

Dairymen Feast At Milking Parlor Information Smorgasbord

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
INTERCOURSE (Lancaster Co.) — Extension officials and commercial dairy equipment representatives said they figured that about 40 dairymen would attend a Tuesday seminar on milking parlor design held at the Harvest Drive Restaurant in Intercourse.

Surprise.
 More than three times that many showed up for the event.
 Sponsored by the Penn State Cooperative Extension the event featured several speakers from Penn State and Cornell universi-

ties, a panel of dairymen who have built and work with different types of parlors, and several representatives from different dairy equipment manufacturers.

Free stall operations and milking parlors have been around for years. But some of the styles and designs discussed at the seminar were exotic affairs compared to the majority of currently used facilities.

There were floating rotary platforms, new and improved parallel designs, all-pneumatic operated rigs, and herringbone designs.

Experts talked about the need



Elvin Gingrich shows aspects of IBA milking claw hardware to dairyman at milking parlor seminar.



Ken Morgan, with Boumatic, discusses aspects of milking equipment with dairymen at seminar.

for parlors, and some of the drawbacks and bonuses, and considerations to be made in contemplating construction.

Others talked about the use of computers and automatic milk weighers and information gather-

ing equipment and the use of Dairy Herd Improvement Association test information.

PSU's Dr. Steven Spencer talked about what farmers should consider before taking on a project.

He said the number of cows, the milking schedule, possible changes to those, existing facilities, funds available, environmental regulations . . . in short, everything involved with running

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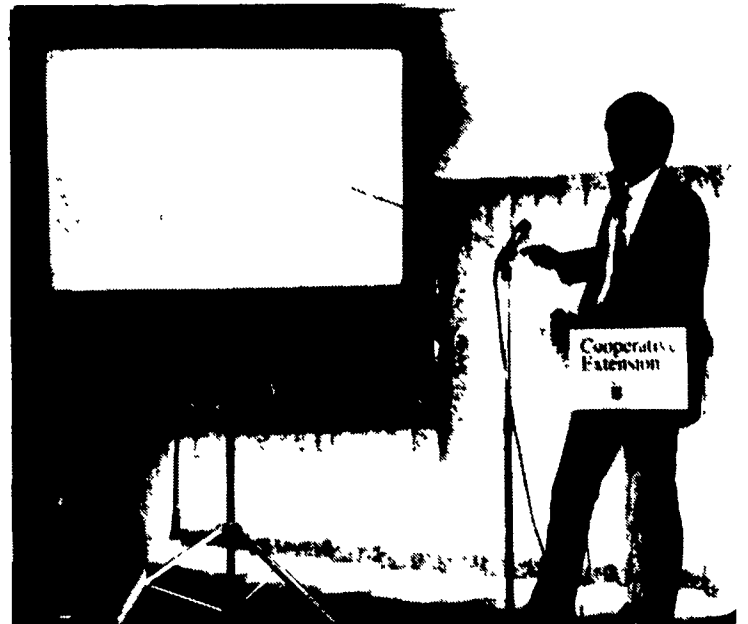
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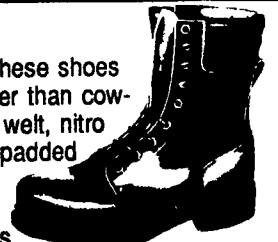
Larry Jones, of Cornell University discusses the use of information on the farm and various levels of management.

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