



The out-of-state visitors were welcomed by some of Beechdale Farms' newborn calves.



Dr. Thomas Conrad talks to the group about his purebred Simmental operation.

### Beechdale Farms

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semen from the best bulls available.

His present herd consists of three-quarter blooded Simmentals, purebreds, and full bloods.

Conrad also told the group that Beechdale Farms does not show their cattle, but sells primarily for the commercial breeders.

The visitors were able to tour the bull barn and take a look at the cow-calf herd. As a matter of fact, some of Conrad's cows were grazing around the stone home's lawn, unconcerned with the 160 people wandering about them.

Beechdale Farms even gives a guarantee to its customers. It says, "As long as you are our customer, we will assist you in your breeding plans, feeding formulas, herd health, record keeping, performance testing, marketing, and registering

### A closer look at Forry Farm

MANHEIM — The visitors were in for a unique operation at the Forry farm. Here they saw a housing engineering set-up totally different from any previous stop on the trip.

Under one roof, Forry fattens 850 steers each year. These steers are housed on top of an 8 foot deep manure pit, one area measuring 104 feet by 50 feet, and the other measuring 50 feet by 50 feet for two additional sections.

The walls of the manure pit are ten inches thick, Forry added. He said he prefers the two smaller sections over the one large manure pit because he doesn't have to set up his pump as often to agitate the manure.

Before pumping out the manure, Forry said he adds 2000 gallons of water to the manure to help to liquify it. He pointed out that you can't add the water too fast because it creates too many gases.

your animals. If you are not satisfied, we will refund your money or furnish another animal of like kind."

One of the visitors asked Forry how he checks the gas level before he goes down into the pit. He said he had a steer fall through the slats one time, and since the steer didn't die, he said he figures it's okay.

The steers walk on top of slatted concrete floors which allow the manure and urine to drop down into the pit. The slatted floors are made up of poured sections with slats 5 inches wide with a 1 1/4 inch space between the slats.

Forry said his building was designed to give each steer 20 square feet of space, at maximum capacity of 500 head.

The only problem he said he had with the design was the open peak of the roof that runs the length of the building.

He told the visitors he once tried to put a section of roof over the space and found he had air circulation problems. So he removed his attempt to remodel the design, and puts up with the little bit of rain and snow that falls through the space.

Forry pointed out that the older building in the feedlot was constructed in 1973. In

this barn, they installed styrofoam on the inside of the roof. He pointed out that this side of the barn still "sweats", so they eliminated this in the newer section built in 1975.

The Manheim cattleman continued to dazzle his audience when he told them his feeding program put his 60,000 layers and 62,000 broilers to work in feeding his cattle.

Forry told them how he

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### Greystone Manor Farms

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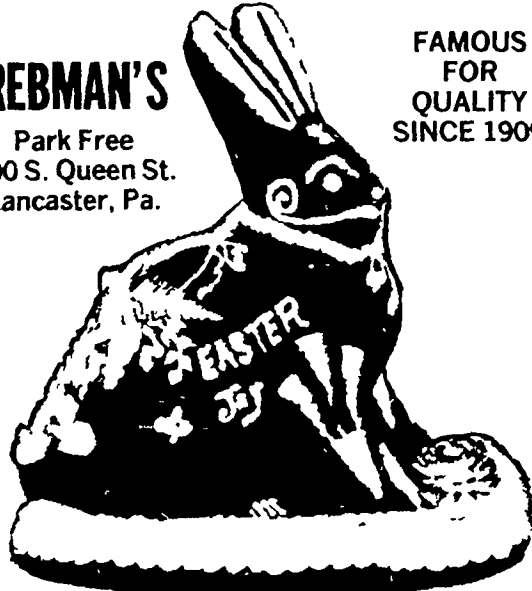
yields roughly 24 ton of silage per acre.

In addition to raising corn, the farm also raises 100 acres of alfalfa every year, primarily for haylage. Firestone noted they feed hay only when the cattle first arrive at the farm.

Greystone Farms also feeds 500 head of hogs and keep 40 brood sows. They have a boarding business for about 50 horses at another farm, but they no longer raise Thoroughbreds, Firestone noted.

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