



Brief answers  
to short questions  
**Sheila's  
Shorts**  
By Sheila Miller

In honor of dairy month, I decided to once again give myself the liberty of forging ahead on one of my own questions.

This time, the question was more one of curiosity.

Driving down Interstate Route 15 towards Frederick, Maryland, as I have had the opportunity to do several times this Spring, I had the chance to look around at the Mason-Dixon area farms and scenery.

Mid-way between the line that divides our state from Maryland and the city of Frederick, lies an operation I had often noticed but never stopped to see.

Feeling a bit like Charles Kuralt, I turned the steering wheel of my blue and white

Dodge off the four-lane highway and into a paved driveway.

Out in front of the one barn closest to the highway, a sign proudly identified what type of operation I was visiting. In big, bold letters, the words Sire Power, Inc. revealed of the barns where massive cattle lounged behind thick steel fence.

Walking into the main office, I was greeted by a very friendly receptionist who encouraged me to take along any literature I wanted (there were stacks and stacks of colorful brochures featuring their bulls).

Really, all I wanted to do was take a gander at the bulls. I was granted per-

mission to leisurely take a look around — the only condition was that I slip on a pair of clear plastic boots, resembling cellophane sandwich bags shaped for a foot.

After an effort of balancing camera, note pad, pamphlets, and myself, I somehow managed to get it all coordinated and stepped triumphantly into the cool, dark barn.

Once my eyes adjusted

from the bright sunlight outdoors to the barns interior, I saw standing before me giant Holstein bulls. I quickly realized there were protective bars to walk behind while wandering down the aisles, and decided it would be wise to take advantage of them.

The immenseness of the beast, I guess, is what amazed me. Each one of the bulls was equipped with a permanent nose ring which I

figured came in handy on numerous occasions.

The only visitor in the barn, I guess I was somewhat of a novelty for the bulls to watch, too. Showing off a bit, they snorted and stretched like weight lifters in a muscle competition.

I must admit when they lumbered up to the steel rails of their pens, I kept wondering if the two-inch pipe would hold an angry bull.

Remembering an animal behavior course I took at Penn State, I didn't look any of them in the eye for fear they would interpret it as a sign of aggression.

To say I tiptoed around the barn wouldn't be exactly true, but I did watch my step.

Just respectfully admiring those giants from a safe distance satisfied my curiosity about the breeding cooperative's barn of bulls.



Remvale Elevation Saxon, sired by Round Oak Rag Apple Elevation 1491007, posed for the camera.

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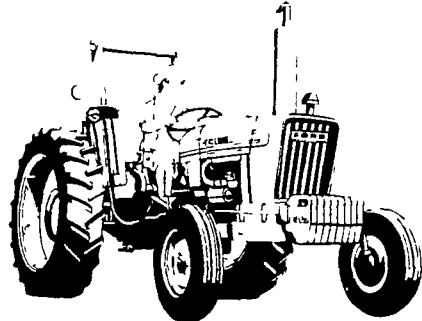


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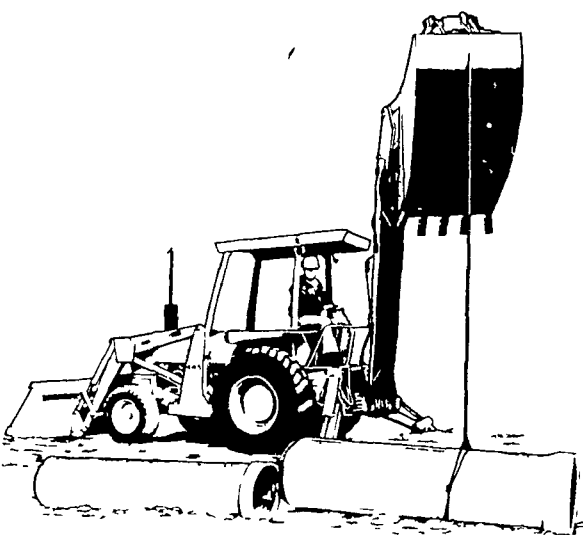


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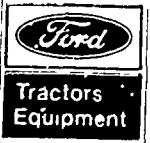
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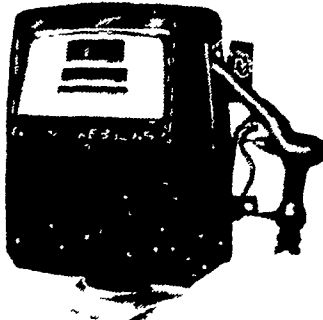
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