

They went from catching chickens to their own multi-million dollar farming enterprise

WASHINGTON BORO - Fifteen years ago, two Lancaster County brothers were catching chickens in the evening for a local broker to earn extra spending money while farming during the day.

Today the two, Abram G. Barley, of Washington Boro R1, and John E. Barley, of Conestoga R2, operate a multi-million dollar farming enterprise consisting of 1115 acres with 402 Holstein cows, 600 young cattle, 800 acres of corn, and 165 acres of alfalfa-grass hay.

And for their expertise in managing one of the most efficient farm operations in the state, they have been named to receive the coveted Master Farmer Award sponsored by the Pennsylvania Farmer Magazine and the Cooperative Extension Service of The Pennsylvania State University.

Their meteoric rise to ownership of the large farming operation with eight full time workers has caught its share of attention. Their successful deliberations to save 58 acres condemned by the Lancaster Area Refuse Authority made statewide headlines.

The Barleys won Pennfield's Outstanding Dairy Award three times and they were recognized by the Pennsylvania Dairymen Association for high butterfat average. Television commercials featuring the Barleys have been viewed by large regional audiences.

And, John has made news by being named Outstanding Young Cooperator in 1975 by Inter-State Milk Producers Cooperative and won the Pennsylvania Jaycees' Outstanding Young Farmer award in 1978.

Although the brothers

have different mailing addresses, their farms adjoin. John 33, serves as herdsman and Abram, 38, specializes in machinery and crops. Abram's wife, Pattye, helps take care of the calves; and John's wife, Jane, keeps farm financial accounts.

"We would never have made it without borrowing money," John Barley says "In fact, we financed our first tobacco crop." That was in 1963 when the brothers rented a 70-acre farm near Millersville.

With one year as farm operators under their belt, they next rented the home farm. In 1966 they borrowed more money and purchased the farm. However, a turning point occurred between 1968 and 1971. By taking care of 40 cows, 40 acres of tobacco, and 150 steers, they didn't feel they were making money.

Tobacco took too much labor and beef prices were not high enough to support two young families.

"We went back to the bank for money to finance a 200-cow free-stall barn and then went on a buying spree for registered Holstein heifer calves," Abram Barley notes "Again in 1975



Abram and John Barley, left to right, two Lancaster County brothers have been chosen to receive the Master Farmers' Award. The Barleys operate one of the most efficient farm operations

in the state. Their multi-million dollar farming enterprise consists of 1115 acres with 402 Holstein cows, 600 young cattle, 800 acres of corn and 165 acres of alfalfa grass hay.

we financed a 106-stall expansion to the barn and modernized the milking parlor. It meant we could handle 150 more cows with the same labor force."

The Barleys took no chances when they set up the complex partnership agreement. To make sure the survivor can keep the farm in case of the death of a

