

## PFU urges assessment for Gramm-Rudman cuts

GETTYSBURG — Representatives of the Pennsylvania Farmers Union agreed at a joint meeting of the farm group's Dairy and Legislative Committees that the dairy industry must act quickly to avoid the effects of federal budget cuts slated for March 1 under the Gramm-Rudman Act.

The dairy section of the Commodity Credit Corporation (C.C.C.)

budget would be among the areas affected by the automatic 4.3% cuts. The C.C.C. would have to lower its dairy budget somewhere between \$60 and 80 million. Yet, the 4.3% budget axe would lower prices to dairy farmers by about fifty cents per hundredweight, for annual costs to the industry of nearly \$700 million nationwide,

according to Dairy Committee member Arden Tewksbury.

The group decided that instead of the dairy industry spending \$70 million to save the C.C.C., it made better economic sense to impose an assessment of four cents per hundredweight on all milk. "This would raise the money that C.C.C. needs to cut out of its budget while saving the dairy farmers about forty-five cents per hundredweight over the cost of the Gramm-Rudman cuts," Tewksbury ex-

plained. The group resolved that the four-cent assessment should continue through Fiscal Year 1986, which ends September 30, 1986.

"While Farmers Union ordinarily doesn't advocate taking more money from a farmer's milk check, in this instance a four-cent assessment is the lesser of two evils," said P.F.U. Executive Director Chester L. Reed. "Our dairy farmers can't be expected to absorb the massive costs that Gramm-Rudman would impose on

the industry."

Representative James Jeffords (R-VT) has proposed legislation to impose a small assessment on milk to avoid the automatic 4.3% cuts. The idea has also been endorsed by the National Milk Producers Federation. "The challenge is to get such a program in place before March 1," Reed said.

The Pennsylvania Farmers Union is a voluntary general farm organization representing family farmers throughout Pennsylvania.

## Welker Bros. Dairy

(Continued from Page A22)

the calves clean and trains them to lay in the freestalls when they move out to the freestall barn.

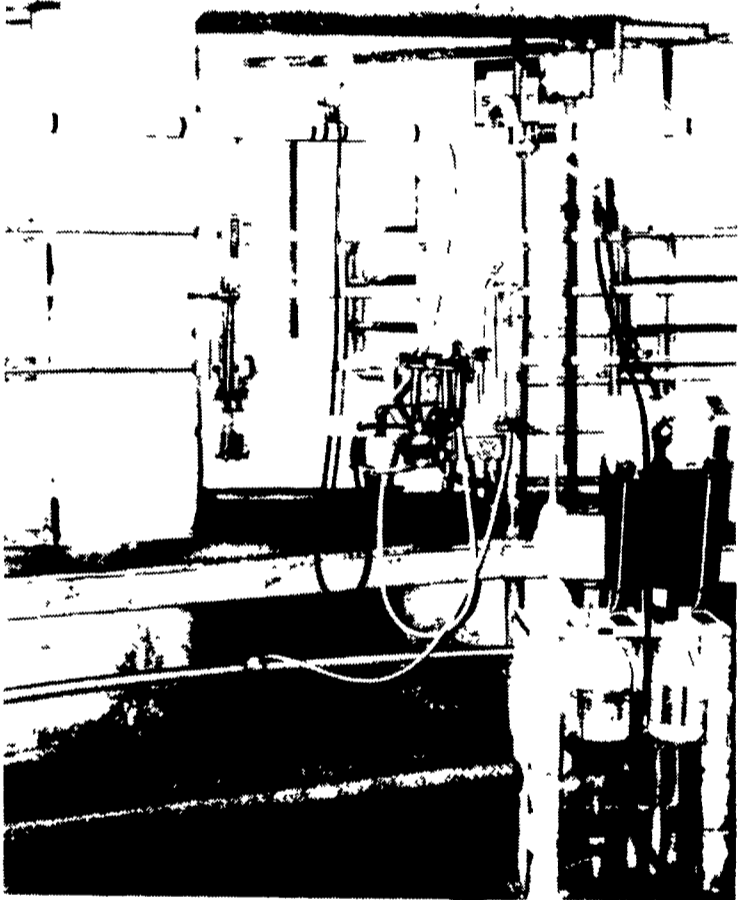
The heifers make this momentous move at one year. They are put into a separate section of the freestall barn that houses the milking cows. A farm bull is used to breed the heifers and they remain in the freestalls until calving.

