

McSparran homestead is over a century old

BY SUSAN KAUFFMAN
Staff Correspondent

HENSEL — Among the eleven Lancaster County Century Farms honored this past week was the Robert B. and Charlotte F. McSparran farm along Goshen Mill Road in the Southern end of the County.

Robert McSparran's uncle, Clyde McSparran, brought it to the family's attention recently that the homestead is actually 101 years old this year. Having a very keen memory for details from many years past, Clyde recalled that his father, James M. McSparran, had purchased the 106 acre farm March 31, 1879, from Thomas Trago trustees.

According to Bob McSparran, who along with his wife, Charlotte, now owns the property, additional land purchases throughout the past century have brought the total to 210 acres. Bob said his grandfather, James, paid \$4000 for the 106 acres and a few years later put out another \$2800 to build a large, well-constructed, frame house for his large family.

The original barn still stands with a number of additions to it and the old small house is still standing. The barn is now used for storage and housing young stock, but the small house has not been used for a long time.

Bob's Uncle Clyde bought the, by-then, larger farm

from his father, James, in 1929. Clyde McSparran continued farming for many years and lived in the large house with his wife until three years ago this month when they moved into the Presbyterian Home in Quarryville.

In 1946, Bob and Charlotte moved into their present home, also a large frame house nearly 100 years old. Four years later they bought the farm including the original 106 acres dating back to 1879.

Bob and Charlotte reared four children. Ellis, Robert, Jr., John and Jane. Their youngest son, John, is in a partnership now with them. They milk sixty Guernseys

and raise their replacements, totaling another fifty head.

The house Bob's grandfather built many decades ago is rented to a family while Bob and Charlotte continue to live in their home along route 272, just east of the original farm which borders Goshen Mill Road.

The McSparran family for generations has been active in community and political functions.

The James M. McSparran homestead, preserved by both his son Clyde and James' grandson, Robert, continues to be part of Lancaster County's agricultural economy

Small grain seed directory available

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — The Maryland Department of Agriculture has good news for farmers thinking ahead toward their Fall plantings of small grains such as wheat and barley. The supply of locally-produced, Maryland Certified Seed will be good.

MDA has compiled a directory of Certified Seed producers of small grains for the current season. The directory is now available free to any farmer or seed dealer wishing a copy. To secure a copy, send your

name and address to: "Certified Seed Directory", Maryland Department of Agriculture, Parole Plaza Office Building, Annapolis, MD, 21401.

Certified Seed, as leading small grain producers know, is the first step toward better crop yields because of its varietal purity, superior germination, stronger resistance to insect and disease pests and the many other special characteristics bred into it.



Bob and Charlotte McSparran stand in front of barn which was part of original 106 acre purchase by Bob's grandfather, James M. McSparran, in 1879.

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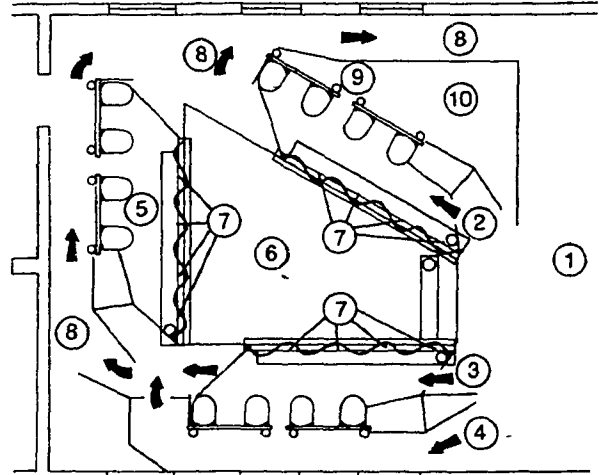
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smooth and easy. Operator is in 30 deep milking area (6) and he milks cows by moving in a circular pattern around parlor. Udder stimulators (7) can be used to prepare cows. The operator attaches the milker unit. When cow has been milked the milker unit can be removed by automated take off units or manually. The cows leave the parlor in the return lane (8). Power operated cutting gates (9) can be used to divert cows that need treatment into a catch pen (10).

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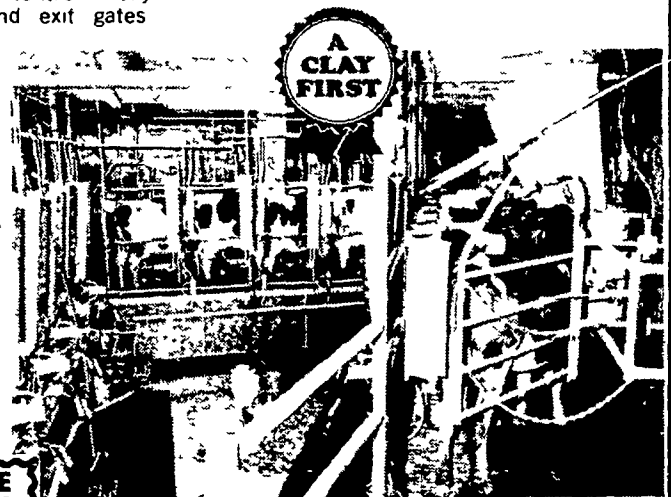
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