

Davis Family Honored

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cent to the main farm. They rent an additional 150 acres.

Currently, their Holstein herd includes approximately 45 milkers, 15 dry cows and 72 head of young stock. "We try to keep 50 cows milking at all times," said Rick, "but right now that number is down." Several will be freshening in the very near future.

Rick and Emery feed their herd a total mixed ration from an automatic feed cart, along with hay which is distributed by hand. Cows producing over 70 pounds of milk receive an additional one pound of top dressing for every three pounds of milk up to a total of nine pounds of grain.

The feed cart has made a tremendous difference, according to Rick. "We bought the cart in 1988. Our total milk production increased by nearly 2,000 that first year."

Their top three cows are Callie, with a projected production of 32,800 pounds of milk; Laureen,

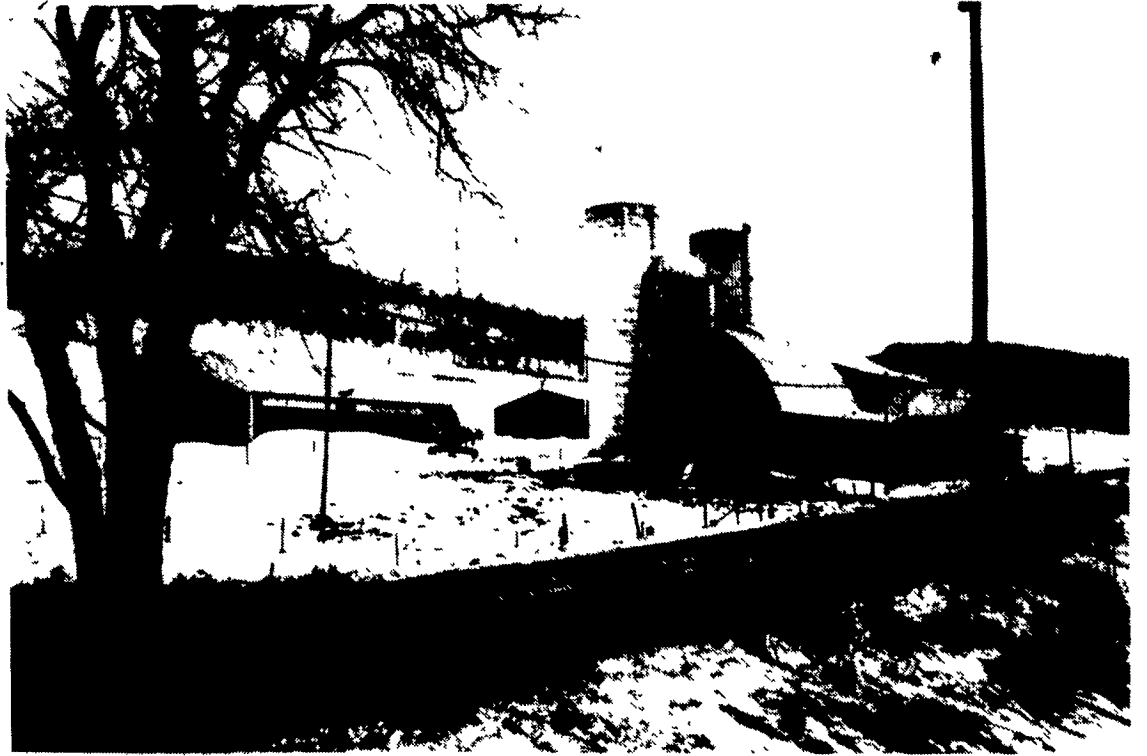
projected at 34,800 pounds; and Roberta who just finished at 31,800. "Laureen was the top cow last year at 3200 pounds," said Janelle.

The top dressing that these gals receive as additional feed consists of cotton seed, roasted soybeans, shell corn, and corn distillers, according to Rick. The special feed is mixed right on the farm.

The Davises buy their soybean and protein supplement. "And shell corn when we have to," said Rick. They raise between 70 and 80 acres of corn, 20 to 30 of oats, 20 of tripper, 60 to 80 of alfalfa, and 150 of mixed hay. About 100 acres are used as pasture.

