

Clinton Co. beef producer named Master Farmer

MILL HALL — A Clinton County beef cattle producer, who combines business expertise with management efficiency in operating one of the state's more successful farming enterprises, has been named a Master Farmer for 1980.

Ralph E. Dotterer, of R2, Mill Hall, senior partner in a 1500-head feeder cattle operation, will receive the coveted award January 13 during ceremonies in Harrisburg.

Dotterer also will be inducted into the Pennsylvania Master Farmers' Association whose membership consists of all former award winners. The program was established in 1927.

"We originally combined a beef operation with a herd of 80 dairy cows," says the new Master Farmer. In 1976 we decided to sell the milk cows because the two sons, Charles and Ralph, Jr., were

more interested in raising beef cattle."

With 1500 feeder cattle to be sold during the year, there is need for a steady marketing outlet. A slaughter plant in Lock Haven buys about half the Dotterer feeder steers. Other animals are trucked to the Lancaster stockyards.

"We also sell some cattle directly to packers. And others are sold through the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association on a dressed basis," he adds.

In just four years as a full time cattle feeder, Dotterer has developed a reputation as an innovator. One of the first tasks was remodeling the dairy barn to make it a useful part of the beef operation.

He took out free stalls and graded floors so animal wastes can be conveniently scraped to gutters for deposit in a storage pit. Feed

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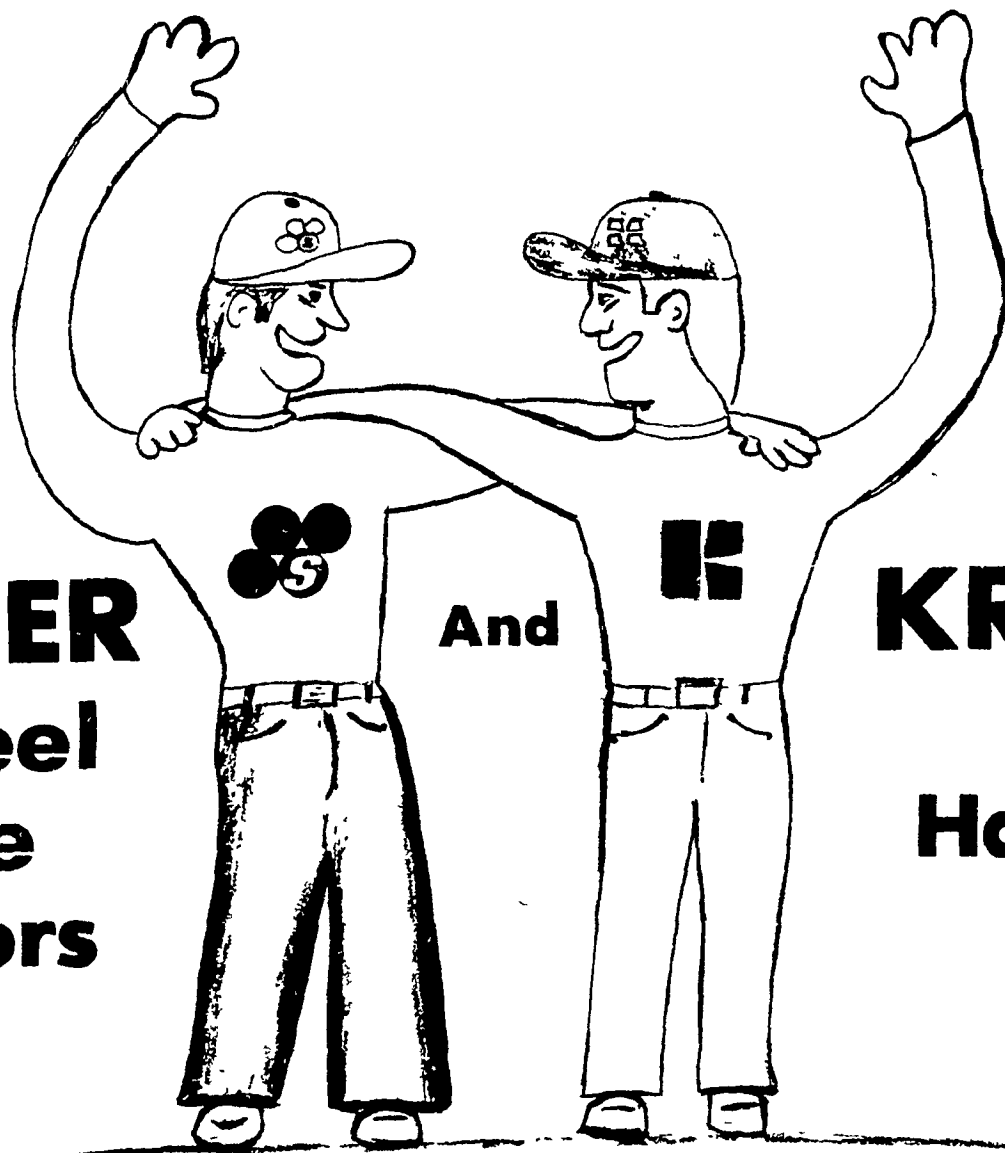


Ralph E. Dotterer, R2 Mill Hall, has developed a reputation as an innovator. He has successfully remodeled a dairy operation to a modern beef

feeding facility. He has been named Master Farmer for 1980.

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