

Sundays increase their dairying commitment

BY BETH HEMMINGER
Staff Correspondent

MECHANICSBURG — Cumberland County farmer Jack Sunday believes if you are going to do it, do it big and do it right.

Sunday recently purchased a 350-acre farm where he built a free stall barn that will house 150 milking animals.

According to Wenger's Dairy where Sunday sells his milk, his free stall is the newest barn in the county and probably the only one for quite some time.

A question that comes to many is why build such a barn in such economic times? Well, for Sunday and his family it was a move they

really needed to make. At Sunday's "old" farm, about five miles away from the new barn, the quarters were too cramped. Sunday said, "We just grew beyond our facilities and needed to expand."

After selling some land to the Roadway trucking firm, Sunday knew he could make the move. He purchased the farm from his cousin, who was a hog farmer, so there was a lot of renovations to the existing buildings and eventually the free stall barn was built.

The 150 free stall barn was built by Agri Inc. located in Ephrata. The construction began in August of 1982 and was completed in April

of this year.

The new barn features almost all the comforts of home.

In the milking parlor one man can operate the double six with the features of automatic take-off and a back flush system. The back flush system is relatively new on the market, said Sunday, and it is definitely a good health aid for our cows. This back flushing system cleans the milkers and pipes with a high force of water after each cow has milked, preventing bacteria from traveling to other cows.

The Sunday's installed a 3000 gallon tank in the new barn. Sunday said in the old barn they were filling a 2000 gallon tank with a herd of 95% registered and 5% grade hossteins. Now, he said his son and son-in-law are looking forward to topping this tank.

Sunday smiled and said, "It is a never ending evolution."

In the free stall area, Sunday's chose the head lock system. Once the cows head is through the bars they can pull a lever at the end of the row and lock the heads in place. Sunday remarked that this head lock system is really a big help when you need to treat an animal. Sunday uses a drive through feeder. The hay is wheeled



Jack Sunday explains the automatic take-off and back flush features of milking system.

in on a wagon and fed. This new barn has a lagoon storage area which will hold a year's supply of manure.

A few special features of the barn are the wing ventilations. Sunday stated that this is the newest ventilation design on the market for free stall barns. These wings are on both sides of the barn and look exactly like a solid wall. However, these wings are made

similar to a window and can be wound out providing cross ventilation for the animals during the hot summer months.

Also, the Sunday's added an extra wing to the barn where there are rows of pens for the sick and pregnant animals. Sunday stated that this was an addition for convenience. This area enables them to treat the animals easily

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The Sunday barn features ventilating wings which can be opened for good cross circulation of air.

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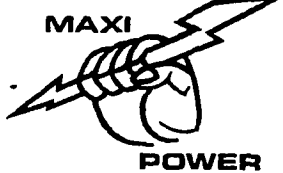


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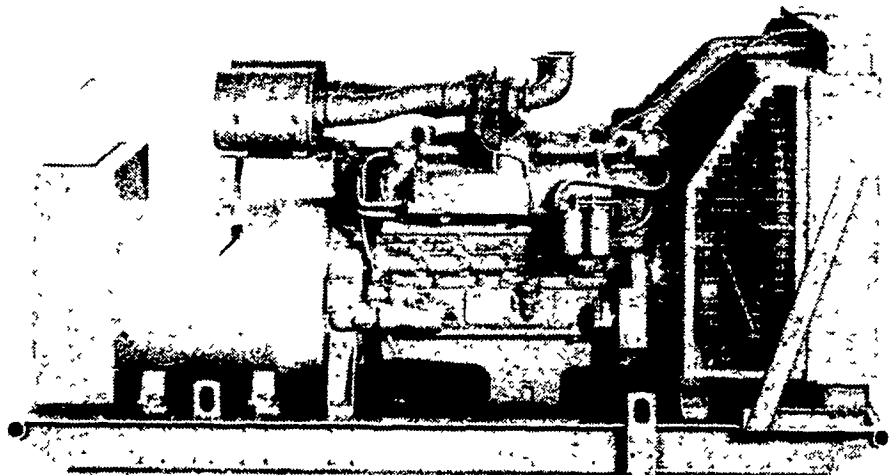


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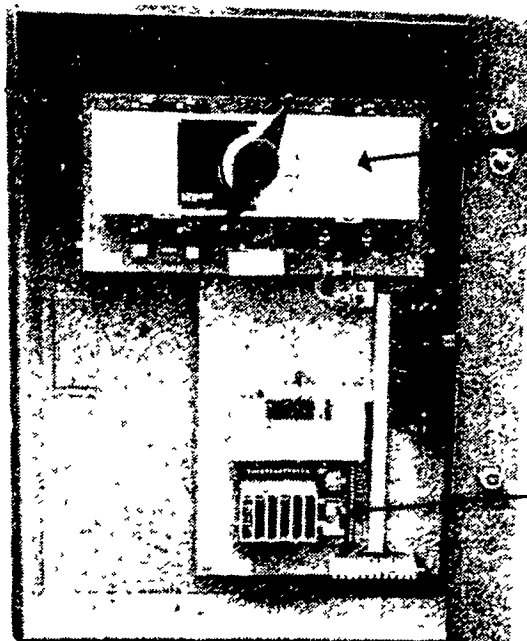
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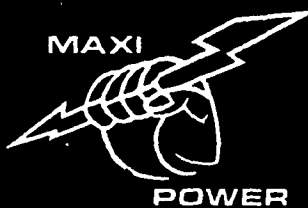
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