

(Continued from Page A30)
A number of other considerations were made to create positive changes for increased cow comfort and management.

For example, the Hersheys not only use a computer, they have it located in a roomy barn office, just off of the parlor area, so it can be accessed by the brothers all day

without having to go back into the house, etc.

The computer is used for almost all record keeping — from complete pedigree, veterinarian care, date-of-birth, production records, and breeding records to all the accounting bookwork — and for resource and reference work, such as using the artificial insemination bull search program put out by the Holstein Association.

According to Steve, the computer is an "IBM clone" (an Intel 486 DX microprocessor) with a 120-megabyte harddrive, an 8-megabyte internal memory, a 120-megabyte tape backup, and a telephone modem which is planned for use in the near future as a direct link to Dairy Herd Improvement Association records.

On the computer, in addition to the Holstein Association bull

search, the brothers use a dairy management software program and a variety of other programs to

help them manage and keep track of the farm operation.
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This freestall is apparently being used the way it was intended: cows are either eating, or lying down to chew cud; not standing in the aisles. The Hersheys used 300 pounds of shredded rubber bedding for each stall, covered by a heavy tarp, to provide cow comfort.



This new addition to the Hershey brothers' farm appears to enjoy the fresh, clean water in the freestall. The trough can be tipped over to clean out any residue.



Sitting at a desk in the new barn office, Steve Hershey enters data on the brothers' computer. They use the system integrally with management of their farm.

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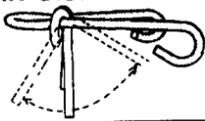
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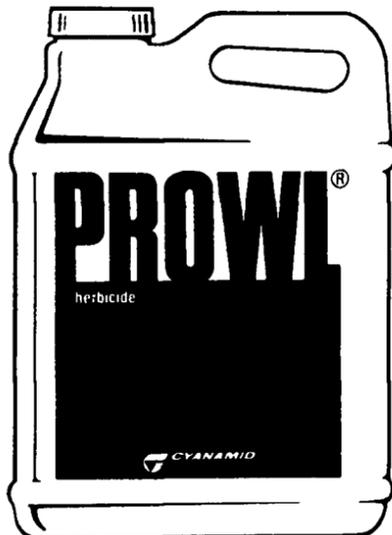
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