

# The Dairy Business

By  
Newton Bair

I've promised to report on some first hand observations of French, Swiss, German and Netherlands agriculture. My wife and I were hosts to a group of Lebanon Countians who spent 12 days touring central Europe, during which we visited farms and saw much of the agricultural countryside. I'll cover them one at a time.

**FRENCH AGRICULTURE**  
Agriculture is the major industry of France. Since France is a member of the European Economic Community (EEC), production and pricing of farm products is closely controlled by the Government. Strange as it may seem to us, France is considered to be the breadbasket of Western Europe.

Travelling through northern France, on the way from Brussels, Belgium to Paris, the farmland closely resembles our flat or gently

rolling land in southern Pennsylvania. The soil is derived from limestone, well drained and very fertile. There is not much evidence of rock outcrop, and it looks to be fairly easy to farm. The big difference is the design of the farm buildings and farmstead layout. Many of the larger farms, over 50 hectares (a hectare is equal to 2.471 acres) have a set of farm buildings right on the farm.

Older homesteads still have the main barn and the living quarters all in one unit under a single roof, but many newer buildings, built since the war to replace those plundered or destroyed, are built separately. Most of the smaller farmers are congregated in small villages, where the house and barn is a single unit housing the family as well as the animals.

At the end of July, the French farmers were just beginning to harvest wheat. They were ex-

pecting a good crop, and this was quite evident from the very heavy straw and large heads we saw on the wheat. They average nearly 85 bushels per acre, with yields as high as 90 bushels. How can they get these high yields?

They are using fungicides for disease control, hormone treatments to keep the straw short, and heavy Nitrogen fertilization for high yields. Every field has permanent tracks that have been made by the spraying and fertilizer equipment. The fields are free of weeds and we seldom saw any lodged grain. The extra cost of achieving maximum yields is borne by the French government.

Why can't we get yields of wheat as high as European farmers? The answer is, we can. With the use of fungicides like Bayleton, and growth regulators, we can fertilize more heavily with Nitrogen without fear of lodging. The new materials will be approved for general use after they are thoroughly researched and approved in the U.S.A.

Most of the cattle we saw in France were dual purpose breeds. The Pie Rouge (mixed red) breed

is quite evident. This breed is derived from the Swiss heavy cattle originally bred in the Simme Valley. Similar offshoots of these cows are all over Europe, and go by different names in other countries. A well known relative is the Fleckvieh in Austria and Germany. There has been a lot of mixing and selection for the kinds of cattle most suited to the local and national purposes.

An occasional herd of Holsteins can be seen. Many of the herds are using American and Canadian bulls and semen to increase milk production. We saw herds that radically changed both production and type in just one generation by using imported semen from American bulls. French farmers are not too conscious of color. A casual glance at their cows will often fool you. Many Holsteins are red, and since the other dual purpose breeds are also red, you have to look a little closer to see the difference between dairy breeds and the dual purpose beef and dairy breeds. Many of their dairy cows are more 'beefy' than we like to see our cows.

French farmers appreciate high test in their dairy cows. For this reason, they are turning to the

United States and Canada for semen and young bulls from our high testing sires. Great for our export sales!

**DON'T DRINK WATER**

Our travels took us through the eastern part of France unknown as Burgundy. Beside the heavy historical aura of this region, it is best known for its vineyards. They don't refer to the crop as grapes. The common term is to grow Wine. Burgundy is famous for its wine, and I must admit that a traveller in France had better do as the French do—drink wine instead of water. You'll stay healthier!

We Americans are accustomed to drinking lots of cold, fresh water. But in France as well as other European countries, water is for irrigation, sailing, canal travel, and occasionally for taking a bath! But its too dangerous to use for drinking! You practically have to beg for a drink of ice water, no matter how thirsty you are. Of course you can find Coke and other expensive beverages, including bottled mineral water, but they really push the wine. At least it's pure, and seems to be less likely to upset the travellers digestive system. So, in Burgundy do as the Burgundians do, drink Burgundy!



# Snavelly's

## THE FARM BUILDINGS PLACE

"Designed for your needs...to your specifications"

- Pole Barns • Poultry Houses • Dairy Barns
- Horse Stables • Riding Arenas • Utility Buildings
- Hog Houses • Cold Storage • Equipment Sheds
- Storage Buildings • Work Shops • Residences

To help you plan your building and write your own specifications, a professional Snavelly field representative is ready and willing to assist you. For over 100 years Snavelly has satisfied thousands of area farmers. Snavelly's factory fabricated panels, walls, trusses, etc. not only make erection easier and faster but also save you considerable money. For a no-charge, no-obligation consultation on your building requirements, phone, visit, or mail the coupon below.