This method of raising heifers is just one of many areas on the farm which the Welker family has had success with. The brothers operate this farm with two part-time workers and John's wife Marge, who takes care of all the book-

work and the raising of their two daughters Juliana and Kelly.

They have lived on the farm all their lives and when they started farming on their own 16 years ago, John and Angelo were very idealistic. The rules they established then — simplicity in everything and doing things the right way the first time — have served them well.

They have no regrets about the past, in fact they feel lucky to have their health and feel fortunate things have gone as well as they have. They look to the future with the same type of optimism that they originally began farming with.



A section of the rotary parlor showing the platform that allows the operator to ride with the parlor, the low milk line, the entry way the cows use, and the drive tire in the wall.

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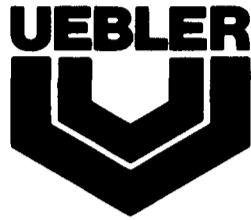
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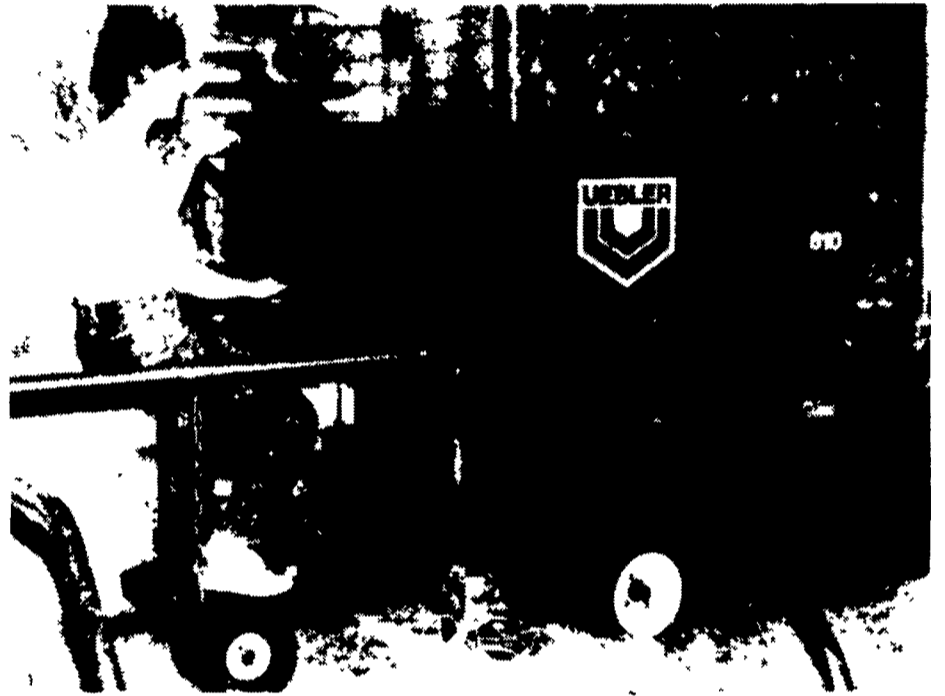
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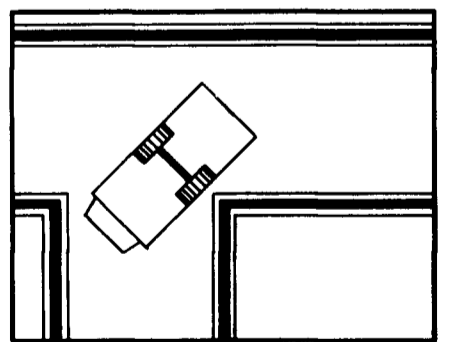
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