

Farm Talk

Jerry Webb

With all of the reports about crime in the city, it's easy to overlook the problems of crime on the farm.

Statistically, it doesn't show up as much, but farmers and farm organizations are worried about a spiraling crime rate in rural America that runs that gamut from breaking and entering to cattle rustling.

There was a time when there wasn't much around a farm worth stealing, except perhaps some livestock and that was hard to

move, disguise, or even resell. But nowadays big-time agriculture means big investments in equipment and supplies, and that makes it a prime target for burglary.

Today's farms are just loaded with burglarable items, and yet the general level of concern and security in agriculture is appalling. It's nothing to see a \$100,000 combine, or a \$50,000 tractor left standing in the middle of a field overnight during the busy harvest season, or parked in an unlocked or open-fronted shed a

half-mile or more from human inhabitants for an entire winter. What an inviting target for an agricultural thief—one who specializes in farm items.

These guys know the value of modern agricultural inputs. They know how to get onto a farm and get off in a hurry and take with them just those things of marketable value that are easy to peddle.

One such farm thief was interviewed recently. He said he specialized in farm burglaries because they were easy and profitable. He estimated an annual take of \$80,000 — tax free — and figured he could easily steal \$2000 worth a day, even more if he went for large machinery.

This particular bandit stole anything of value — tractors, livestock, fuel, antiques, even copper wire. And he said it usually was quite easy.

This guy's preferred method of operation would be to ride around the country in the daytime, looking for a place with unmowed grass in

the summer or unshoveled snow in the driveway in the winter. He would watch for other signs of activity and note hazardous conditions such as security systems, barnyard lights and barking dogs.

When he found a likely place he would return later, usually at night, with the proper vehicle to haul away whatever he was after. He would drive right up to the door, and if no one answered, it was open house.

Surprisingly, this thief said farmers are genial hosts, hardly ever locking their homes, and securing valuable equipment and supplies with flimsy locks and lightweight hasps. Entry was usually easy and escape, due to the relative isolation of the selected farm site, was hardly ever a problem.

So what does this thief think farmers should do to keep from being ripped off by the agrarian bandits?

* A loud-barking dog — no

professional thief wants to tangle with one of them.

* Plenty of lights at night, a radio playing in the house and in the barn.

* A lived-in appearance by keeping the grass mowed, the mail and papers picked up and cars in the driveway.

* Good locks on all doors and windows for all buildings where things of value are kept.

* A security system — professionals will pass them up rather than take a chance on tripping an alarm. Even one of those signs that says the place is protected by a security system is an important deterrent.

Never leave machinery and livestock or other valuable items where they can't be watched. There have been many instances of modern cattle rustling where a farmer would lose several animals from a herd kept some distance from the farmstead and not even for several days they were gone.

(Turn to Page D16)

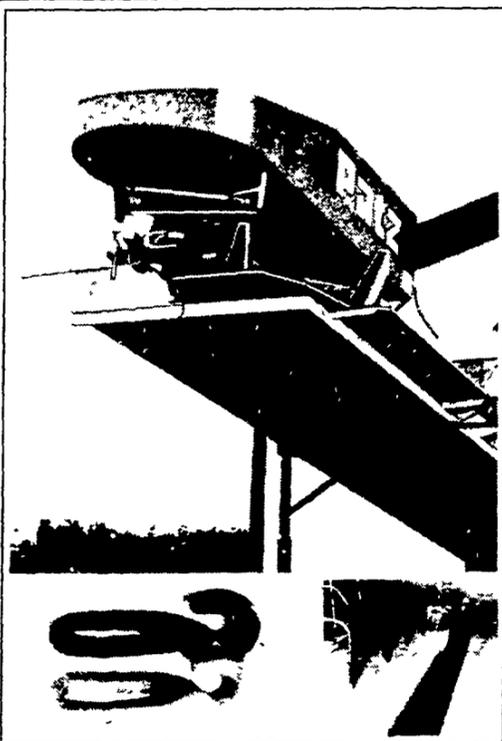
THE PATZ SOLUTION: Rugged, Dependable Gutter Cleaners



Your gutter cleaner has to work day after day, year after year. Better make sure you can depend on it. Patz gives you over 30 years of quality and dependability in every gutter cleaner we make. We're the ones with the proven forged steel hook-and-eye link — the secret to Patz performance. You can easily remove or replace links and flites without tools.

Your Patz gutter cleaner becomes a wise investment for you over the years because it's built to last. The all steel slide and one piece steel flites with wear shoes are engineered to withstand the rugged wear of every day operation. And Patz gutter cleaners are adaptable to many layouts.

Talk to your Patz dealer. He'll show you how Patz performance means fewer problems for you. And that gives you more time to manage your livestock operation for greater profit.



