

# Md. farmer takes shine to solar hoghouse

DELMAR, Md. — Ralph E. Timmons and his son Ralph, Jr., hosted an open house Tuesday to show off what is probably the first solar-heated "maternity hospital" for swine in the Mid-Atlantic area and the entire Northeast.

The Timmons farm is located on Maryland's lower Eastern Shore, seven miles east of Delmar (Wicomico county), on Line Road.

The Timmons' new confinement farrowing house and nursery is 102 feet long and 27 feet wide. The building has 16 farrowing crates and a 45-foot by 27-foot hot and cold nursery area for newly weaned pigs. A double ventilation system which divides the building into quadrants is reputed to be unlike anything of its kind now in use. Timmons designed it himself.

The solar collection system covers 1,000 square feet of roof space. A 36-cubic-yard rock system in the center of the building will be used for storing heat.

Timmons estimates his total farm and home fuel bill will be reduced by at least 50 percent from what it would have been if the new hoghouse had been equipped with a conventional heating system.

The Timmons family did most of the construction work themselves on the new building. They hired some skilled help for masonry work and installing the solar panels on the roof.

And they received advice on technical matters from two professional agricultural engineers associated with the

University of Maryland's Cooperative Extension Service.

The Extension consultant, Lewis E. Carr, headquartered at the university's poultry research substation near Salisbury, and Herbert L. Brodie, who operates out of the Queen Annes county Extension office in Centreville.

Carr utilized his experience with solar-heated broiler houses at the Salisbury research farm to give technical advice on heating and ventilation, while Brodie dealt with water and waste disposal. The waste disposal system features a two-stage manure lagoon about 50-feet from the building.

Both of the Extension agricultural engineers helped Timmons qualify for a \$17,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy's Small Grants Program for Appropriate Technology.

Under terms of the grant, University of Maryland personnel will record and analyze data relating to the performance of the solar-heating system in the Timmons hoghouse. This information will be compared with similar data from a conventionally heated confinement farrowing house on a neighboring farm.

If the system works as expected, Timmons feels that owners of swine confinement systems and poultry houses, both new and existing, will want to use his solar design or a modification of it.

Five years ago, Timmons

(Turn to Page A21)



Ralph Timmons, Jr., left, goes over solar hoghouse plans with Wayne V. Shaff, agricultural Extension agent in Wicomico County on Maryland's lower Eastern Shore.

The solar-heated confinement farrowing house and nursery building in background is believed to be the first of its kind in the entire Northeast.



The satisfaction that comes from doing a good job of farming

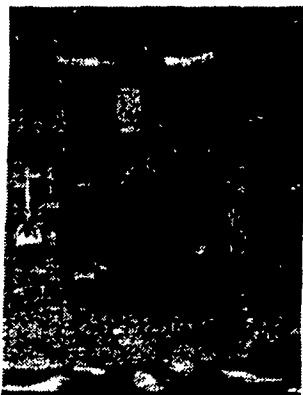
Liming is one of the most important factors in keeping your soil in the highest productive range. A good pasture with a pH of 6.5 or higher, for example, will make 300 to 400 lbs of beef per acre and produce up to \$100 gross income per acre. This means with the help of lime, profits from pastures can compare favorably with feed or grain crops.



ORDER NOW FOR PROMPT DELIVERY  
Blue Ball (717) 354-4125  
Gap (717) 442-4148

## WORRIED ABOUT FUELISH HEATING BILLS??

**SURDIAC Coal Burning Stoves will comfortably heat your entire home for approximately \$150 - \$250 per heating season!!**



This stove remains unexcelled in:

- ★ BEAUTY
- ★ QUALITY
- ★ PERFORMANCE
- ★ MINIMAL CARE & MAINTENANCE
- ★ EFFICIENCY

**ELMER L. STOLTZFUS**

171 QUARRY ROAD, LEOLA, PA 17540  
PH: 717-656-9041

## SERVICE REMINDER

In continuing to meet our goal of pleasing our customers, we have hired an answering service to pick-up our after hour "emergency" service calls.

By dialing our regular office phone number, (717) 656-4151, after the regular hours of 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., the phone call will automatically be answered by one of the answering service staff members. They will in turn get in contact with our servicemen.

We believe that with this addition, we will be able to offer our customers even better service. Thank you!



**CATTLE — HOG — POULTRY EQUIPMENT**  
2754 CREEK HILL RD.  
LEOLA, PA. 17540  
PH: 717-656-4151  
★ SERVING PA, NJ and NY

SALES



SERVICE

POWER—TAKE-OFF — DRIVE SHAFTS

★ REPAIRED ★ REBUILT ★

"SERVICE NOW — WHEN YOU NEED IT"

PHONE:

717-394-2647 or 800-732-0004

- FARM EQUIPMENT
- P.T.O. SHAFTS
- U-JOINT REPLACEMENT
- GOOD STOCK
- DUMPS
- CUSTOM SHAFTS
- SHORTNING
- LENGTHENING



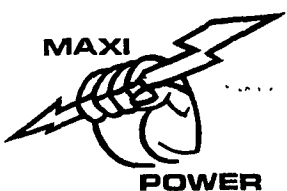
**lancaster truck bodies**  
lancaster automobile spring co., inc.

310 RICHARDSON DR.  
LANCASTER-HEMPFIELD  
INDUSTRIAL PARK  
P.O. BOX 4626  
LANCASTER, PA. 17604

Progress is important, but a new tractor does not make your MAXI-POWER PTO generator obsolete because of a different speed of a PTO shaft. All MAXI-POWER PTO's have interchangeable gearboxes. Gearboxes are carried in stock and can be installed in minutes by our servicemen, and at a very low price.

Call us today for a generator to keep pace with your farm's growth. Whether PTO speed is 540 or 1000, MAXI-POWER is the only generator for you.

MAXI-POWER . . . a customer service oriented company.



**MAXI-POWER GENERATOR SYSTEMS**

330 Fonderwhite Road, Lebanon, PA 17042  
PH: 717-274-1483

Division of Leonard Martin Company

