

Blosers team up with new, modern dairy complex

BY BETH HEMMINGER
Staff Correspondent

CARLISLE — "After my two sons were born, I hoped one would be interested in farming, but I wasn't going to force them. My wife and I gave them the opportunity to learn about the farming industry, the good and bad," said Marlin Blosler and wife, Dorothy, of Carlisle.

"Their interest in farming was evident after they were both old enough to help with the feeding, carrying milk and pitching hay; they never complained and always seemed to enjoy what they were doing. Even during high school, their interest in farming never waned, always doing their chores before and after school," said Blosler.

Steve, 23, and Tom, 19, both remarked, "We never thought of doing or being anything else, we have been farming all our lives and plan to continue if possible."

Today, after viewing the new farming complex at the Blosler's Open House, one can see the desires and dreams of father and sons becoming a reality.

Featured at the Open House were the large 100-cow freestall barn, High-Tech milking parlor wing, Temp-Matic controlled bulk tank and other unique facilities that will provide the opportunity needed for herd expansion and increased production.

"People have asked why did you build this modern farming

facility," Blosler said. "Well, Tom and Steve expressed their ideas about expansion because they both wish to stay on the farm. After talking to the experts from Surge, Agri-Inc., Penn State and others, my wife, myself and my sons decided to build a new facility that would give the Blosler families' dairy business room to grow."

Steve remarked, "Expansion and improvements to the old barn would have been costly and limited compared to the facility we now have."

With the new complex, the herd will gradually be increased. In the old barn, the Bloslers were milking 67 cows in two shifts. Now, they will soon be running 100 cows through the 10-station milking parlor in less than an hour.

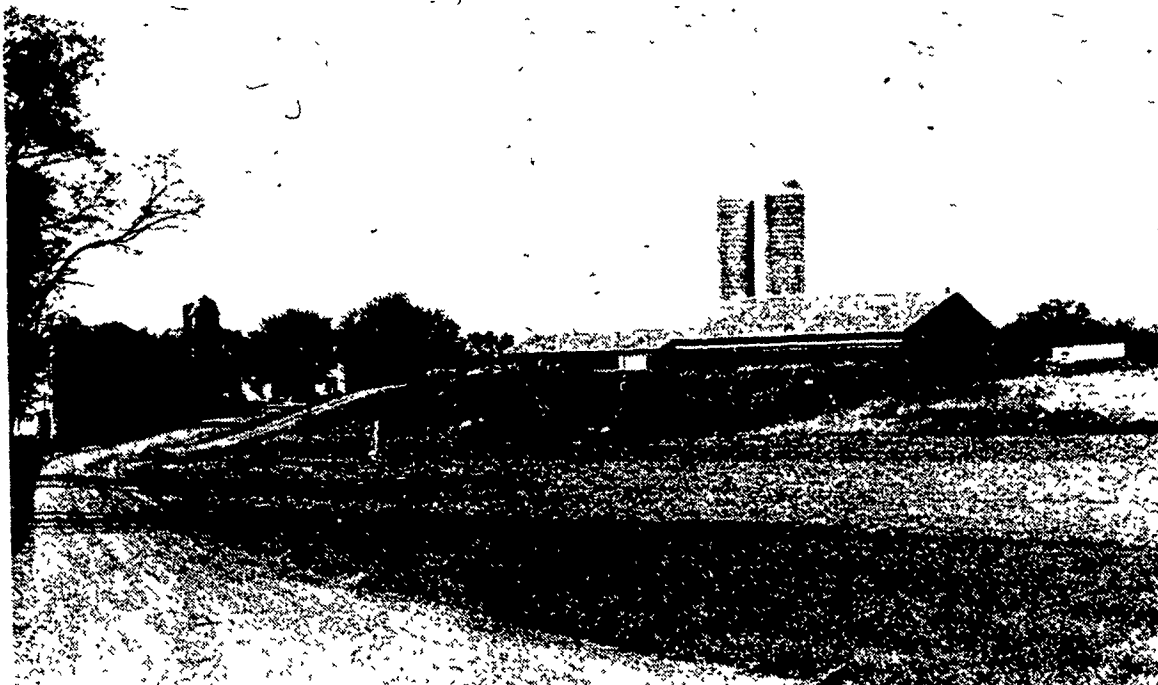
With the influence of the industries' experts, the contractor, Agri-Inc., and the Blosler family, the new facility is a display of innovative equipment.