**J.C. Snavelly & Sons, Inc.**  
150 Main Street, Landisville  
717/898-2241  
351 West James Street, Lancaster  
717/394-7277

J.C. Snavelly & Sons, Inc.  
150 Main Street, Landisville, PA 17538

I am interested in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type of building)

I plan on building about \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

### COMPLETE FARM PAINTING



INDUSTRIAL

RESIDENTIAL

COMMERCIAL

We Use Quality Paint  
**AERIAL LADDER EQUIPMENT**

- Modern and Efficient Method
- Reasonable Prices
- Spray-On and Brush-In Method
- Sandblasting if Necessary

For Free Estimates Write or Call:

**ESH SPRAY PAINTING**  
717-687-7007 or 687-8262

**SPRAY-ON AND BRUSH-IN PAINTER**

637 Georgetown Rd.  
Ronks, PA 17572



**MILLER DIESEL INC.**  
6030 Jonestown Rd.  
Harrisburg Pa. 17112  
717-545-5931  
Interstate 81 Exit 26

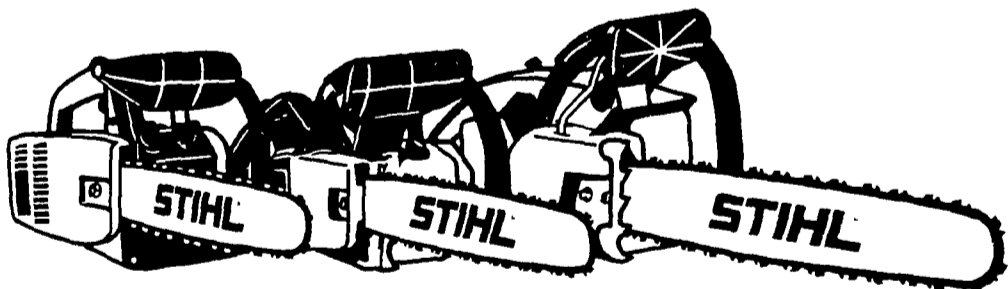
**ASSOCIATION OF DIESEL SPECIALISTS**

**DIESEL FUEL INJECTION AND TURBO-CHARGER SPECIALISTS**  
Locally Owned and Operated Since 1957  
Authorized Sales & Service For:

AIRESEARCH	HOLSET
ALERT WATER	ISSPRO PYROMETERS
SEPARATORS	MURPHY SWITCHES
BACHARACH TOOLS	ROOSA MASTER
BENDIX	ROTOMASTER
ROBERT BOSCH	SCHWITZER
CAV-SIMMS	STEWART WARNER
CUMMINS	GAUGES
FPPF DIESEL FUEL PRODUCTS	UNITED TECHNOLOGIES (Formerly American Bosch)

We Also Service:  
IHC\* Caterpillar  
Detroit Injectors, Blowers & Governors  
Daily Shipments by UPS, Parcel Post, or our representative who is in area regularly

## WE SELL THE WORLD'S LARGEST SELLING CHAIN SAW.



Model 015L

Model 020AVP

Model 031AV with Quickstop\*

Stihl\* didn't get to be the world's largest selling chain saw with a product that needs more service than it gives

But if your Stihl saw ever needs a tune-up, maybe a spark plug, or just a once-over, the best factory trained service-

men in the business are here to help. Come by and see the world's finest chain saw. Or come by for repairs on all the others

## WE TRY TO FIX THE OTHERS.

**STIHL®**

The World's Largest Selling Chain Saw.

**WEST LANCASTER MOWER SHOP**

33 Albright Ave., Lancaster, PA 17603  
717 394-2421

**WES STAUFFER SMALL ENGINES**

RD 3 Ephrata, PA Phone (717) 738-4215  
Ephrata Exit New Rt. 222  
1/2 Mile West on Rt. 322  
Turn left onto Pleasant Valley Rd

**MARTIN HARDWARE & EQUIPMENT CO**

Rt. 501 1 1/2 Miles South of Schaefferstown, PA  
Phone 717-949-6817

**A & B SALES & SERVICE**

2 Miles South of Rt. 23 Along 772 Thru Monterey - RD 1 Ronks, PA

**STOLTZFUS WOODWORK**

RD Gap, PA Box 183  
1 Mile North Rt. 897 From Gap

**EBLING'S LAWN & GARDEN**

Myerstown  
717-866-6780

**GOOD'S STORE**

At the Country Mart, RD2, East Earl  
Route 23 - Just East of Blue Ball  
717-354-4026