

# That's a heck of a place to have a calf

## Book-a-mal-doh

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN  
VIRGINVILLE

Anything can and usually does happen on a farm.

The dairy farm of the Carl S. Miller family of Berks County is a good example.

Happenings are a combination of big and little things.

The Miller family recently was named the 1980 Reading Fair Farm Family in competition conducted by the Berks County Pomona Grange through its subordinate granges. Now that's a pretty big happening.

But along with this significant honor, the little things keep occurring back on the farm, particularly when that operation stretches over 1800 acres, owned and rented, and includes 328 milking cows and 220 young stock.

Let's concentrate on just one of those little happenings.

Just about the time the Farm Family honors were being bestowed, son Jeffrey C. Miller and Rodney Reichard, who direct the extensive dairy operation, had one of the most unique emergency calvings in a long time.

And like the paramedic or police officer who is called on to make emergency deliveries under unusual conditions, they came through with flying colors.

"We've had our share of unusual calvings recently," Miller explained.

"We've had the calves coming in all imaginable positions, but this one was a bit different."

It seems one of the Miller cows began calving in the meadow and was being brought up to the maternity area of the barn complex.

Being one of the more wild cows, she decided to quit cooperating when she got into the courtyard area which is surrounded by buildings.

The trouble began when she went for a stroll on the roof of a free-stall barn, which is only about a foot or so off ground level. The rear portion of the barn abuts a raised area, providing easy access. But it's about an eight-foot drop off the front.

On the roof, she broke through some plexiglass panels with both front legs and one rear leg.

"When I saw the situation," Miller said, "I decided to take the calf right there."

"In trying to get her out first, the calf may have become badly twisted."

So the calf was pulled as shown in the accompanying photo, with the cow trapped on the roof.

After the calf was delivered successfully, the maternal instinct became so great that the cow managed to free herself from her precarious position. One of the photos shows her cleaning up the newborn.

The delivery photos were snapped by Ken Bunkley, a photographer for Sperry New Holland who happened to be at the Miller farm on another assignment.

The farm will be one of those visited when the



National Young Farmer convention comes to Pennsylvania in 1981. Slides were being taken for showing at this year's convention.

And this is just one of the little things that can happen on a farm.

Even on an award-winning farm.



In top right photo, Jeffrey Miller and Rodney Reichard pull calf while cow is trapped on roof of barn.

Above, mother, after working herself free, begins to clean up new offspring.

At the left in a panoramic view of the Carl, Miller farm, located northwest of Virginville, Berks County.

In photo at the right, Jeff Miller, left, and Rod Reichard, stand with another recent-born calf with perfect "seven" on forehead. Behind them is roof that cow fell through.

