

Schick Farms

(Continued from Page A19)

Though wood has proven to be a low-coat heat source, Herb admits that wood-cutting chores are quite time consuming. And time is a precious commodity to this Berks County pork producing family.

In addition to his work on the farm, Herb makes time to serve as secretary-treasurer for the Pa. Pork Producers Council, and is a past state director for the National PPC.

Herb's wife, Annamarie, is also active in pork politics. Currently serving as secretary-treasurer for the Porkettes, she is a past executive board member to the National Porkettes.

The family also finds time to

represent the companies whose pork producing equipment they have found beneficial to their own operation. Two of these companies are AAA Associates, a Michigan-based maker of ventilating equipment, and ADA Enterprises, a Minnesota manufacturer of flooring and related products.

With today's pork producers caught in the squeeze between rising costs and narrowing profit margins, finding the most efficient methods for producing each pound of pork becomes the answer to survival. And Schick Farms, along with many other producers, is finding geothermal technology to be the answer to its efficiency requirements

Dogs

(Continued from Page A21)

office, with the PDA paying \$52,386 in damages from funds derived from the sale of dog licenses: The additional 145 claims investigated were not compensated through the office of dog enforcement, because the claims involved wildlife, or the dogs' owner can be located, the owner then becomes financially responsible for damages.

What can sheep owners do to avoid having to request compensation? In most cases the answer is neither simple nor inexpensive, as the defenseless animals are a nearly irresistible temptation to dogs.

"If I had a small flock, I'd use the New Zealand style high-tension, smooth wire fencing with

strands electrified near the top and bottom," recommends Green County agent William Brown. Brown admits, though, that farmers with large pastures to encompass may find this solution prohibitively expensive.

But even though solutions such

as dog-proof fencing, gates, and barn doors may mask the symptoms, they cannot be considered a cure for the disease. And as long as dog owners fail to recognize their responsibility to their pets, as well as to their neighbors in the livestock business, spring will continue to be the time of year when shepherds sleep lightly, with the shotgun propped by the back door.

Bay cleanup

(Continued from Page A31)

runoff for utilization later or divert it to a safe area away from streams. Restrict animal access to streams as much as possible.

c. Make regular use of soil test and, whenever possible, use plant and manure analyses to determine nutrient requirements. Follow agronomic recommendations closely when applying nutrients, taking into account all potential sources of fertilizer elements (soil, manures, sludge). Aim for "optimum economic yields" rather than maximum yields - profits will likely be higher and the potential

for pollution lower.

d. Properly calibrate and operate equipment for applying pesticides, fertilizers and other amendments, so that correct amounts are delivered. Try to avoid steep slopes and areas directly adjacent to streams.

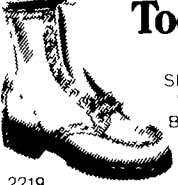
e. Use soil conservation techniques where applicable. Minimize bare-soil conditions by keeping crop residues or a growing crop in place as long as possible.

f. Don't farm "sensitive" areas, those with lightly erodible soils, steep slope, or locations adjacent to streams.



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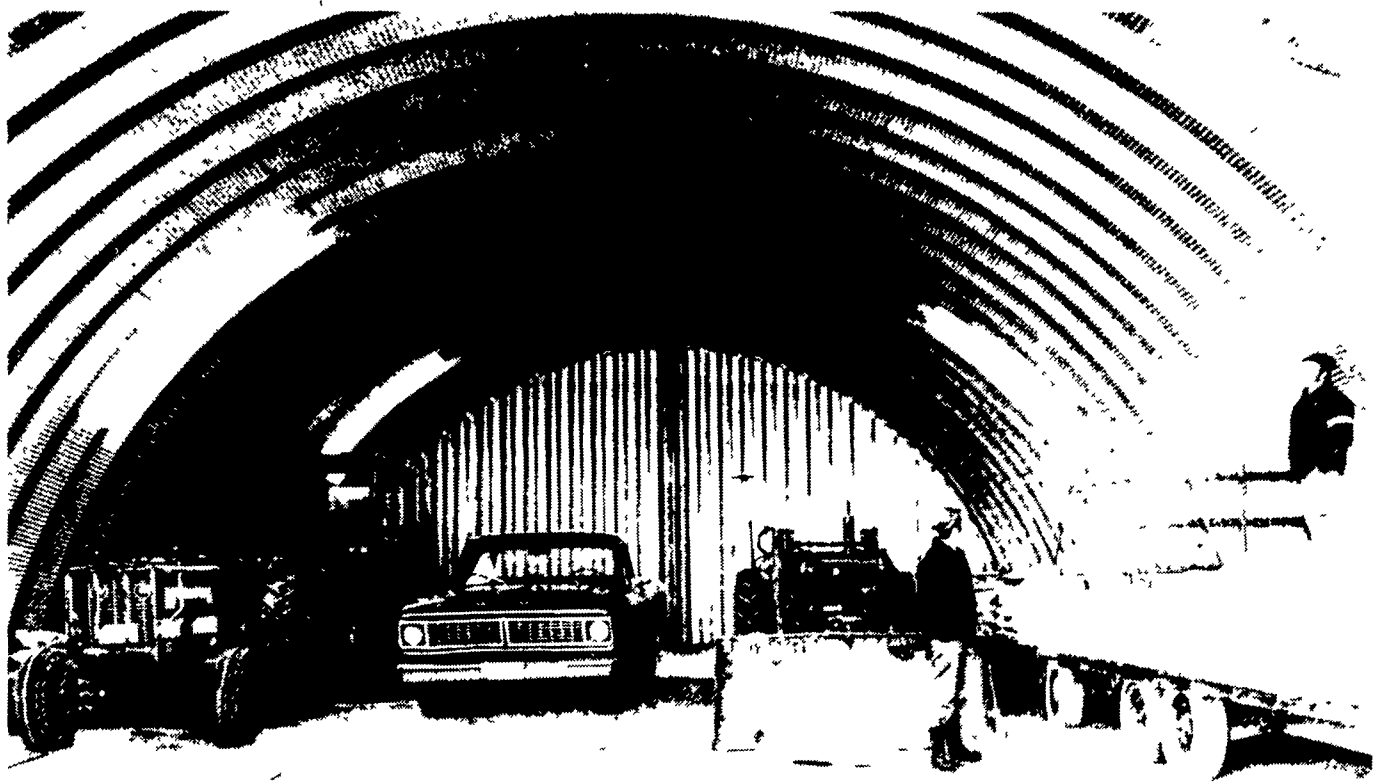
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