

Electronic dairy system on view March 30 at Del. university

NEWARK, Del. — There will be a dairy open house Saturday, March 30, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the University of Delaware farm on Route 896 across from the Chrysler plant in Newark. Purpose of the event is to provide dairy farmers and other interested individuals an opportunity to observe the new electronic milking and feeding system recently installed by the University of Delaware Agricultural Experiment Station.

Parts of this computer-based system are unique and new in their use in the U.S. Each animal in the 75-cow herd wears an electronic transponder on a collar around her neck. This automatically identifies her in the milking parlor, controls

her access to feed supplements and provides a continuous record of her performance and activity.

According to extension dairy specialist Dr. George Haenlein, the new system makes it possible to eliminate many inefficiencies which reduce herd productivity, and cost dairy farmers money. It features the latest technology in electronic milk metering, milker back-flushing, automatic milker take-off, milk precooling and milk monitoring. Flashing signal lights in the milking parlor tell personnel if a cow has been treated and should be milked separately, if her milk shows signs of mastitis, if she is off her feed and may be sick, or if she is coming into estrus.

Visitors to the open house can

tour the university's dairy facilities and observe the electronic system in operation.

Another highlight of the event will be a series of microcomputer

demonstrations on farm financial management, dairy ration balancing, engineering problem solving, and the Grassroots America farm information

system.

Equipment from 10 commercial dairy suppliers will also be on display. Lunch will be available from food service vendors.

Penn Ag endorses Farm Bill

EPHRATA — PennAg Industries Association's board of directors has come out in favor of the 1985 Farm Bill proposal submitted by the Reagan Administration.

The board adopted the following statement at a recent board meeting:

"PennAg Industries Association supports a free market-oriented economic system and believes that American agriculture has suffered because of over-regulation by

government. While recognizing the role of government in unusual or emergency situations, the Association supports the adoption of a 1985 Farm Bill which will have as its ultimate goal a market-oriented farm policy, by:

*bringing about a gradual reduction in federal programs for agriculture over a multi-year time frame—about three years,

*helping to bring into being equitable, manageable federal

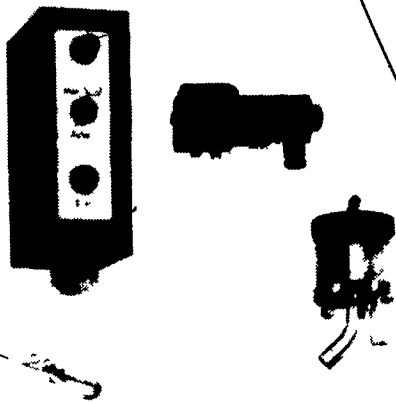
programs which address only those areas which agriculture alone cannot develop successfully (e.g., research, disaster assistance).

"The problems of American agriculture did not develop overnight, and cannot be solved overnight. A gradual reduction of government involvement is necessary in order to ease the transition to a market-oriented agricultural economy."

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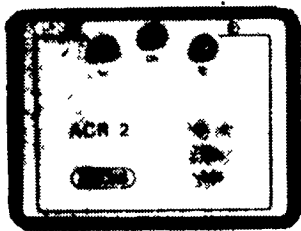
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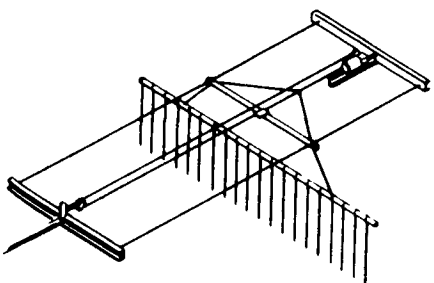
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