

Md. couple wins use of tractor

(Continued from Page A1)

For the moment Grossnickle says, "I want to concentrate on field crops and get into a better rotation." His corn is all no-till to cut soil erosion and save labor, and he wants to include soybeans double cropped with barley.

Asked about herd problems, Gary says they work closely with a veterinarian, and have "straightened out" some breeding problems. They use all AI, looking for proven bulls with plus 1000 PF and plus in type and fat. An advantage of the stanchion barn is early heat detection.

About a year and a half ago they were plagued with mastitis, but with careful management have brought it under control. They dry treat cows, use teat dip and individual towels. "We feel it's worth it," Gary says.

They have also updated their milking system twice in the last five years. "We updated it. That helped," Gary states.

His goals for the cows is to keep the calving interval down (it's currently at 12½-13 months) and production up. He says if labor were available he would consider increasing his herd to 200 cows in the future, and perhaps have a milking parlor, but there are no immediate plans for that change. He praises his two hired helpers, saying, "We have two real good guys."

They raise all their own herd replacements and for nearly a year have used calf hutches with great success. "We hope to build

more by fall, since most of our cows freshen in the fall and winter," Gary relates.

They use whole milk to feed their calves. Gary explains, "I've tried a dozen different milk replacers, but with the surplus we feel whole milk is best."

Involved in Frederick County Young Farmers and Ranchers for about 10 years, Grossnickle was near the contest age limit of 30. His birthday is in May.

Cindy is involved in the farm, and takes care of all the books for the operation. She can be found in the fields during hay season, but presently keeps busy caring for their three children, Joshua, 5, Carrie, 3 and Amy, 1.

Cindy is active on the women's committee of Farm Bureau, and Gary served as county chairman from 1977 to 1979. He says, "I feel very strongly that Farm Bureau does more for me legislative-wise than any organization I belong to. If we have any particular problems on the local level, we relay that to the lobbyist. We can get in touch with him easily."

The Grossnickles acknowledge that they write to their elected officials, and add, "We get information from them too."

Sold on the benefits of farming, Gary says, "I haven't seen any place better to raise children. I just hope I can farm long enough to give the children the same opportunity I have."

Gary is thoughtful about dairying's future. "The next few years will be tough in general

farming." He feels we are now experiencing a downswing, and in a few years the cycle will go up. "If we get production back in control and keep demand up, we'll come out alright", he says.

The Grossnickles ship to Capitol Milk Producers which markets through the High Dairy Stores. Grossnickle was a Young Cooperator with them, serving as vice-chairman in 1977 and chairman in 1978. In March he was elected to serve on the board of directors.

About this position, he says, "It's impressive. We represent 160 farmers and you must make some important decisions."

Grossnickle believes in being involved, but adds, "I think young farmers should get involved but not to the point that they neglect their farming operation or their families. We became involved in things that are worthwhile. We feel if we're going to be members, we want to be active members. You have to spend time with your family too."

Members of the Lewistown Methodist Church, Cindy is a Sunday School teacher there. Grossnickle is chairman of the Frederick Southern States Petroleum Board and serves on the Frederick-Montgomery unit of Sire Power.

They hope to encourage more young farmers in Maryland to enter the award program next year and win the opportunity to travel and participate in the national program.



