D16—Lancaster Farming, Saturday, June 18, 1983

## Learning finances

(Continued from Page D14) this location for the next two years. Although reflecting back on this part of their lives as being fortunate to be able to learn the percentage of debt that a farmer can allow in his operation and still

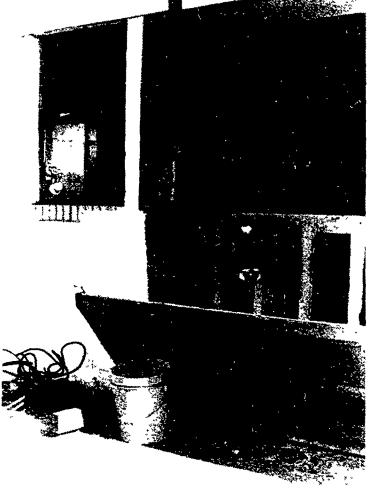
be able to pay other expenses, and gaining valuable experience managing that financial end of the operation, the Koontz' state that everything should be "in writing" when working with a partner. In 1979 a cousin out in Mercer

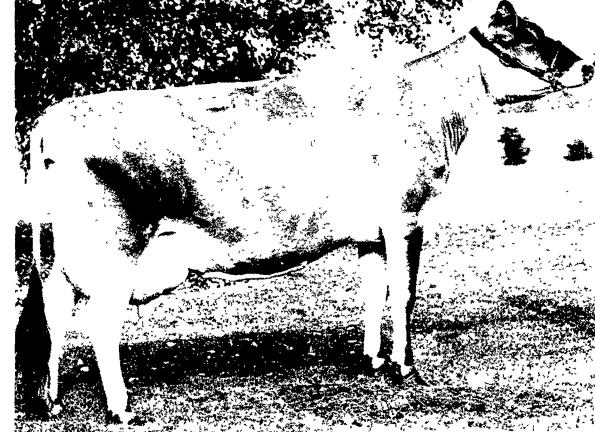
County found them their present farm and the couple moved once again, this time with approximately 35 head of cows bought from the previous partner, plus young stock, assorted farm belongings, and even some farm cats. Learning their "lessons" from past experiences, the Koontz' were able to rent the farm from the owner who was very willing to

work with them. In the rent agreement, the Koontz' were given three choices: (1) outright rentingwhich they state would have been the cheapest. (2). A 7-year rent lease with the option to buy at a set price at the end of seven years. (3). A long term rent agreement with part of the rent going towards the purchase price-which would have been larger monthly payments.

They chose the 2nd choice, since they wanted to build their equity with their herd without being burdoned at the same time with an oversized mortgage payment. The price for the farm was set when it was leased in 1979 and the price will not change until the 7-year lease is up and then they have the option to buy at their price.

(Turn to Page D17)

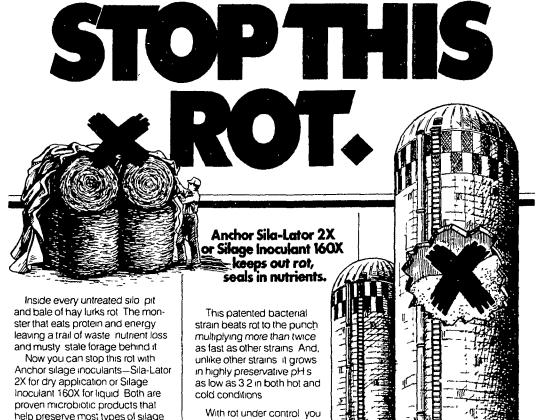




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