High moisture corn is stored in a 14' x 40' silo. Corn silage goes into an 18' x 60' silo. Their 16' x 60' silo contains haylage. They make approximately 1400 square bales and a few round bales of hay to complete their feed program.

Last year Rick and Emery had to buy all their corn because of the drought. This year the ground has



The Davis farm is located between Marsh and Keeneyville on Route 249.

been too wet. While they still have corn out in the field, Rick said

about 10 acres is not harvestable and they expect to have to buy enough for three or four months.

According to Rick, other management practices the Davises incorporate include the use of AI and Sire Power for breeding by a technician. "We use a lot of the young sires. We are on the Sire Power Linear Mating Program where they come and evaluate the cows once a year and run it through the computer. That tells you what sire to use based on the data they put from the cow into the computer to strengthen your weaknesses."

Another practice favored by the Davises is to pre-dip and post-dip the cows at milking time. They have been doing this, in addition

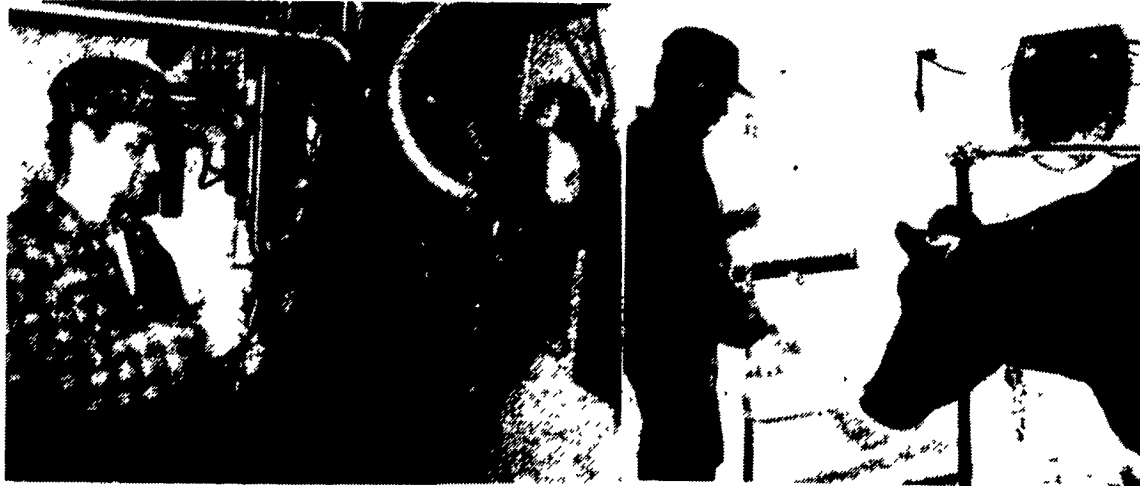
to washing the cows, for the past five years.

Rick said he feels a new tile system installed in the mangers this past fall has also made a big difference in his herd. "They eat better, and clean-up is easier."

As much as he enjoys being a farmer, Rick confessed it wasn't something that he had always planned on. After he graduated from high school, he pursued other vocations. A stint in the Army from 1979 to 1982 took him first to Turkey for a year, then to Indiantown Gap. There he met Larry and Lorraine Shuey of Ono, in Lebanon County.

The Shueys proved to be inspirational to Rick. "They have a

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Rick prepares for milking and feeds a mix of cotton seed, roasted soybeans, shelled corn and corn distillers.

PULL PLUG DRAINS LEAKING? TRI-COUNTY HAS THE SOLUTION!

