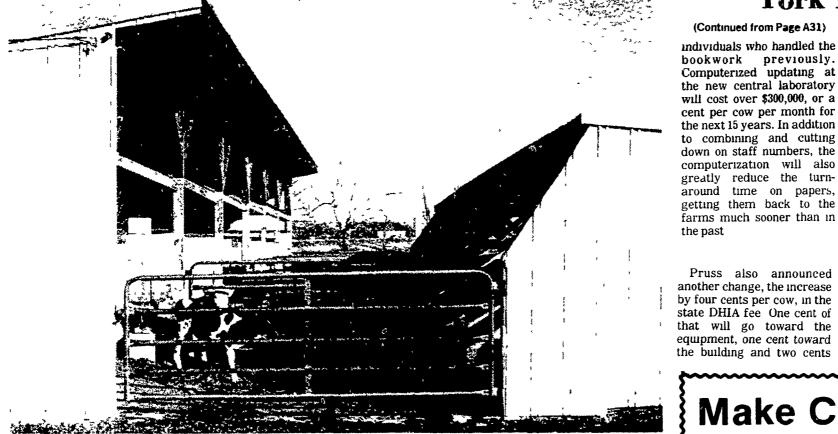
A32-Lancaster Farming, Saturday, December 6, 1980



Leon Musser's calf housing unit, known as Virginia Calf Housing allows calves to be outdoors all winter long. The right side of the barn is exposed

to the south, catching the sun all day long and the left side is completely closed in to prevent drafts.

Calf housing takes positive turn

BY DEBBIE KOONTZ

LANDISVILLE - A lot of people seeing Leon Musser's calf barn for the first time could think that part of the walls and the middle of the roof are missing.

When they discover it's a finished construction, they ask the inevitable, "Don't the calves get cold?

"No," says Musser who himself worried about the same thing when he first began using the barn

The building which contains six pens, each twelve feet wide, is known as Virginia Calf Housing

Musser points out the advantages of such a set-up, "My calves did much better this past winter in this type housing than they ever have

any other winter in my barn They used to get sick with pnemonia quite often until I started using this construction

"The calves slowly get used to the cold weather and actually thrive on it. Here they don't have to continually smell the amonia that they smelled in the barn I think the fresh air is the key to their good health,' Musser said

The housing unit is open to the south, a must according to Musser, or it won't work The roof is placed at such an angle that the calves receive the sunlight all day long

In the winter the calves can lay in the sun and in the summer they can lay in the shade which the divided 18feet-wide roof provides The the construction in a farm northern wall is completely closed against the cold The pens are complete

with three heated water units and a long trough on the southern end of the pens Musser says he hasn't had to change his feeding habits at all except maybe to give them a little more food in the winter because of the cold.

What has changed however, is that the calves have larger pens to roam in and Musser has an easier time cleaning these pens than those pens a barn provides.

A gutter-like drop in the cement and gates between each pen allow him to easily clean the pens

Musser says he first saw

magazine and sent for the blueprints He then constructed the unit using lumber from an old tobacco shed which was previously on his farm

After building the unit, about one year ago, he 'grouped the calves by age from eight weeks till they're ready to calf and filled the pens It wasn't that expensive because I built it myself but it was sure worth it," he said.

Musser also has 62,000 pullets and 54 Holstein cows Blueprints for the calf housing unit are available

from Hoards Dairyman, 28 Milwaukee Ave., West, Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, 53538, for a low selling price

Computerized updating at State administrators are the new central laboratory also looking at an on-line will cost over \$300,000, or a cent per cow per month for the next 15 years. In addition

previously.

(Continued from Page A31)

Pruss also announced

York DHIA

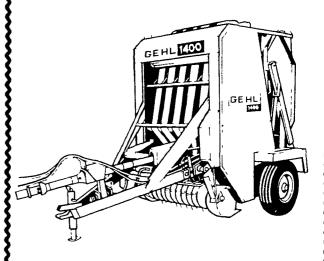
program

computerized system that would someday enable farmers to hook-up to the records right from their farm offices Pruss indicated that one farmer in the state is already linked to a phone computerization of cattle records, tied into a system in the state of Utah

for operating costs of the

Other speakers during the evening included alternate York dairy princess Angle Eyster, who urged the dairy families to always serve butter, and extension agent Neil Jones, with a brief progress report on the county's DHIA program

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3,000	5'4''	17'11"	7	2,432	770.00
4,000	5'4''	23'10"	7	3,130	950.00
5,000	8'0''	13'7"	1/4''	4,484	1,540.00
6.000	8'0''	16'2"	1/4''	5.123	1,690.00
8.000	8'0''	21'6''	1/4"	6,475	2,095.00
10,000	8'0''	26'10''	1/4''	7,825	2,495.00
10,000	10'0''	17'0''	1/4''	6,956	2,250.00
12,000	10'0''	20'6''	1/4''	8,074	2,630.00
12,000	10'6''	18'7''	1/4"	7,900	2,525.00
15,000	10'6''	23'2"	5/16''	11,857	3,825.00
20,000	10'6''	31'0"	5/16"	15,105	4,790.00
25,000	10'6''	38'7''	3/8''	22,115	7,225.00
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