

# Speaker Says Stray Voltage Reduces Milk Check

WHITE HORSE (Lancaster Co.)—"Stray voltage is funny," said Consultant Bill Roberts from Utica, NY. "You can't see it, smell it or feel it yourself, but the dairy cow can feel it."

Speaking at Lapp's Barn Equipment open house Thursday, Roberts said that you can do everything possible with balanced rations, but if the cow is not comfortable because of a stray voltage problem, the cow is limited in what she can do for you.

Signs that you may have the problem in your barn could be nervous cows, cows switching their tails for no reason, or lapping water instead of normal drinking.

Ninety percent of the farms that Roberts checks with his special computer equipment have a voltage problem. The computer is hooked up to five points on the farmstead and each motor is turned on one at a time and the computer can sense what is happening at

each point. If voltage is present for only one-thousandth of a second, the computer records it. One tenth of a volt will affect some cows. It puts animals under stress, elevates SCC counts and restricts milk production potential.

If the voltage problem is on the pipeline, the cow doesn't feel it until the milk starts to flow. The rubber liners protect, but the milk flow acts as a conductor. Roberts said SCC counts can be reduced by fifty percent in 30 days if the problem of stray voltage is solved.

Roberts said most of the problems come from 110 equipment and not the 220 equipment. Imbalanced loads on the service panel, improper AMPS on both sides of the service panel, or improper grounds can cause problems. Electrical boxes are to be kept clean and dry and often they are not in the best places in a barn for this to happen.

"With the low milk prices, all



At Lapp's Barn Equipment open house are, left to right, Chuck Aungst, Jamesway representative; Jake Lapp, owner; Bill Roberts, consultant, speaker; and Leon Lapp, sales representative.

the premiums available must be taken," Roberts said. "When you

correct a stray voltage problem and get better quality milk, you make

your cows more comfortable and increase your milk check as well."

## Berks County Dairy Farm Expands



One of the top cows in the herd, according to her name card, appears to have no problem with the rubber-matted tie stall, nor the chainlink snap tie.

STOUCHBURG (Berks Co.)—An open house of a 65-cow capacity dairy facility in southwestern Berks County last week attracted about 600 people to inspect the offerings of the companies and businesses involved in the design and construction.

Mervin Brubaker, owner, declined to talk about the new facility. The farm is being operated by son Glenn and his wife Janet Brubaker.

The large crowd examined the new tie-stall barn with a wide center alley and grated, gravity-flow gutters; the wide feed alleys; the ventilation system; 2½ -inch pipeline, cooling equipment and milk house; a 103-foot by 103-foot by 8-foot earth bank manure lagoon with a concrete bottom capable of holding 6 months of manure; and three large silos.

In addition, there were trailers, tankers, bunkers, bunks, precast manure panels, bale choppers, shredder and crimpers, mixers and other commercial displays.

Companies from Myerstown, Richland, Hamburg, Reading and Lebanon areas helped sponsor the open house. Those companies included Star Silo, Elco Concrete Products, Rufus Brubaker Refrigeration Sales, Rigidply Rafters, Cedar Crest Equipment, Shartlesville Farm Service, Clover Farms

Dairy Products, F.M. Brown's Sons Inc., and Lebanon Valley National Bank.

The operation's two 20-foot by 80 foot silos and one 16 by 80 foot silo lead to a feed room with an opening to the barn, near the milkhouse and office.

The two larger silos are used for corn silage and haylage. The smaller silo is used for high moisture ear corn.

According to information supplied on fliers, the farm consists of 84 acres in rye, alfalfa, or corn. Currently 60 cows are milked, but plans are to expand to the new

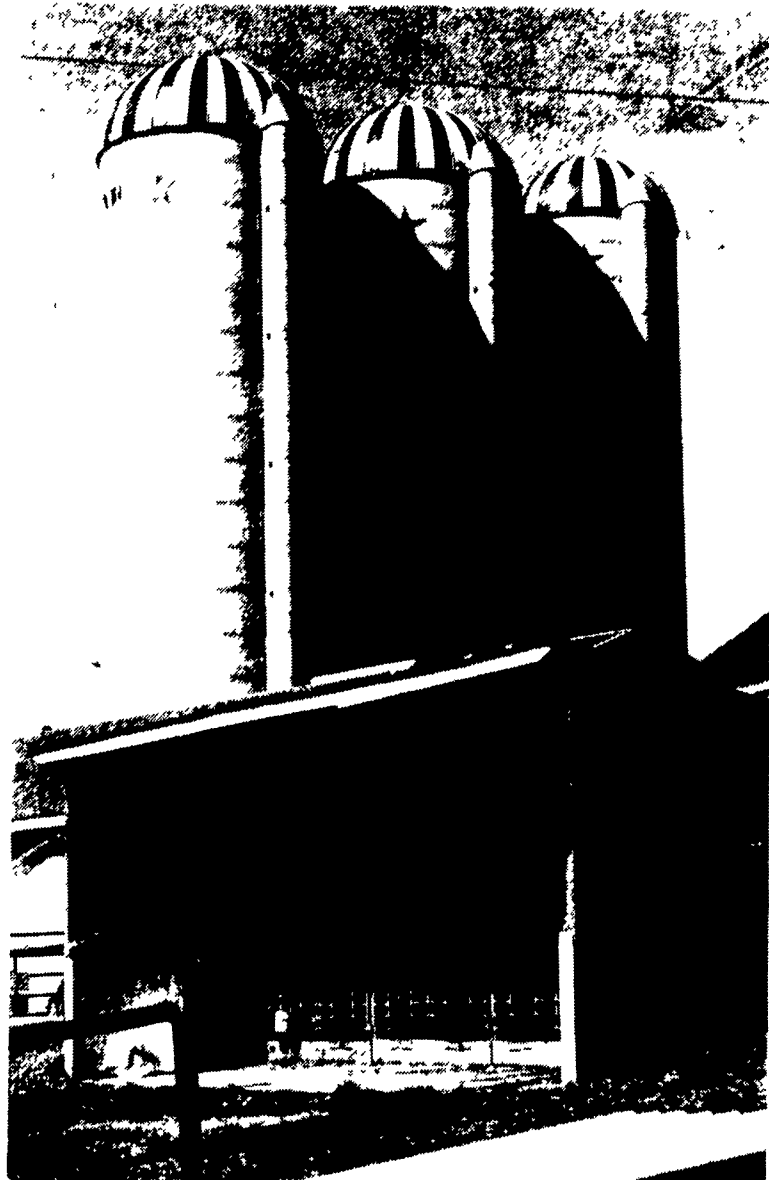
barn's capacity. The herd has been running an average of 60 pounds of milk per cow per day at 4 percent fat and 3.4 percent protein. The somatic cell count was most recently 81,000.

The Brubakers feed one group twice-a-day with Total Mixed Ration and top feed three times a day. All cows get 23 pounds of corn silage, 34.5 pounds of haylage, 20.5 pounds of high moisture ground ear corn and 6.1 pounds of concentrate.

The stalls are concrete with a rubber matting and a chainlink snap-fastener tie. The feeding area is level with the floor.



Several of the estimate 600 or more people who toured the Brubaker farm walk through the new 65-tie stall barn noting the wide center alley, the grated manure gutter, and the rubber-matted stalls. The 2½ -inch pipeline can also be seen.



Three large poured-concrete silos loom high above the new 65-stall barn. A calf facility is in the foreground.

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