

# Third generation

(Continued from Page 22)

The majority of the herd replacements are home raised. Some are bought, however, for 4-H and FFA projects. Seventy-five heifers, of different ages and 35 to 40 head of calves are raised each year. The calves are tied in stalls to start and later moved to pens.

When it comes to breeding his Ayrshires, Kulp works with interlines. He checks

the bulls to see what they have done for someone else. He keeps the semen on the farm so "no matter when a cow comes into heat, we can use the sire we want to on her."

Heifers will freshen before they are 2½ years old. Between 24 and 28 months of age, most of the Ayrshire heifers will freshen. Kulp said that as the feed intake increases while milking a

first calf heifer, you will see the benefits.

What are some of the benefits of Ayrshires? Kulp, who grew up with Ayrshires, said they had a "good return on feed cost. Their production is lower than the Hosteins, but you don't have as big of a cow to feed."

Kulp said his farm was one of the first farms in Chester County to utilize contour strips, establish waterways and tiling.

Kulp is a member of the farm business analysis program through the Pennsylvania Farmers Association. "This program allows you to compare your business with a business of comparable nature. It gives you an idea of what direction you are going and where you can spend your money better," Kulp explained. "Once you get your business rolling, you find you have problems deciding where to

spend your dollars wisely for the best return and efficiency," he maintained.

Kulp has a hard working family to back him up with the farm enterprise. Tina, 22, Eugene, 21, Ed, 19, Susan 16, and his wife Dawn. Ed is presently attending Delaware Valley College and working on his father's farm through a Summer work experience program with the college. Susan feeds calves and helps with the milking. She was recently named Chester County's second alternate dairy princess and is presently serving as president of the Owen J. Roberts FFA Chapter. Eugene is hired full time on the farm. Dawn keeps the books and fills in where she is needed.

As a third generation Kulp farming the land, Harold said "I'd like to see the boys be able to farm here too."



Ed and Dawn Kulp pause for a moment during milking. The Kulp's milking parlor features model 200 milkers that shut down and flash a red light when the cow is done milking.



Eugene Kulp brings in a load of fresh cut grass to be mixed with the corn silage.

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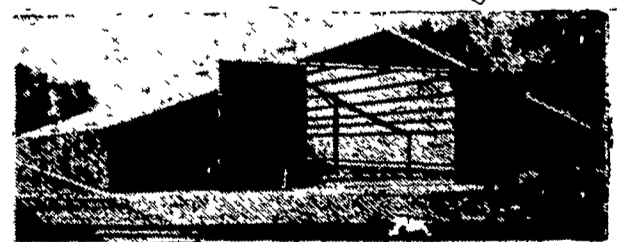
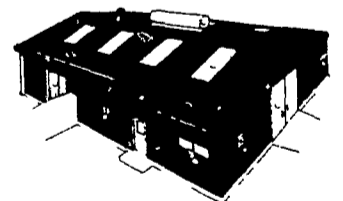
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