

Hartle is Grasslander

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kept in grass to supply hay for dry cows.

Along with having limestone soils, the Hartles' farm is located downwind from a limestone quarry. Over the years, the cropland has always tested out with a high pH. The Hartles rely on soil tests for guidance on fertilizer application for establishment and main-

tenance, adhering religiously to the recommendations.

When preparing a seedbed for hayland planting, Hartles still plow and till the land, with the seeding done with a cultipacker seeder. Most of the seeding is done in the early spring which allows at least two cuttings to be taken off the first year.

With their fertilization and

herbicide program, the Hartles are able to hold their hayland stands for about five years, following it with three years of corn and a year of small grain. While weevils have not been a problem in recent years, leafhopper control gets special attention with Furadan and Cygon.

About half the hay-crop tonnage is wilted to medium to low moisture levels and stored in a sealed silo. The remainder of the hay crop is baled, field cured, with a chemical preservative applied whenever needed.

Hartle's plots entered in the Alfalfa Growers Program in 1977 through 1979 produced an average of 60 tons hay equivalent, 2199 crude protein, and 6568 TDN.

The efficiency and profitableness of Hartle's farming operation culminate in the productivity of his Holstein herd. The September twelve-month rolling average on 67 cows was 20,653 pounds milk and 801 pounds fat with a return-over-feed costs of \$1920.

In their feeding program, the milking herd is encouraged to eat lots of forage by feeding it a number of



Honorable mentions in the Decade Program went to Harold Gayman, Gaymere Farms, Waynesboro, Franklin Co., left; William England, Williamsburg, Blair Co.; and Hershey Bare, Lebanon, Lebanon Co. Reserve Grasslander of the Decade was Summit Farms, Rockton, Clearfield, Co., represented by Ross Orner, Jr. and Russell Orner.

times during the day. Field cured hay makes up about 24 percent of the total forage fed, with haylage providing another 48 percent and corn silage making up 28 percent of the ration. Home-raised grains, mainly high-moisture shelled corn, provide 90 percent of the grain requirements of the milking herd.

The Hartles are active in their community and are involved in the local 4-H clubs, Grange, Holstein Association, DHIA, Extension Executive Committee, and a newly organized farmer-owned-and-directed agronomic consulting service. The family farm has been the recipient of many awards, including 1973 Pennsylvania Granger of the Year, 1977 County Conservation Cooperator, and 1980 Master Farmer.

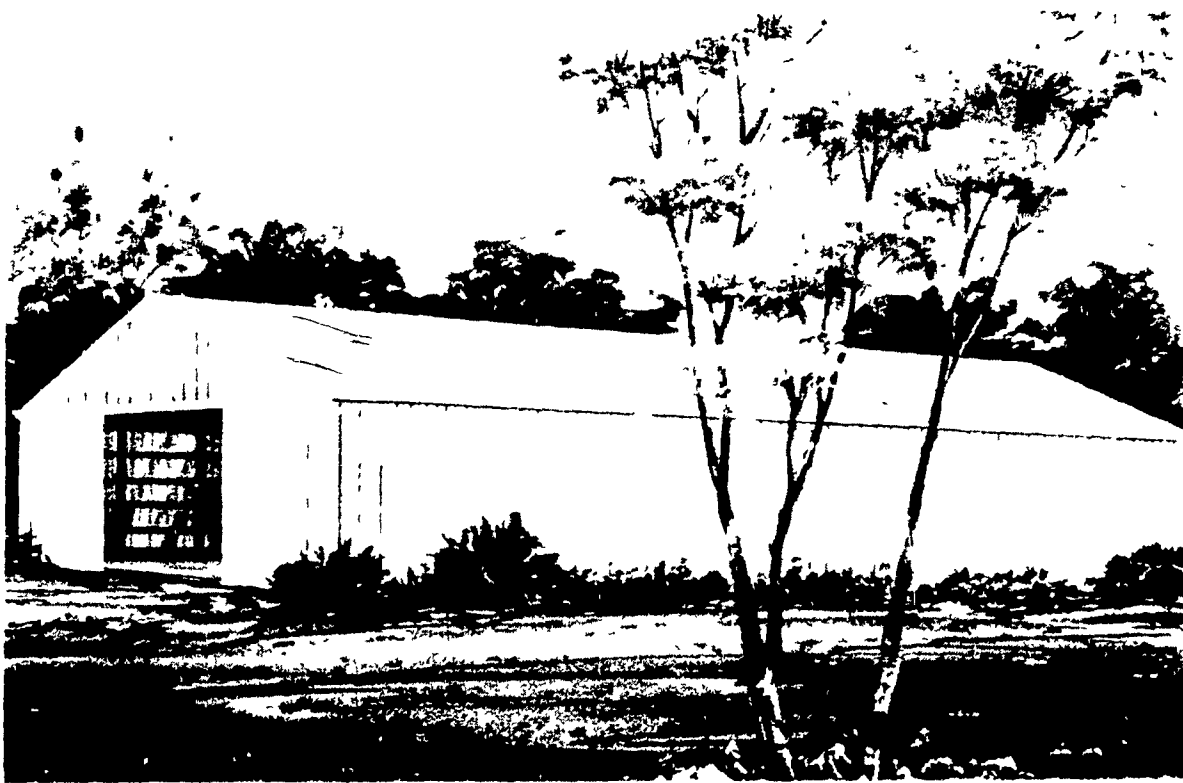
The Reserve Grasslander of the Decade goes to Summit Farms, Clearfield County. This is a partnership farm operation involving three brothers and their four sons. They were winners of the Pa. Forage and Grassland Awards in 1979. Honorable Mention Grasslanders of the Decade include I. Hershey Bare, Lebanon County; William R. England, Blair County; Harold C. Gayman, Franklin County; and John Tautin, Sr., Crawford County.



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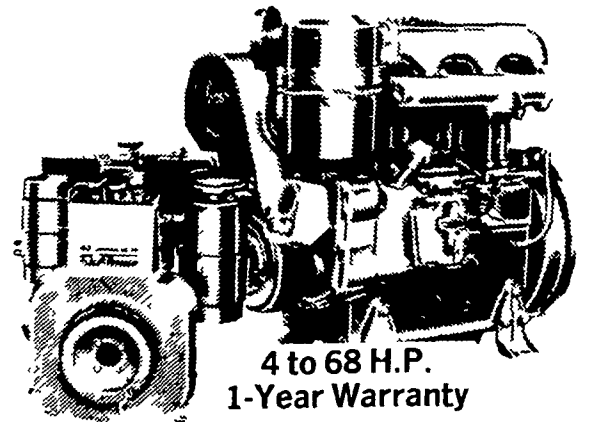
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