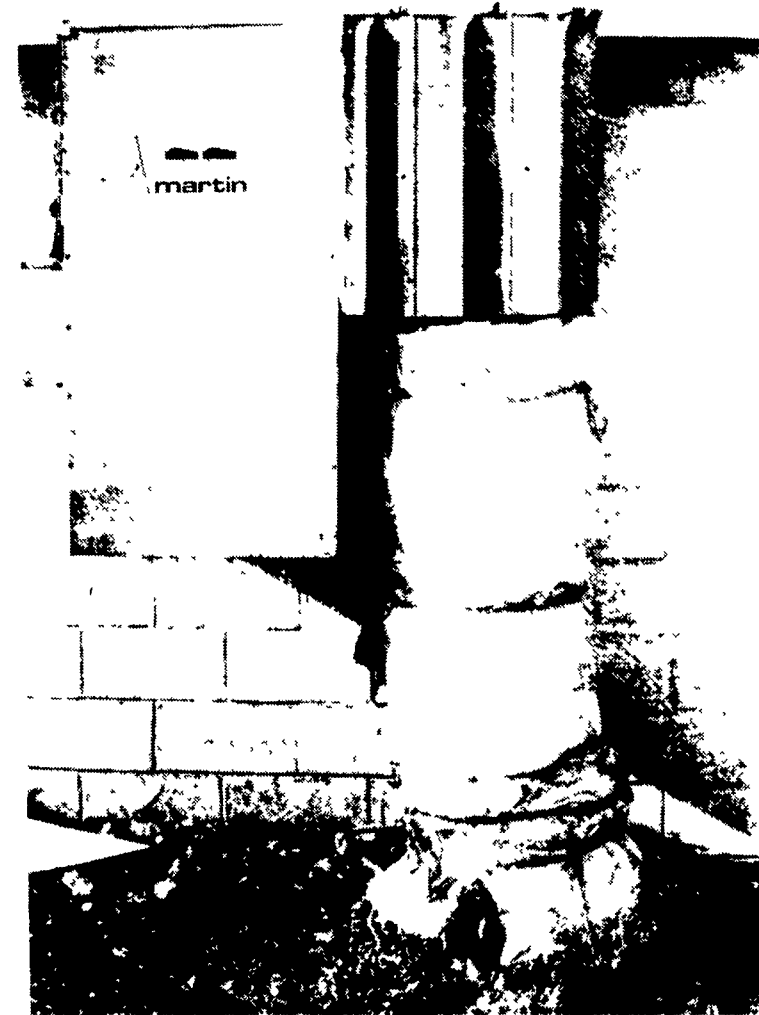


Warm geotherm air heats veal barn

BY LAURA ENGLAND
NEWMANSTOWN — Lebanon County cattleman Floyd Horst is not one to take any every crisis lightly.

In 1973, when the Arabs boycotted the United States fuel market, Horst erected a solar panel on the side of his barn to heat water. During the Iranian crisis in



After running underground at eight feet, the pipes jut out and connect directly to the barn fans. The air is harvested by a Martin air system.



Lebanon County cattleman Floyd Horst and his 5-year-old son, Anthony, point out the inlet pipes used to direct the outside air through the geotherm system.

1979, he and Robert Kreider, of Jonestown, engineered an alcohol fuel generator for additional farm fuel.

Although no foreign energy crisis is currently threatening the United States, Horst has added another energy-saving device to his beef cattle operation - a geotherm system.

Designed on the theory that the earth (geo) provides heat (therm), Horst engineered the geotherm system to heat his 50 x 64 foot, 135-stall veal calf barn. The system, which was installed in October 1983, provides heat during the

winter and will serve as a cooling system during the summer months.

Already this winter, Horst has recorded a 50-degree difference between the outside and inside temperature of his veal barn. The temperature outside was -15 degrees, but the inside barn temperature boasted a warm 35 degrees.

"If you're looking for a way to minimize energy," Horst said, "then this system is a natural."

Horst said he expects a 15 degree cooling temperature during the summer months. High summer

temperatures and humidity cause problems when fattening calves, he said, and he hopes the geotherm system will help eliminate these problems.

Though the concept of the geotherm system sounds complicated, Horst said it actually works as a three-step process.

To begin, outside air enters an inlet pipe located on the outside corner of the veal barn. The air travels through the pipe and mixes with the 50-degree temperature ground air. This "treated air" is harvested by a fan and flows

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