art teacher.

The winners received cash awards and the grand champions received a trophy. The results of the contest were as follows: third grade, heaviest, first place, Eddie Williams; second, Annessa Peiffer; fourth grade, heaviest, first place, Brian Hertzler; Grand Champion Heaviest,

Eddie Williams; third grade, most uniform, first, Annessa Peiffer; second Gerald Hostetter; fourth grade, most uniform, first, Diane Grumbine; second Brian Hertzler; Grand Champion Most Uniform, Annessa

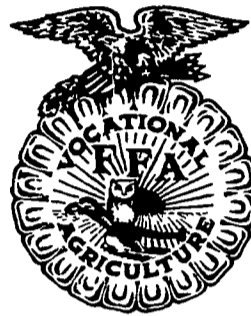
Peiffer; third grade, Best Decorated, first, Tony Thompson; second, Bob Conrad; fourth grade, first, Joe Connor; second, Sharon Wagner; Grand Champion Best Decorated, Tony Thompson.

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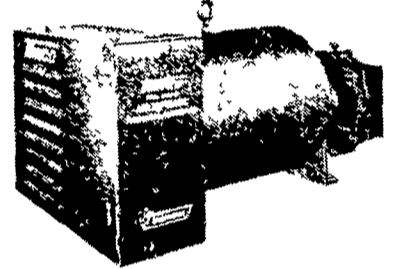
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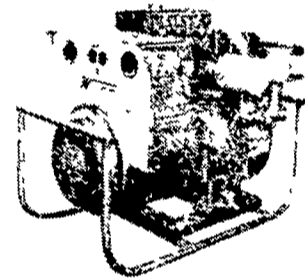




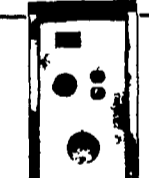
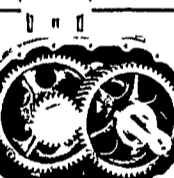
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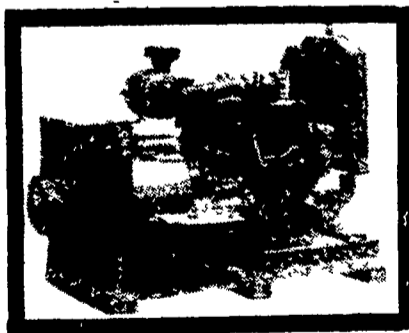


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