

Jeff Rutt accepts challenge of farm ownership

BY DEBRA STRICKLER WAKEFIELD—Owning and managing a two hundred acre dairy farm south of Wakefield is a special challenge for 21 year old Jeff Rutt, recently nominated to receive the American Farmer Degree. As a 1976 graduate of Solanco High School, Jeff has owned his own farm for nearly a year.

Jeff and his father, Kenneth Rutt, worked to take care of the operation while he was still in high school. After graduation, a partnership was established. This past January he purchased the farm. Jeff says, "I give a lot of credit to Dad for encouraging me in farming and letting me help in making management decisions early."

Jeff readily admits that it is "hard to get started." "When I decided to buy the farm I knew it wasn't going to be easy and it isn't. But with a lot of faith and assurance that I'm doing the Lord's will I know I can't go wrong," added Jeff. He has accepted his task as a challenge in the life he was given.

past year that has improved his herd's production.

Dividing the cows according to their average production, he permits the better producers to eat higher concentrated feed, while monitoring the lower producers on a totally mixed ration program.

He has also built 12 calf hutches for the newborns. Removing the calves from their mother as soon as possible, he takes the calves outdoors to their individual hutch. The calves appreciate the fresh air and sunshine. Jeff feels that the individual pens protect the animals from diseases that may be encountered in the barn.

After graduation from high school he began to study techniques for artificial insemination and is presently responsible for all the cows bred on the farm. He was interested in learning the breeding procedures because he never liked the idea of a stranger handling his cows, and finds the process convenient and less expensive.

While at Solanco, Jeff served as newsreporter and president of the local FFA Chapter. He was active in the parliamentary procedure team, having participated in

local, regional, and state competitions.

He appreciates all the support and encouragement received from Dr. William Fredd and Mr. Ron Althoff, his vocational agricultural advisors.

During the summer months, Jeff enjoys playing softball on a local league. As an active member of the Mechanics Grove Church of the Brethren, he is presently serving as chairman of the Commission on Witness. They have recently established a radio ministry.

Jeff and his fiancée, Suzanne Groff, will be flying to the National FFA Convention next week. The award will be bestowed to 789 outstanding FFA members throughout the nation in special ceremonies on November 8.



Jeff Rutt, an American Farmer Degree recipient, is proud of his two day old calf. All his calves are kept outdoors in calf hutches, on his 200 acre farm south of Wakefield.

Carroll dairymen to elect director

WESTMINSTER, Md. - Area members of Maryland Cooperative Milk Producers will have a chance to exercise their voting powers at the District Three Annual Membership Meeting Monday, November 5, at the Carroll County Agricultural Center.

The 141 member-producers will nominate a director to be ratified by the total membership at the cooperative's annual meeting in March, for a three-year term from March 1980 through February 1983. Melvin E. Leppo of

Sykesville is the incumbent director whose term expires in February 1980.

The program, to be kicked off with a dinner at 7 p.m., will consist of reports to members on national and local milk production, sales and price trends, and the current status of the Holly Milk Plant in Carlisle, Pa. In addition, members will review the financial condition of the cooperative, including its operating divisions.

All of Carroll County is included in District Three. Current directors are Leppo

and Herbert W. Wessel Jr. of Hampstead. Field representatives for the area are Jerry A. Ensor of Westminister and L. Raymond Hoff of Baltimore.

Ralph L. Strock, business manager of the cooperative, said, "The Annual District Membership Meetings are extremely important as an information source for members and all are urged to attend."

Maryland Cooperative Milk Producers Inc., the largest Maryland-based dairy cooperative,

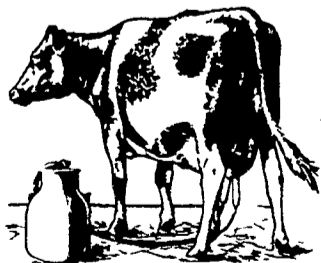
represents more than 1,000 dairy farmers in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia and West Virginia.



Taking semen from a nitrogen storage tank is a part of the artificial insemination techniques Jeff has mastered since graduation from high school.

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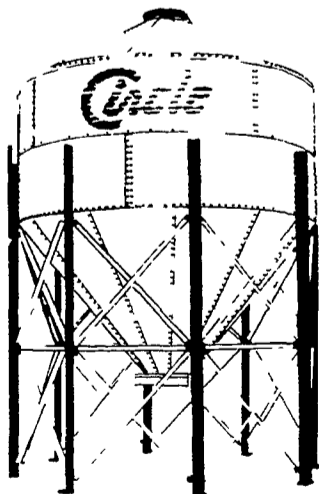
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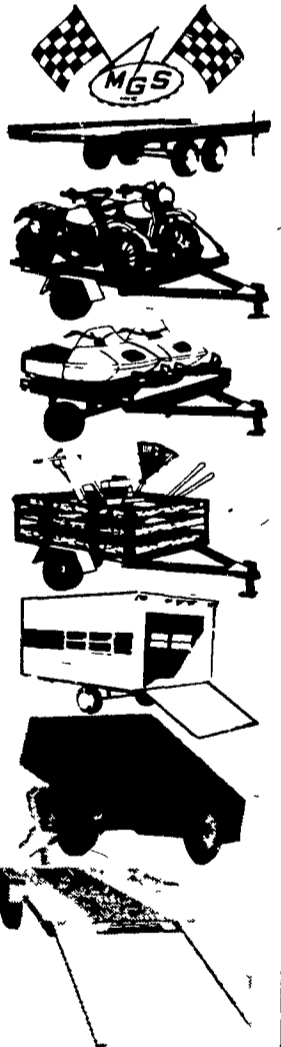
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