

Takeoff of space age computers in industry

data processing... The business... information... during the last 20... that time data... capacity has doubled... coupled with a... Like other... businessmen he said... computer will be... future for large... all businesses and... management... dined many of the... ations of the com... use. First, he said... st understand a... not a mystical... only a tool that can... amount of in... l summarizes the... accurate fashion... gested the first... farmer must ask... a computer in... ill the computer be... in my operation?"... rmer must realize... mitment needed to... computer system... stressed... of microcomputer... brought a new tool

to the farm. However, this new machine has a foreign language that needs defined.

"Hardware" in computer language means the physical piece of equipment that one can look at, touch and move about. Barton stated that the typical farm



Stray electrical voltage is a main concern of speaker Steve Spencer, Penn State Extension dairy specialist.

microcomputer system consists of a printer for report printing, a "central processing unit" (CPU) to manipulate the data, disk drives for storage, a typewriter keyboard and television screen (CRT) for entering and reviewing data.

"Hardware" is a useless tool by itself, explained Barton. Like a tractor it is not a useful tool until an implement is attached to it. This needed implement for the computer is called "software".

"Software" is a set of instructions called a program stored on a disk or tape that the processing unit uses to add, subtract, multiply, divide, sort and print information the operator, in this case the farmer, puts into the computer.

"Software is the single most important item in any computer system," said Barton. "Without software," he said, "a computer is useless."

For agriculture purposes, said Barton, the "hardware" is easy to buy in comparison to "software."

"In agriculture, software has a big limitation - it is scarce," he said. He explained that there are few programs on the market that are applicable for the farmers

need, therefore, "software" can be very expensive.

Barton stated, "A good rule of thumb to follow when calculating the cost of the total system is that the "hardware" will cost approximately 20 percent while "Software" and installation totals the other 80 percent.

Small dedicated micro-or mini processors are used most by the farmers, said Barton. These dedicated computers are programmed to do one job according to their "software" program, from recording milking statistics to budgeting and projecting for next year's grain supplies.

Every farmer needs to project costs and returns. Some farmers do their projections manually, some have the help of an accountant and recently others have been using the microcomputers.

Barton gave examples of other useful ways the computer can be used on the farm.

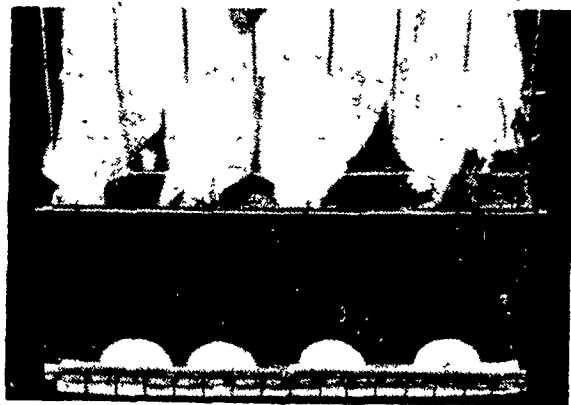
The computer can be used to develop budgets that the farmer can change and update with the varying economic conditions and

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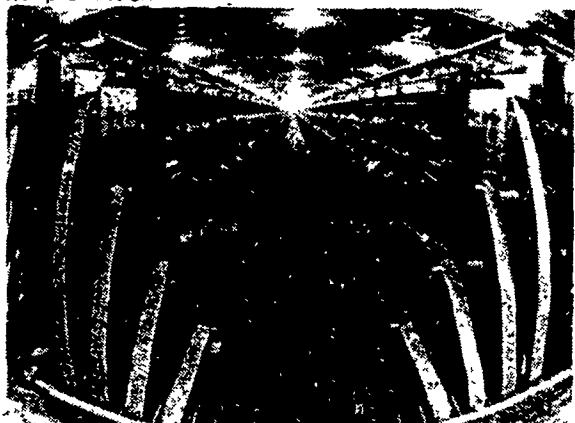
Eugene Barton, superintendent of record, American Jersey Cattle Club, left, discusses the use of farm computers in the dairy industry with an interested farmer at last week's Franklin County Dairy Day.

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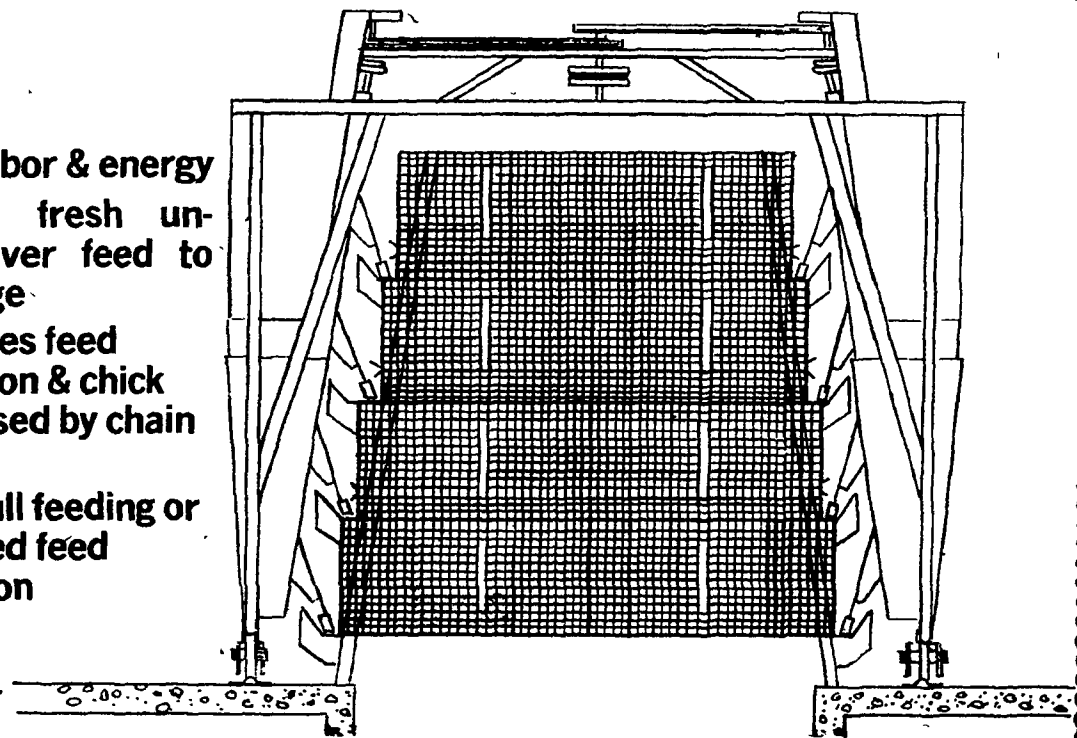
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No. of Rows	CAGE ROW LENGTH						House Width
	100'	150'	200'	250'	300'	350'	
4	27,200	38,400	51,200	64,000	76,800	89,600	37'
5	32,000	48,000	64,000	80,000	96,000	112,000	45'
6	38,400	57,600	76,400	96,000	115,200	134,400	54'

*640 birds per 10' cage section

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