

The Dairy Business

By
Newton Bair



but most of them remain as they were created centuries ago by "the old ones".

There is little corn grown in the south and west of England. The environment would favor corn growing, except for generally cooler summer temperatures. Special varieties had to be developed before much corn could be grown, even in the more moderate eastern valleys of York, Cambridge and Bedford. There it is grown extensively for silage.

Silos as we know them, are conspicuously absent in most of Britain. Silage is widely used however, but nearly always in a trench, bunker, or as the British call them, a "clamp". I saw some round bale silage. Since the climate is very damp - every cloud that drifts over is likely to drop some rain, - hay is difficult to cure, so most of the excess grass crop is ensiled. Preservatives are pretty generally used on the grass silage.

The major grain crops are wheat and barley. In Wales and Scotland a large part of the barley crop is processed into malt, to be used in the distilleries producing Scotch Whiskey. One of the distilleries which we visited was in operation for four centuries and had a most fascinating history of smuggling, political intrigue and fights between local Lords and Dukes on the boundaries of which the still was located. The distillery survived it all, and still produces a branch of Scotch that is highly prized in the British Isles.

others might ring warning bells about the future. Some will make you glad that you live in America.

First Impressions Stick With You
Driving through southern England, the first thing that strikes you is the lay of the land. It could be Lancaster County, except for the rather small fields, all of which are surrounded with ancient hedgerows. Closer inspection reveals a base of stones, cleared from the fields centuries ago. The hedges grow out of the rock wall, making an effective fence for cattle or sheep. They must be controlled by annual trimming, which is now done with special shearing equipment mounted on a tractor. Occasionally there are signs of removing the old hedgerows to make larger fields,

The British Are Coming!

That cry would have struck terror in the breast of 18th century Americans during the Revolution. Of course, there is no reason to give it second thought today. But there is a real reason to be concerned about our modern relationship with the British, as well as other western European farmers. American farmers are competitors with all of Western Europe, especially in selling our Dairy products.

We have just returned from a three-week tour of the British Isles. While this brief visit does not make me an expert on British Agriculture, I have made some important observations that should be passed along to you. Some of them are merely informative, but

A common practice in many parts of England is to burn the straw after harvesting the grain. It is undoubtedly a carryover from earlier custom, when burning was the only way to control diseases perpetuated by repeatedly growing the same crop. It appears to be very wasteful of much needed organic matter.

Big round bales are quite common in the richer farming areas of Eastern England and in Wales. We even saw some of the large rectangular bales, and quite a few conventional small bales. Storage buildings for bales are simply a roof supported by four poles. Large barns are very rare. On many farms you can still see the ancient stone "cow byre", with a modern milking parlor attached. Dairy barns closely resemble our open sided free stall barns.

British dairymen are facing severe problems of too much milk and too little profit. Britain is a member of the European Economic Community (EEC), and the farmers are not very happy

about it. All of Europe is experiencing a glut of dairy products, and many EEC members on the continent are heavily subsidizing the dairy industry. But England has imposed a quota system on the dairy producers, restricting production to about 80% of normal. Naturally, income is also restricted, and they must compete against the rest of the world, including the U.S.A. They are particularly jealous of French and Germans, who are more highly organized into Cooperatives for their own protection.

The British are good promoters. One of their most prominent slogans is "Welcome home to butter", and the poster shows a healthy child happily biting into a well buttered slice of bread. Restaurants serve butter and cheese generously, and we could learn something from them if we could or would serve up the likes of their Devonshire Cream! A taste for that delicacy would account for many tons of milk sold and consumed in the U.S.A.

GIGANTIC SELECTION
IN
Lancaster Farming's CLASSIFIEDS

Farm Drainage doesn't cost... It pays!

It pays with

- Improved Land Use and Efficiency
- Better Soil Conservation
- Deeper Root Development
- Increased Crop Yield
- Longer Growing Seasons
- Improved Plant Quality
- Better Livestock Farming



Our Machines Are Equipped With Laser Beam Control

COCALICO EQUIP. CO. PENNSYLVANIA
FARM DRAINAGE & EXCAVATING
RD #3, DENVER, PA 17517 PH: 215-267-3808
717-738-3794 LICA

POLE BUILDINGS

by Stoltzfus Builders



CUSTOM BUILT AGRICULTURAL, RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS FOR A VARIETY OF NEEDS:

- Painted Galvanized Roof & Siding in a wide range of sizes, designs and colors.
- Weather Resistant Pressure Treated Poles and 2x6's T&G Skirting

Call For A Free Brochure

BEN STOLTZFUS
(215) 273-3456

SAM STOLTZFUS
(215) 273-3495

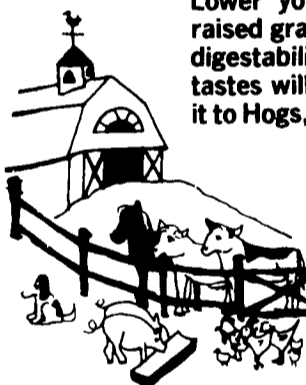
Honeybrook, PA

SOYBEAN ROASTING ON YOUR FARM

DON'T WASTE IT - ROAST IT

Roast Your Barley, Wheat & Oats

Lower your feed costs by feeding your own raised grains. Roasting your grains will increase digestability and remove moisture. Flat bitter tastes will turn to sweet pleasant flavors. Feed it to Hogs, Heifers, Dairy Cows and Horses.



CUSTOM GRAIN ROASTING DONE IN PA AND SURROUNDING STATES OR OWN YOUR OWN ROAST-A-MATIC GRAIN ROASTER.

DALE L. SCHNUPP
RD 6, Lebanon, Pa. 17042
PH: 717-865-6611

ALLEN SUMMERS
RD 1
Nottingham, Pa. 19362
215-932-4761

PENN OHIO GRAIN ROASTING
RD 2, Box 91
Enon Valley, PA 16120
412-336-5443

DAVID N. GROFF
RD 1 Box 506C
Lewisburg, Pa. 17837
717-966-3593

SCHLESSMAN'S

HYBRID CORN

PREMIUM SINGLE CROSSES

- **SX-650** - High Yielding, Good Standability, 110 Day, Short Stalk - Inbred Used In This Cross Was Most Wanted Across U.S. By Most Seed Companies.
- **SX-810** - High Yielding Good Standability, 118 Days
★ Resistant to Carbona Race 3 Disease
- **SX-625** - Fast Dry Down Corn, Excellent Sheller, Excellent Standability, 107 Days
- **SX-405A** - Short Season, High Yield Potential 100 Days
★ Top 3 For The Past 3 Years At Penn State Trials
- **SX-525 Will Replace SX-520A** With Better Standability - First Year In Trials, Placed Third, Class 2 105 Days

• Wheat • Barley • Alfalfas

WHOLESALE & RETAIL

BOYDELL FARMS

302 Iona Rd.

Lebanon, PA 17042

Phone (717) 272-8943