

# Crossleys' conservation efforts are highlights of Berks tour

**By Laurel Schaeffer**  
**LEESPORT** — Construction of a sod waterway and diversion terrace were highlighted during the annual Berks County Conservation tour last week. The tour which started at the Berks County Agricultural Center, progressed to the Gruber Wagon Works, followed by the Energy Fest and Woodburners Expo being held at the Kutztown Fairgrounds, before winding up at Crossley Brothers, Barto, where the sod waterway was being constructed.

At the Crossley Brothers farm located in the Perkiomen watershed, John Crossley showed visitors the construction which was underway for a sod waterway. The site being drained by the waterway was previously an old orchard which has been turned into field crop production.

A combination of terraces and waterways were being built on the ground encompassing approximately 150 acres to slow water runoff and divert it away from a roadway to the back of the property where a natural waterway exists.

Prior to the conservation work, a driveway leading up to the fields was impossible to maintain do to washing, explained Crossley.

The conservation work, which includes contour strips, will slow the loss of soil due to the runoff and will help retain the water. Crossley stated he remembers an agronomist telling a group of

farmers not to let water leave the farm whenever possible.

The Crossleys began conservation farming with recommendations from the Soil Conservation Service in 1950 — the fifth farm in the county to have signed up in the conservation program. All of their farms, consisting of 400 acres are in conservation practices, including three miles of terraces and three miles of tiled waterways.

"We were always picking rocks and stones," John Crossley explained, "when we first thought of joining the conservation program. After joining, the soil loss was much less, as was their fertilizer and machinery repair bills."

"The water was washing all the soil away, leaving more rocks exposed, each year, Crossley explained. He also noted the conservation practices incorporated into his farming operations have cut down fuel consumption. The terraces have leveled his steepest land, reducing the danger of tip overs.

The Crossleys raise 200 acres of alfalfa and put the rest of their farmland into corn and small grain production. They also have 40 acres of buckwheat planted as a double crop. The farm is run by John Crossley and his brother Harry with the help of four employees.

The Crossleys milk 170 grade Holsteins using a double-six herringbone milking parlor in-

stalled seventeen years ago with a gravity flow pipeline. Manure is stored in tanks and hauled out four times per year.

They have also built a four-acre pond and stocked it with fish. The pond was primarily built to help

the local fire company, Crossley explained.

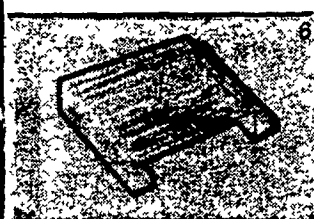
Henry Bohn, director of the Berks County ASCS office told the tour participants that cost shares were still available from his office for conservation practices. He

urged any farmer interested in doing conservation work on a farm to contact his office as soon as possible. Explaining that the next county committee meeting for cost share approval will be held September 24th.

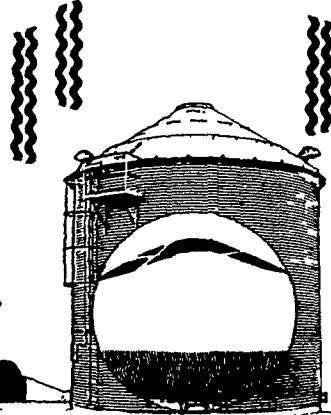
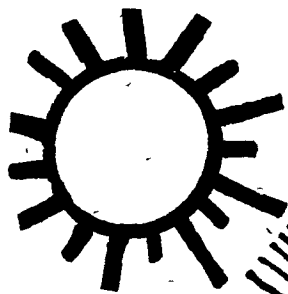


During last week's Berks Conservation tour, waterway with dairyman John Crossley, right, SCS technical Roy Shyrook, left, and ASCS director Henry Bohn look over plans for a sod and equipment operator Phil Gregor.

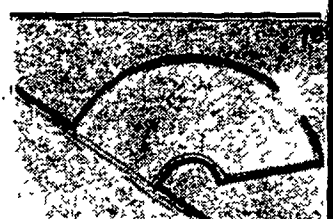
## YOUR HEADQUARTERS FOR GRAIN EQUIPMENT



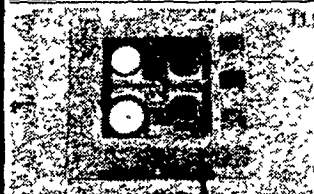
Cor-Lok™ Flooring has a corrugated surface which provides added strength while retaining the smooth surface desirable for bin sweeps and cleaning devices. Round perforations cover the entire width of the surface area.