Heavy duty link (top) and extra heavy duty link (bottom) for long chains and heavy loads

Adapts to varied installation layouts

Patz Pound Wisconsin 54161 U.S.A.
Performance Strong as Steel

DISTRICT MANAGER

GEORGE HEATH 472 Woodcrest Dr Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 717-737-0002

Contact your nearest Patz dealer

ALEXANDRIA
MAX ISENBERG
814-669-4027

BALLY
LONGACRE
ELECTRIC
215-845-2261

BEDFORD
BENCE FARM
EQUIPMENT
814-623-8601

BELLEVILLE
MACLAY & SON
717-935-2101

CAMP HILL
LLOYD SULTZBAUGH
717-737-4554

CHAMBERSBURG
CUMBERLAND FARM &
DAIRY INC
717-263-1965

ELLIOTTSBURG
CARL BAER
717-582-2648

HAMBURG
SHARTLESVILLE
FARM SERVICE
215-488-1025

LEBANON
MARVIN J. HORST
DAIRY EQUIPMENT
717-272-0871

MILLERSBURG
LANDIS
LABOR SAVERS
717-692-4647

MILTON
LANDIS FARMSTEAD
AUTOMATION
717-437-2375

PIPERSVILLE
MOYER
FARM SERVICE
215-766-8675

QUARRYVILLE
UNICORN FARM
SERVICE
JAMES E. LANDIS
717-786-4158

TERRE HILL
TERRE HILL
SILO CO. INC.
215-445-6736

MARYLAND DEALERS

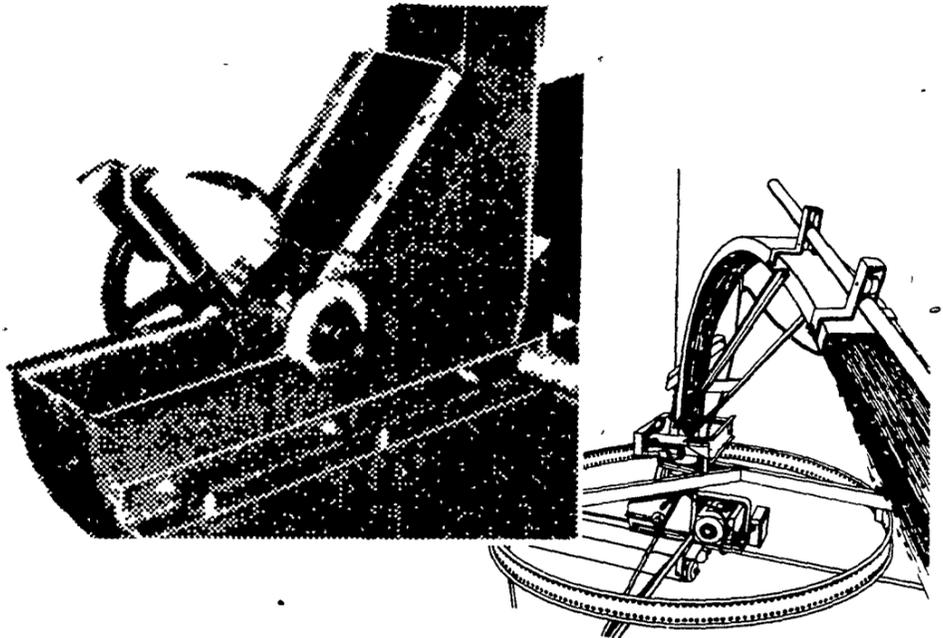
HAGERSTOWN, MD
TRI-STATE
FARM AUTOMATION
301-790-3698

KENNEDYVILLE, MD
PINDER SERVICE CO.
301-348-5263

LINEBORO, MD
WERTZ GARAGE, INC
301-374-2672

STREET, MD
P & S EQUIPMENT INC
301-452-8521

Volumatic® III silage distributor-unloader by JAMESWAY®



Fast unloading

Another reason why all ring-drive silo unloaders are not alike: Big 26-inch diameter impeller pours out silage. Easily converts from rigid to swinging paddles in minutes to match silage conditions. Features abrasion resistant steel rim; removable top for easy access ... easy to service.

See us for systems and service that help make the good life better.

AGRI EQUIPMENT INC.

2754 Creek Hill Rd
Leola, PA 17540
717-656-4151

I. G. SALES

Rt 113, Box 200
Silverdale, PA
215-257-5135

G. HIRAM BUCHMAN, INC.

Rte 519-N off Rte 46
P.O. Box 185
Belvidere, NJ 07823
201-475-2185

GEORGE A. COLEMAN

Rt #2 Box 216
Elmer, NJ
609-358-8528

DEPENDABLE MOTORS

Honey Brook, PA
215-273-3131
215-273-3737

HENRY S. LAPP

RD1, Cains, Gap, PA 17527
717-442-8134

HARRY L. TROOP

Rt 1 Cochranville, PA 19330
215-593-6731

ERB & HENRY EQUIP., INC.

22 26 Henry Avenue
New Berlinville, PA
215-367-2169

BENNETT MACHINE CO.

1601 S Dupont Blvd
Milford, DE
302-422-4837

ROVENDALE SUPPLY

RD 2, Watsonstown, PA 17777
717-538-5521

SOLLENBERGER SILOS

RFD 2, Chambersburg, PA
717-264-9588

J. A. SWOPE

Box 121, RD1
Myerstown, PA
717-933-4758

DETWILER SILO REPAIR

Rt 2, Newville, PA
717-776-7533