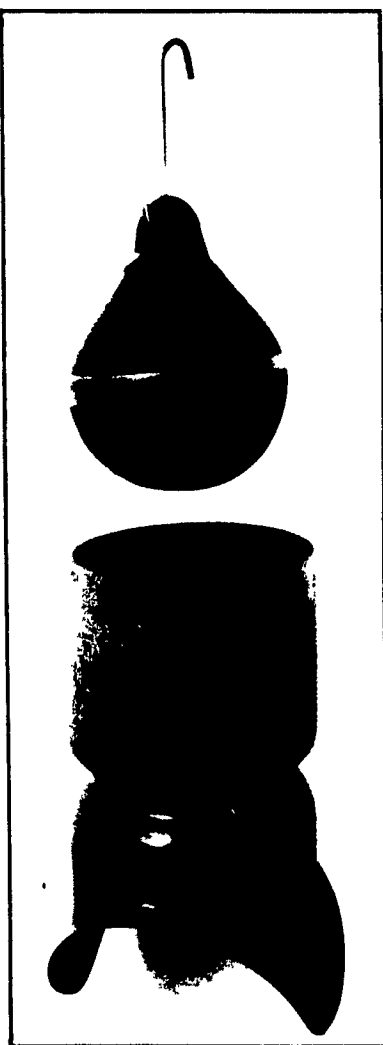
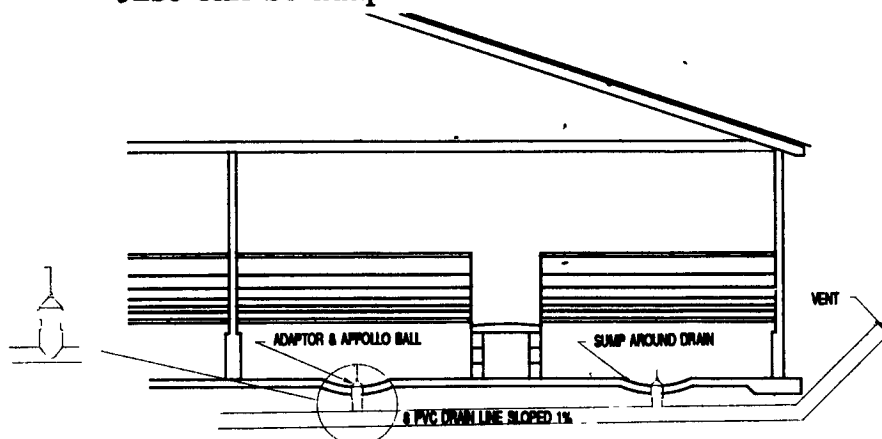
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This convenient plug for hog manure drains makes a non-leaking seal on the clean-out drain in pull-plug manure systems. It is a major improvement over leaky, concrete plugs.

Sold as a plug and pipe adapter set, the Apollo Ball is a thick, industrial-grade rubber ball that fits into a specially made PVC socket. The ball is filled with sand, which gives it weight but leaves it pliable for a very reliable seal. Molded into its top is a sturdy ring, and attached to this ring is a stainless steel rod with a loop on the end. To open the drain for pen cleaning, you can easily use a simple long-handled hook to catch this loop and lift the ball from its socket.

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Also can be adapted to 6" PVC drains.



Strange To Be Keynote Speaker

MILLHEIM (Centre Co.) — Noted author, speaker, and rural farm activist Marty Strange will give the keynote address at the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture's (PASA) second annual Farming For The Future Conference to be held Feb. 5 and 6 at the Nittany Lion Inn in State College.

Strange is program director and co-founder of the Center for Rural Affairs (CRA) located in Walthill, Neb.

Along with Don Ralston, Strange founded the Center in 1973 to advocate policy and practices to improve the economic, social, and environmental well-being of rural America.

The center, a nonprofit unaffiliated organization, has addressed issues including, but not limited to federal farm programs, tax policy, rural economic development, sustainable farming practices, water policy, the environmental impacts of modern farming practices, and empowerment of rural people.

Marty is the author of "Family Farming: A New Economic Vision" (Univ. of Nebraska Press and the Institute for Food and Development Policy, 1988), a leading critique of industrial agribusiness but a book that offers a vision for sustainable farming and healthy rural communities.

A native of Western Massachusetts, Strange received a bachelor's in sociology and political science from Defiance College in Defiance, Ohio in 1969. Following his graduation, he worked with antipoverty programs (VISTA) in Nebraska for several years as a community organizer and paralegal caseworker. These experiences, and his connections with rural people who were being hurt by existing policies, led to the formation of the CRA. Marty completed a master's in agricultural economics at the University of Missouri in 1982.

Strange has served on a number of boards and task forces at the local, state and national level.



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