

500 sow farrowing complex opens doors

# Hybred Pork is ready for business

**BY SHEILA MILLER**  
**COCALICO** — Any farmer following the recent hog markets during the past

year has seen some of the most peaked price fluctuation in the industry's history. Despite this rise and

fall in prices which makes even the most steady-handed economist's head spin, the interest in raising pork has

not dampened. Responding to the cry from East Coast meat processors for a steady supply of hogs, eight professional farmers and businessmen have joined together to cash in on the premium prices packers are willing to pay for local hogs (passing along part of the savings on freight costs for hogs transported in from the Midwest).

Last Friday, the corporation opened doors to the public in its official-Open House here in Lancaster County. With workmen still hustling to complete the new complex, visitors had a chance to tour through the finished breeding and gestation division, and see the basic groundwork for the remaining farrowing rooms and nurseries.

On hand for the open house were several of the corporate members, including, President Eugene Martin, the former owner of the 10-acre site on which the complex is being erected. Martin, who is from Cocalico, has been in the hog finishing business for the past five years.

Martin explained the reason the group got

together was to produce a top quality animal with a lower break-even." He attributed the brain-storm of forming a corporation to Abe Weidman of Mount Joy, now a Hybred Pork director.

According to Dr. Tim Trayer, manager of Hybred Pork Inc., the corporation allows for a "hybrid of ideas." He noted the mixed group of investors permitted that basis for the Hybred Pork Inc.'s progressive program that "would have strapped any single individual."

Other corporate members include Leon Hoover, Myerstown, Art Hershey, Cochranville, Ezra Good, Terre Hill, Morgan Hollinger, Litz, Melvin Hurst, Ephrata, and Marvin Gingrich, Myerstown.

Leading the way on a tour of the complex, Dr. Trayer's enthusiasm for the complex was impossible to conceal. And he admitted he was anxious to get started — the breeding program was scheduled to begin this week.

As far as whether all the new ideas that went into designing the complex will be successful, Trayer said, he'll just have to wait and see, and then evaluate it

Trayer, who, with his wife Deb, will be managing the hog operation, is not new to the area. He was raised near Hershey and practiced veterinary medicine after graduating from Ohio State University Veterinary College last year as a member of the team from Valley Animal Hospital in Palmyra.

Drawing on his medical expertise, Trayer has assisted in designing one of the best housing arrangements for raising pigs, trying to deal with three major problems — drafts, moisture and environmental temperature.

He pointed out that the complex was designed with concrete floors only in the breeding and gestation area with wire floors being installed in the four farrowing rooms and six nurseries. Trayer noted the sows and boars need concrete floors in the gestation and breeding area in order to avoid leg and feet problems. However, the wire in the other rooms aids in controlling the bacterial count and preventing bad knees in baby pigs.

Once the Cocalico complex is in full swing, explained

Trayer, he will be out 20 sows farrowing room week." The pigs off the sows 3 v



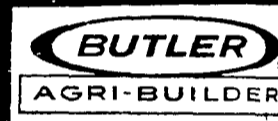
Hybred Pork Inc.'s president Eugene Martin discusses the ongoing construction at the corporation's Cocalico complex with Leon Hoover, center, treasurer and Dr. Tim Trayer, manager.



Dr. Trayer's ability to control moisture, and system.

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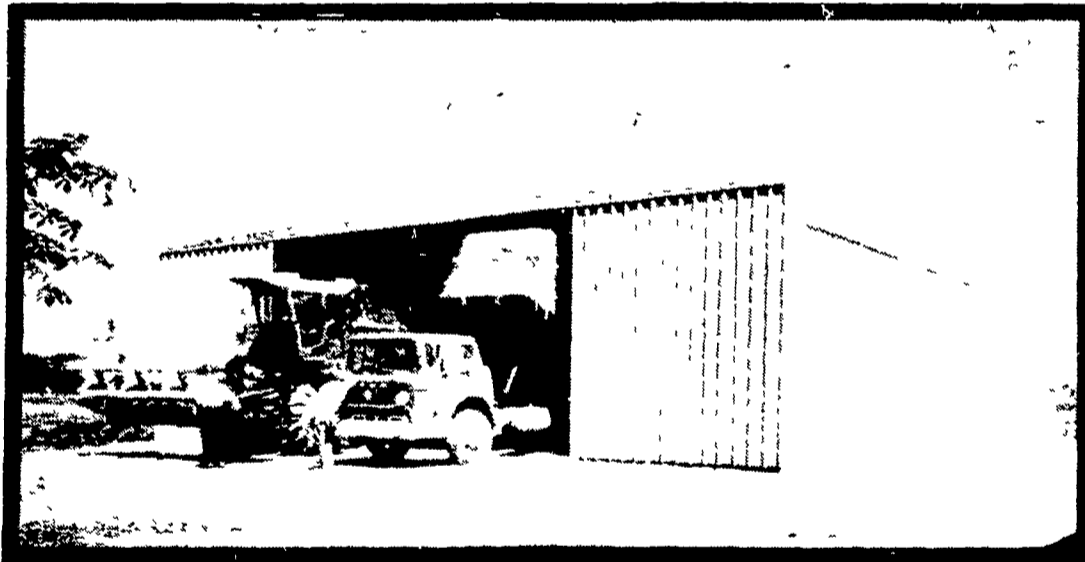
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