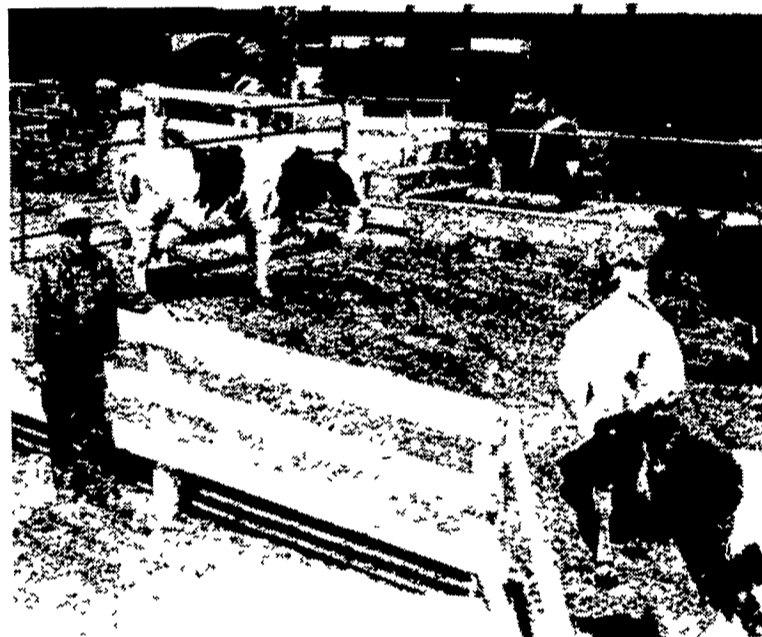
A view of the Grossnickle homestead in Frederick County, Maryland, near Walkersville. The Grossnickles farm 450 acres on this farm and two others and milk 170 cows.

The Grossnickles are pleased with the recognition they have gained and were overwhelmed with the expressions of best wishes they received from other farmers.

But the award will not change their basic outlook toward their farming operation, about which

Gary noted on the application form, "There is always room for improvement and our farm is no exception."

To them farming is a way of life offering many rewards to the family that works and relaxes together.



Gary stands beside the barnyard on his dairy farm near Walkersville, Maryland. He has 170 head of milk cows and 125 replacements.



Gary and Cindy pose with their family beside their new Allis-Chalmers tractor which they can use free for one year as winners of the Farm Bureau Federation's Young Farmer and Rancher award programs. With them are Amy, 1, Joshua, 5, and Carrie, 3.



The Grossnickles relax in the living room of their Frederick County, Maryland home. Cindy is holding Amy while Gary holds Carrie and Joshua is in the center.

Pruss earns PASC post

HONESDALE — Ed Pruss has been appointed Wayne County representative for the Pennsylvania Agricultural Safety Council. Pruss of RD#1, Lake Ariel will help coordinate an effort to expand farm safety education in Wayne County.

Among all industrial occupations in the United States agriculture has the distinction of being the most dangerous. According to statistics kept by the National Safety Council and the Pennsylvania Agricultural Safety Council over the last few years, the farm accident rate has surpassed the mining industry as the most hazardous occupation.

Most of these accidents could be prevented by observing some simple safety practices. Pruss' duties will include scheduling speakers for safety meetings, giving safety talks to interested groups, providing material for new PASC members, and arranging for literature and displays.

The Pennsylvania Agricultural Safety Council is a non-profit agency that promotes rural and farm safety practices in Pennsylvania. Organized in 1978, PASC is the only statewide organization dedicated solely to the prevention of rural-farm accidents.

PASC coordinates and develops safety programs and promotions through various media. For example, with PASC support, 60 Future Farmers of America chapters have conducted hundreds

of farm visits and distributed thousands of safety warning stickers to put on machinery. The FFA chapters also have distributed hundreds of safety brochures.

In Pennsylvania, farm work accidents claim more than 50 lives annually while hundreds of people are seriously injured. Through newspaper clippings and medical reports, PASC monitors the causes of farm accidents.

Each year, PASC recognizes individuals, organizations and businesses that make significant contributions to promoting rural safety in Pennsylvania. Individuals are honored for their efforts in conducting safety campaigns. Recipients have promoted public awareness through direct mail, safety demonstrations and farm visits.

Businesses and organizations have been recognized for their educational programs that help volunteer firemen and homeowners cope with fires and accidents. Such programs include training in rescue techniques from silo fires, manure pits and machinery.

These are just a few of the rural and farm safety programs conducted by the Pennsylvania Agricultural Safety Council. For more information contact Ed Pruss, Wayne County Extension Service, Court House, Honesdale, Pa. 18431, Telephone 717-253-5970 ext. 114.