

Dairying On The Mountain

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forest and field and possible homes.

Spring is also busy time in the fields.

"We had one this spring (a wild-fire) when we were plowing and spreading manure," David said. "We spent the afternoon fighting

that."

Despite some of the hardships and the required self-reliance that go along with life in Pennsylvania's northern tier, the Butters said they wouldn't trade places with a richer-soiled southern dairyman. They made their own Dairy of Distinction right here.



Various Housing Methods For Sows Shown At Ag Progress

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor
ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.)—One of the exhibits at the Ag Progress Days showed a number of different ways to house sows in a farrowing operation.

for sows that has been developed is called the "hill-side" pen. Only limited research has been done on this type of installation, but it may offer some advantages of the crate, and yet provide enough space for the sow to turn. Dimensions of the hill-side pen are normally 6 feet x 7 feet with a creep area measuring about 18 inches x 7 feet. The area for the sow (which is sloped about 1 inch/foot) is 4 1/2 x 7 feet and allows for greater mobility in the pen.

If you choose not to use crates, we have other systems that we can use," Kephart said. "But then you need to have some advantage trade-offs. For example, in pasture housing, sows can move around and we have less disease problems, but you need a lot more labor and it's difficult to raise pigs in winter."

Most people who oppose animal agriculture have never seen a farrowing crate, so in their minds, they think a sow can only stand and lie down. That's not a very true image," said Ken Kephart, Penn State Department of Dairy and Animal Science. "We hope some of these "animal rights" people come here and look at the different ways to handle a farrowing operation and see that it is not as bad as they have imagined."

In Kephart's display, several methods of operation are shown, from a crate to open field pens. One of the newer types of housing

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