The bulk tank contains one of the newest features on the market today. The tank is monitored by a computer, the Temp-Matic solid state recorder/controller. This small computer offers precision to monitor, record, control and display the cooler/washer functions. The built in time and temperature recorder provides an hourly record on adding machine tape and also prints out every ten minutes when a change in temperature occurs.

Large digital readouts provide a



It was a choice of remodeling their old dairy barn or starting from scratch for the Marlin and Dorothy Blosler family of Carlisle. They reached a mutual agreement that preparing for a future in the dairy business for sons Tom and Steve, from left, meant a brand new facility.



The new dairy barn is situated across Barnstable Road from the Bloslers' old bank barn and home. The rich Cumberland County soils produce the feed necessary to keep their cows content.



The new freestall barn is equipped with all the latest equipment, including the head-lock partitions for quick-catches of cattle.

constant display of temperature and cooler/washing functions. Steve explained that, in the event of a power failure, a battery back-up activates an alter-light circuit and continues to function while a warning signal flashes in the parlor area.

While the plans were underway for the new complex, the Bloslers learned about the increasing problem of stray voltage that is facing farmers who milk in parlors or carousels.

Steve said, "The static electricity can drop production levels drastically because a cow is ten times as sensitive as a human and can feel as little as one volt of electricity."

The engineers were called in and recommended that everything in the parlor be constructed with one common grid. One common material breaks down the voltage, minimizing the amount of static the cow actually feels," explained Steve.

"Nutrition is important to the herd's productivity," added Steve. "We felt the mixer-feeder was a must for our new operation."

The mixer-feeder mixes the different grains and minerals thoroughly by a push of a button. Then it is used for feeding in the new barn by driving through.

"This method of feeding is nutritionally fullproof," stated Steve. "Like humans, cows like to pick and choose what is appealing to their tastebuds, which is not always beneficial. Therefore, with all the grains and minerals mixed thoroughly the cows have to eat everything."

To reach the herds full milking

potential, they are divided into two production groups, high and low producers. The top producers on the one side have supplemental gains and protein added to their feeds. The low producers amount of feed is minimized and contains less of the added supplements.

Blosler's dry cows also get special attention. They leave the free stall barn and are placed in the 'hospital' area, an added feature of the new barn where it is clean, dry and dietary needs are provided for.

"With the sloping terrain, it was logical to use the gravity flow manure system," said Blosler. "Keeping this barn clean will only take minutes. Manure from the entire freestall area will be scraped by tractor into a pit. From there it will flow into the storage area by gravity. Our system had a six-month storage area, after which it will be loaded onto the manure spreader automatically."

"It is really remarkable to see all the changes that have taken place in the industry compared to 30 years ago when I began my own milking operation across the road," said Blosler. "There were few conveniences then. The Bar was cleaned with a fork, a wheel barrow and a lot of muscle. The milk was carried by buckets."

"Who would have ever thought 30 years later that I would be milking in an air conditioned parlor."

"Farming is an ever changing and vital part of our economy and I am proud that I am able to join my sons in this endeavor with the modern farming facility and the Blosler partnership."

Farm Calendar

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| Stanton Grange, Flemington, N.J., 7 p.m. | Lebanon Farmland Preservation Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Municipal Auditorium, Court House, Lebanon. |
| Farm application of municipal sludge demonstration, Gettysburg Sr. High-School, 7:30 p.m. | AgWay Annual Meeting, Syracuse, N.Y., continues tomorrow. |
| Lancaster County Poultry Association annual banquet, 6:30 p.m., Historic Strasburg. | Friday, Oct. 30 |
| | York Farmers Forum, 7 p.m., Airville Fire Hall. |