**GSI NATURAL  
 AIRSTREAM  
 AIR DRYING**



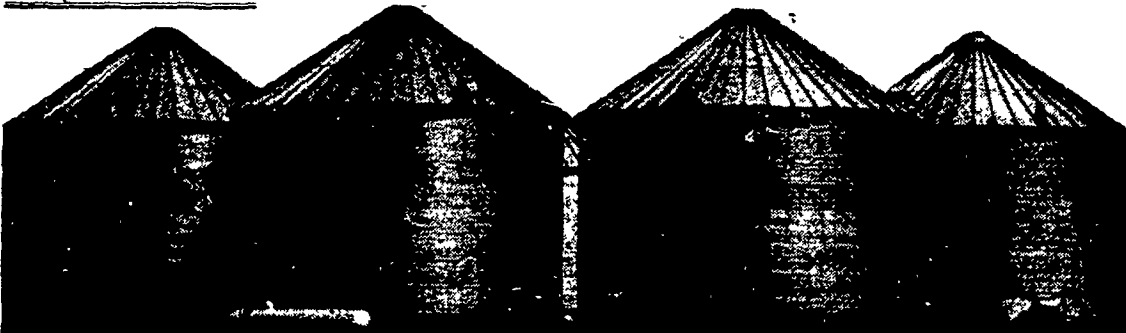
Roof Vent provides a large unobstructed opening to increase air movement through grain and eliminate excessive condensation deposits on the inside of the roof. Eliminates climbing on roof in bad weather conditions to open peak ring cap. Includes bird screen.



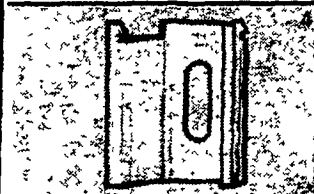
G.S.I. Humidistat™ Thermostat automatically turns the heater on and off to control temperature of humidity with an over-ride control on temperature against overheating. Equipped with cord and male plug to plug into the receptacle of the control panel on the heater. Also available in strictly humidistat or thermostat controls.

**Plan for a little Farm addition  
 with GSI Leasing Today!**

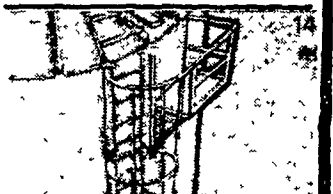
Grain Systems, Inc.



Extra-Large Round Manway is another added feature of GSI bins. This manway provides an opening for easy access. Top hinges completely out the way when open. Rounded edges provide safe entrance and exit through manway.

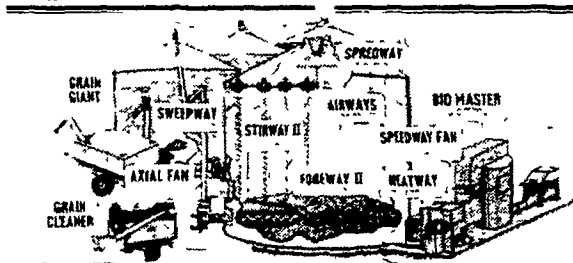


"Grand Stand"™ Floor Supports for Cor Lok and Channel Lok floors. Fewer pieces and absence of rails make installation easier. Snap in Hooks™ hold support securely to the floor, preventing shifting when bin is empty and fan is on. Now with added opening for better under-floor air flow.

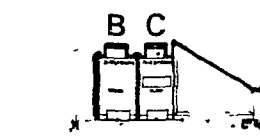


GSI Access Equipment consists of Ladders, Cages and Bin Eye Platforms. All are galvanized requiring no field drilling or cutting. Cages provide safe access to bin platform which has slip resistant floor and galvanized handrails.

Feed Bins  
 2.7 Ton to 58  
 Ton Capacity



**Sukup GRAIN HANDLERS**



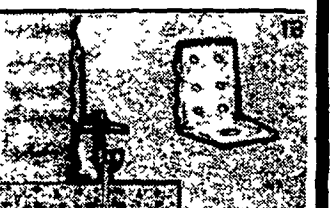
Fans and Heaters and other drying accessories to meet your grain drying needs.



2-Ring Bin Door is galvanized with corrugated joints for sure fit to the bin sidewalls. Outer door is one piece galvanized for long life. Inner door, with pressure action door latches, independently opens into three sections.



Bin Door Step is an optional all weather slip resistant step. Unique perforated step means maximum traction in all weather situations. Makes for easy access to bin door.



Hold Down Bracket with optional J Bolt and Harpin secures bin to the concrete foundation forming a sturdy base. J Bolt adjustment for easier bin erection. Corrugated Hold Down fits tight to bin prepunched to fit at seam of sidewall sheets.

**EMHERR**

Serving The Industry for  
 Over 20 Years

**EQUIPMENT, INC.**  
 RD 1, Rt. 272 S., Herrville Rd.,  
 Willow Street, PA 17584

Phone: 717-464-3321  
 or Toll Free: 800-732-0053

★ FULL LINE  
 PARTS DEPARTMENT  
 ★ WE SELL,  
 SERVICE & INSTALL

**USED GRAIN DRYERS  
 FOR SALE**

**WE STOCK ALL TYPES OF  
 GRAIN EQUIPMENT**