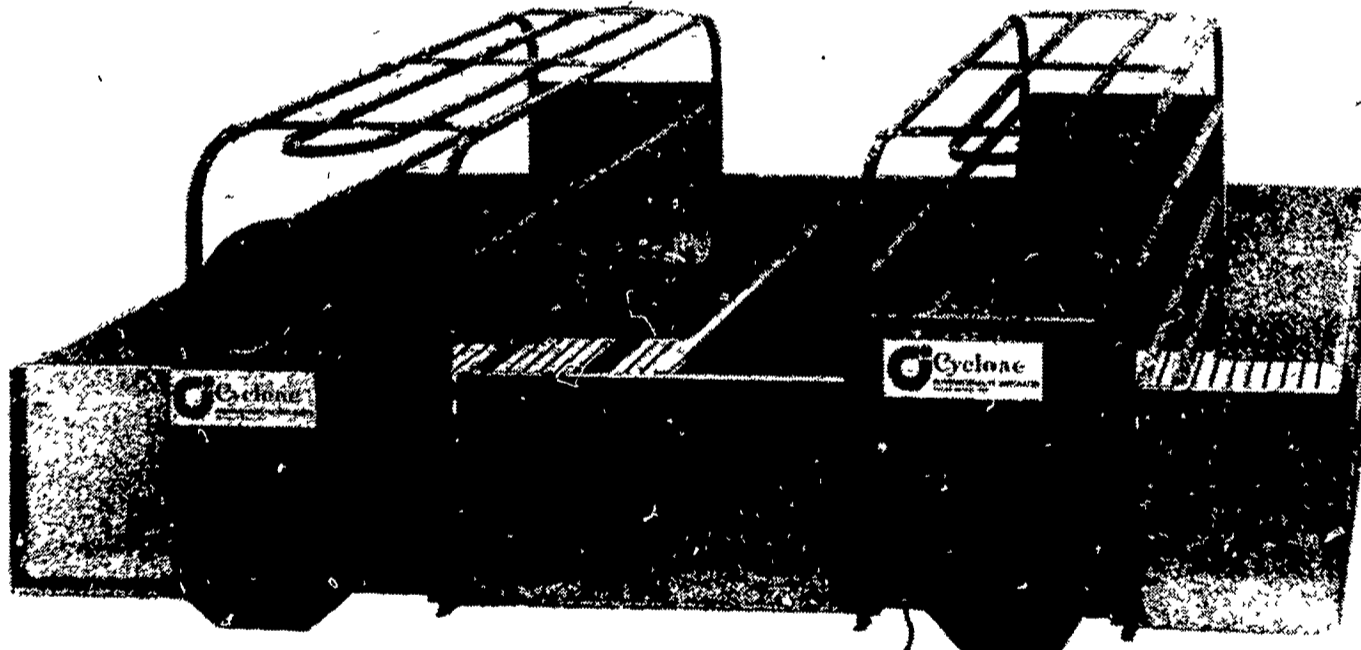
partner, they set up a buy-sell agreement and purchased a life insurance policy on each other. They each have wills drawn and established trust

agreements to protect their wives and children.

The new Master Farmers plan to add more cows, making a total of 500. In the

(Turn to Page 91)

Cyclone EQUIPMENT SYSTEMS FOR CONFINEMENT HOG PRODUCTION



TAKE A LOOK AT THIS QUALITY FARROWING UNIT

Designed and constructed specifically to meet the needs of the sow, this Cyclone unit has been shown to significantly reduce mortality rates . . . particularly when used with electric heat mats in the floor and properly placed slatted floor. It incorporates; draft panels to shield pigs from drafts, embossed for maximum rigidity and reinforced on the edges to assure stability . . . adjustable bottom rail . . . maximum handling ease through doors which can be opened from either direction . . . welded steel bars, by eliminating nut and bolts, make cleaning easier . . . 16 gauge square steel tubing with smooth edges to protect hogs from injury . . . adaptable to either dry or liquid feeding (feed front also serves as a door) . . . adjustable backup bar to prevent injury of pigs at birth . . . epoxy coated for easy cleaning and long life.



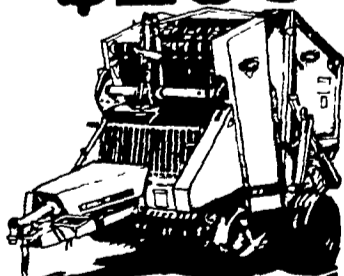
H
HERSHEY EQUIPMENT
COMPANY, INC.

SYCAMORE INDUSTRIAL PARK
255 PLANE TREE DRIVE
LANCASTER, PA 17603
(717) 393-5807

Route 30 West At
The Centerville Exit

AUTHORIZED
Cyclone
DISTRIBUTOR

Sign up now and
**Save
\$250**



Call right now — during the Vermeer "Early Buyer" season and you'll save \$250 on the No. 1 giant round baler in the field. Three models to fit your specific hay harvesting needs. With the new "instant start" open throat design. Built by the folks who invented the one-man hay system. Backed by experienced factory-trained farm dealer representatives. Hurry! Supply is limited.

Vermeer
TRIPLE H FARM
Cliff Holloway
Rt. 1
Peach Bottom, PA 17563
717-548-2640