

# Barn raising

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were several rumors about the cause of the blaze. There was the third dairy barn to burn within a short period, another followed making it four within a five-week period. The first two were large Erie County Holstein farms - Dodd Farms Dairy and Roses Dan-Dee Farms. However the consensus is that Knapps' fire was not of a suspicious nature. The other fires happened during the night while theirs was in the morning around 9:30 a.m. Charlie mentioned that

people were around then and they believe the fire was of an electrical nature.

Most of the family was away at the time because it was the week of the Crawford County Fair. The Knapp Tract had been exhibiting their Belgians that week. At the time they owned between ten and fifteen Belgians but are now down to four. They hope to raise more in the near future. They have shown at the Farm Show in Harrisburg with their Belgians and really

enjoy it. They especially look forward to the county fair where they will show again this August.

The workers stopped long enough for a buffet picnic served by 20 Bethel United Methodist church women. There were tubs of salads and roasters of sloppy joes to satisfy the hungry men.

The evening concluded with an 8 p.m. barn dance. The band played for seven sets of swirling square dancers. All hammers ceased for stomping feet.

# goat farm

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meet the requirements to become a licensed dairy goat producer and the herd large enough to ship to a commercial dairy. Joanne has an agreement with The Goat Works in Lebanon, N.J. to start shipping to them when she meets their requirements. Joanne informed

me that most commercial goat dairies are paying around \$24 per hundredweight of goat milk to producers who maintain their quota year round.

Another source of income and enjoyment to Joanne are shows. With low entry fees, and a good herd, it is easy for Joanne to make \$200 in premiums from one show.

Joanne's daughter Christine, 12, has shown but prefers to feed the kids. Jamie, 5, likes to show and has a LaMancha doe, Maggie, that he shows. Of course I don't think there is much that Jamie doesn't like. While I was there he was into a little of everything. I was quite taken with him and couldn't help but tell Joanne how cute I thought he was. She offered to let me take him home with me. Such a bundle of energy requires time and patience to control, she explained, which is why she waiting for fall when he starts to school to start up the commercial dairy.

Well the time had slipped by quickly and I had to leave, but not without first getting a real education in dairy goat farming. I felt as if I could have stayed there for days and Joanne wouldn't have run out facts, figures on dairy goats or enthusiasm for explaining them.

pesticides in soil, thereby increasing their persistence. Chemical companies have begun to take advantage of this phenomenon and are combining inhibitory chemicals in their formulations to extend the active life of certain pesticides, he said.

# Ag chemicals

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history of pesticide use. When he mixed structurally similar pesticides into the two soils, the pesticides generally broke down more rapidly in the problem soils.

"Scientists have paid considerable attention to the behavior of individual chemicals in the soil microbial environment," says Kaufman who has been studying such questions for 20 years as a member of ARS's Pesticide Degradation Laboratory here at Beltsville. "Only scant attention has been given to the effect of multiple applications of individual pesticides, or combinations of pesticides, on their persistence in soil."

## Soil Histories

To fill the gap, Kaufman is creating complete soil histories in a telescoped time frame by testing all chemicals used on corn and soybeans in many of their various combinations.

He is also taking a close look at the microorganisms which account for the sudden loss of efficacy because he questions whether all of the bacteria, fungi, or actinomycetes that he finds elevated in problem soils are the real culprits. So far, he has found two classes of soil fungi, the Verticillia and the Fusaria, and several new bacterial species that are the most active decomposers of these pesticides.

Getting a handle on the soil microorganism-pesticide picture won't be easy. The interrelationships are complicated. Kaufman and others have found that certain pesticides actually block the breakdown of other

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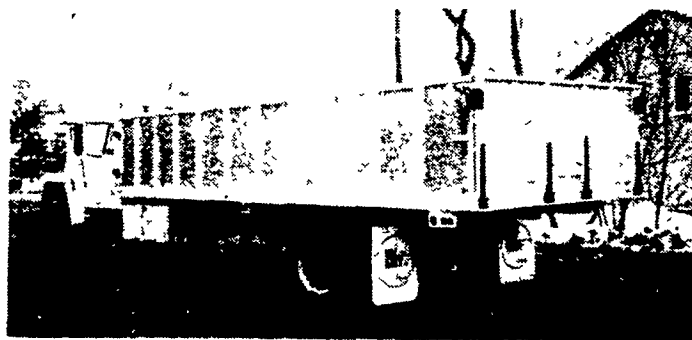
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