

Soybean Associations

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er operation is under contract with Wengers Feed Mill and employees two others full time.

For M & R Grains, Musser stores 250,000 bushels of grain in six bins. The bins hold corn, soybeans, wheat, barley, and roasted soybeans. M & R has about 60 customers in the Lancaster, Marietta, Mt. Joy, Manheim, and Elizabethtown areas.

For his part, Musser has been heavily involved with the Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association, comprised of soybean farmers in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, and New Jersey. Musser has been a strong advocate for producer checkoffs. He believes investing in promotion at the regional and national level.

"A lot of the states in the Midwest have an automatic checkoff program," Musser said. "If you sell a bushel of beans, 2 cents or 1 cent of that goes toward the check-off program. That's what they're trying to pass in Pennsylvania."

Money to work

The checkoff would enable producers to put money to work on soybean promotion at a national level.

"In the Mid-Atlantic region, they're trying to pass that whenever you sell a bushel of beans, automatically the checkoff program gets 2 cents out of the deal. And that would go for advertising and research."

According to the Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association, this is the seventh year ASA and DuPont have recognized outstanding young agricultural leaders in 26 soybean-producing states throughout the country. In a release, the organization stated that "consideration for the award hinges on the farmer using his or her leadership skills to lend direction to the U.S. soybean industry."

Musser has also been recognized by the Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association for a new manure storage system, which holds 330,000 gallons of slurry. The system was constructed last fall.

Chesapeake Bay Program

"We're involved in the Chesapeake Bay Program," he said. "They make money available to help clean up the bay. We got a grant from the federal government to help build a storage tank to keep our runoff out of the stream."

"We live right beside Chickie's Creek here," Musser said. "When it rained, anything in our barnyard washed into the creek. There was nothing you could really do about it, unless you had a facility to catch and hold it. So we built the storage tank."

All runoff is diverted into a slurry pit. The manure is pumped out once a week and injected into the large, round, holding structure. The manure is hauled out twice a year, sprayed on the fields, and plowed under.

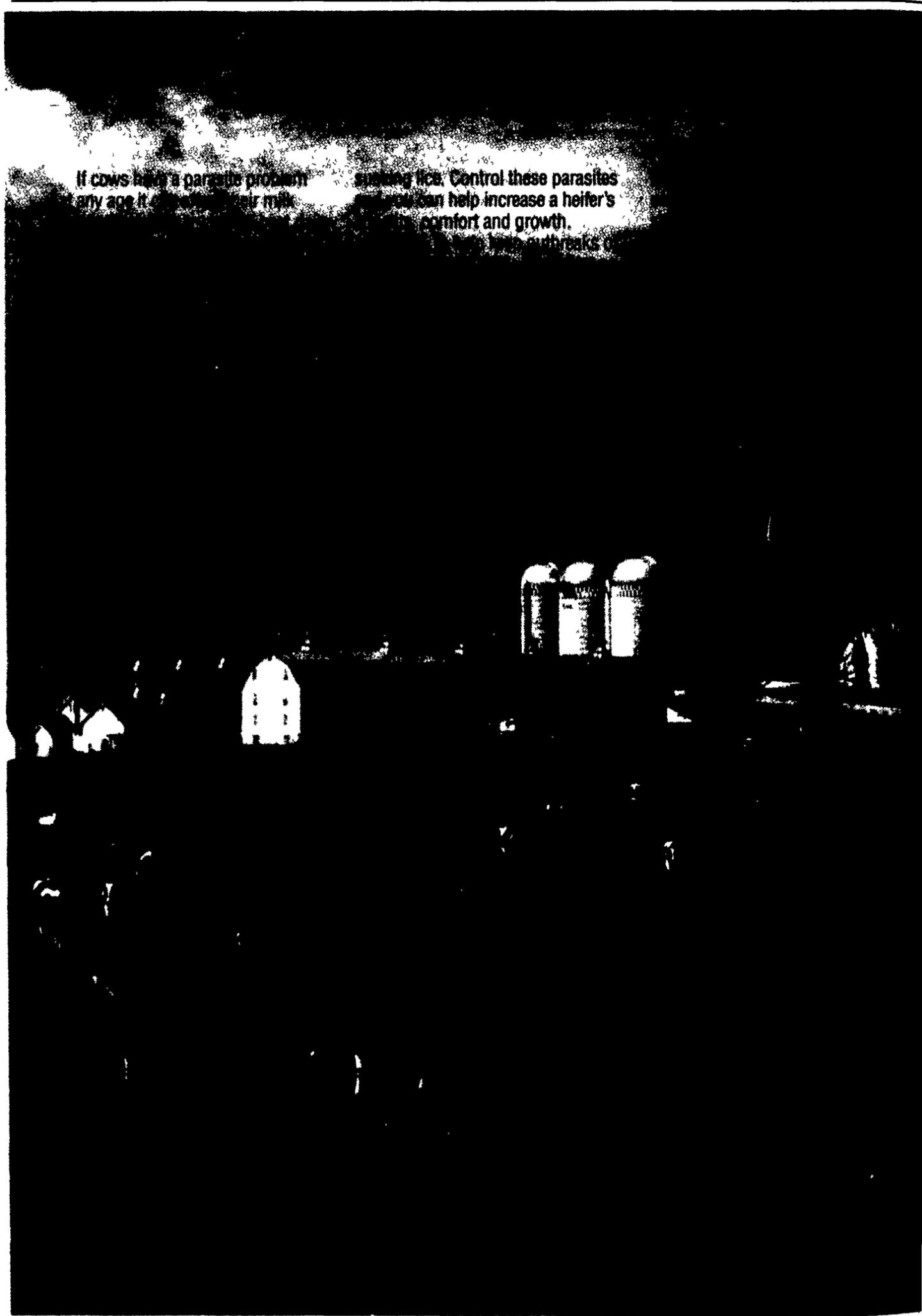
Musser understands that impending legislation may require farmers to install such a system in the future. "They aren't making you do it yet, but I think the time is going to come when you're not going to be allowed to haul manure



Runoff from Jim Musser's farm in Mt. Joy goes into a slurry pit. The manure is pumped out once a week and injected into the large, round, holding structure, pictured behind Musser. The manure is hauled out twice a year, sprayed on the fields, and plowed under. Musser believes that impending legislation may require farmers to install such a system in the future.



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