

Crawford farm

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originally intended for use as bedding but the cattle liked it so well they ate it. Bruckner plans to do the same thing this year for bedding the beef cattle.

The dairy herd is fed corn silage, grain and hay along with "Agri-King" minerals. Custard feels it is a good mineral program although some feel its expensive. He says it pays in the end with reducing milk fever and ketosis problems.

An interesting point Custard made is that there is no noticeable gain in milk each Spring when the cows are turned out for the first time. "The clover is deep in the pasture so we must be feeding right all year long," Ken concluded.

The forage and grain are sample tested and the feed ration is determined by that and the DHIA test. The amount of feed varies per cow.

The farm at the home produces all of the beef, pork and milk needed for the residents. "We sell more than we consume to be viable," Bruckner pointed out.

Many County Home Farms have ceased production but although regulations are more strict the Crawford Co. Home Farm is still very productive. The butchering can no longer take place on the

farm and everything is USDA inspected since the dining area is classified a "public dining facility." The purpose of the farm is to produce low cost high quality food and as Bruckner stated "There is nothing fresher than garden vegetables with dew on them."

The garden is filled with thousands of broccoli, cabbage and tomato plants among other vegetables. Last year after calculating the cost of 5000 tomato plants at \$1.00 per dozen (around \$400.00) Bruckner and Custard decided to build a greenhouse. They were able to construct a fiberglass structure using plastic pipe as the framework for under \$100.00. They have constructed a second larger one at just a little over that figure. They now plant their own seeds and have saved substantial amounts through their ingenuity.

Bruckner mentioned that the Farm has been working to build up the soil and hopes to be one of the first farms in Crawford Co. to join the Crop Improvement Assoc. The new program will go into effect as soon as a few more sign up, although Bruckner is anxious now. Since the herd and soil are being improved Charlie plans to update some equipment that is needed

daily. He said that it pays to nickel and dime the seasonal machinery but some things are basic necessities.

Bruckner and Custard emphasized that they try to purchase feed, seed and fertilizer within the county: "We want to keep the taxpayer's dollars within the county."

Bruckner mentioned with a grin that the farm has \$85,000 bosses - the number of taxpayer's in the county" and any or all of them could stop by at any time.

Bruckner is a busy man helping and supervising the County Farm but he finds time to attend college in Goddard, Vt. for ten intensive days every four months. Although it's hard Bruckner says he has learned to maintain a good sense of humor and so has his wife. They live near the farm with their six-year-old son.

The Crawford County Home Farm is a unique operation from the grounds to the people to the animals. It is open to visitors daily but will especially be bustling next Saturday. The Crawford County Farm-City Day which attracts 3000 annually will be held at the farm. There will be wagon tours, displays and contests for everyone. The dairy princess pageant will conclude the day's activities in the nearby Saegertown High School at 8 p.m. Plan to attend the fun!

Del. starts forest mgt. program

NEWARK, Del. — A one-year cooperative educational program for forest land owners has been established by the Delaware Cooperative Extension Service and the Delaware Department of Agriculture with funds provided by the Federal Extension Service under the Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA).

The new forest land management program is intended primarily for private woodland owners and Christmas tree growers. State forester Walter F. Gabel will assist with the project under a cooperative arrangement among the Delaware Department of Agriculture Forestry Section, the University of Delaware Extension Service, and the 1890 extension program at Delaware State College.

Purpose of the program is to provide private forest land owners with information on management techniques which will improve and increase the value of timber stands, and improve them environmentally.

Nearly 400,000 acres (30 percent) of Delaware forest land belongs to over 11,000 private owners. The average woodlot is 32 acres. In-

dividuals hold three-fourths of this land and corporations own the rest. Half of it belongs to farmers.

Forestry officials say that nearly 40 percent of the state's commercial forests are overstocked. In many cases harvest of loblolly pine and other softwoods for pulp, poles and lumber leaves abundant stands of less commercially desirable hardwood. Projections are that if present removal trends continue, the state's total tree inventory will increase by 55 percent, but softwood volume will decrease 44 percent. Privately owned forests must be better managed to continue to meet the demand for softwood without depleting this resource base.

Proper management also is important when woodlot owners wish to encourage wildlife, achieve privacy, or use their woods for other purposes.

Goal of the new extension program is to show how to do this effectively. Gabel and his foresters will work with county extension agents in preparing demonstrations, tours and other educational programs on aspects of forest management.

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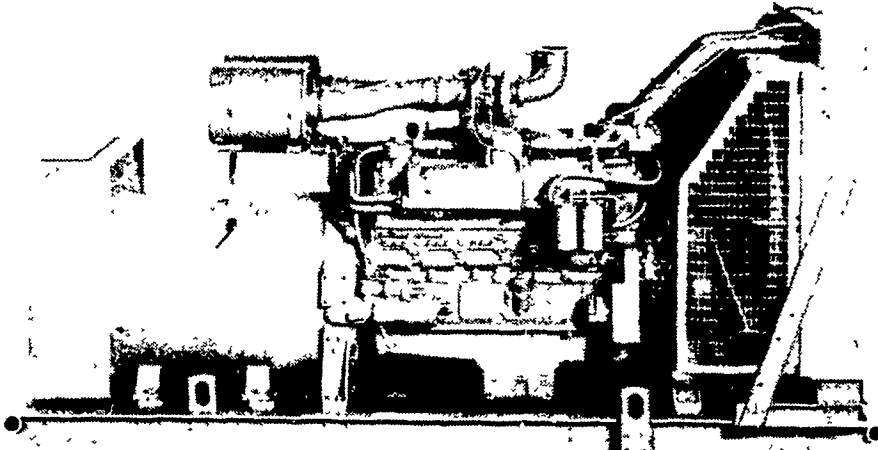
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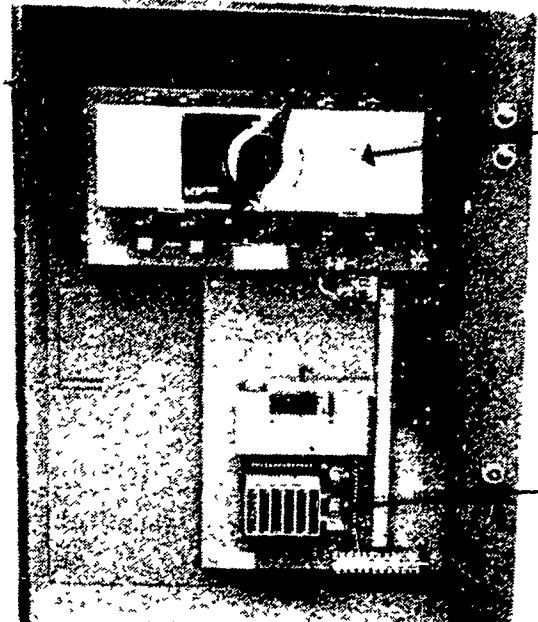


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