

# Carl A. Farm: The Second Generation



Steve Snyder hooks up equipment to milk his and his brother Tracy's high-producing Schuylkill County herd.

(Continued from Page A28) ing to concentrate on getting the herd back to strength and to con-

tinue to merchandise, the two are back to twice a day milking and rotating every other weekend off.

The future for Steve and Tracy looks good, they said. The soil type isn't the best, but

they usually get a good hay crop and corn.

The area isn't getting the overwhelming pressure from residential and commercial development as compared to other areas of the state, although it is picking up — three homes went in over the summer on a farm property immediately to the north that was subdivided by a speculator.

The brothers have made an attempt to buy a parcel that adjoins their property, but raw residential property is being sold to commuters, who benefit from cheap fuel, at prices twice than can be justified by farming.

And although commissioned real estate agents are quick to pitch a community's "rural aspects and quiet living" in pushing a sale, the Snyders never heard of an agent who would suggest selling a property at a lower price to a farmer to maintain those rural aspects and quiet living.

As president of the Schuylkill County DHIA board of directors for the past six years, "I've seen a lot of big changes in that time.

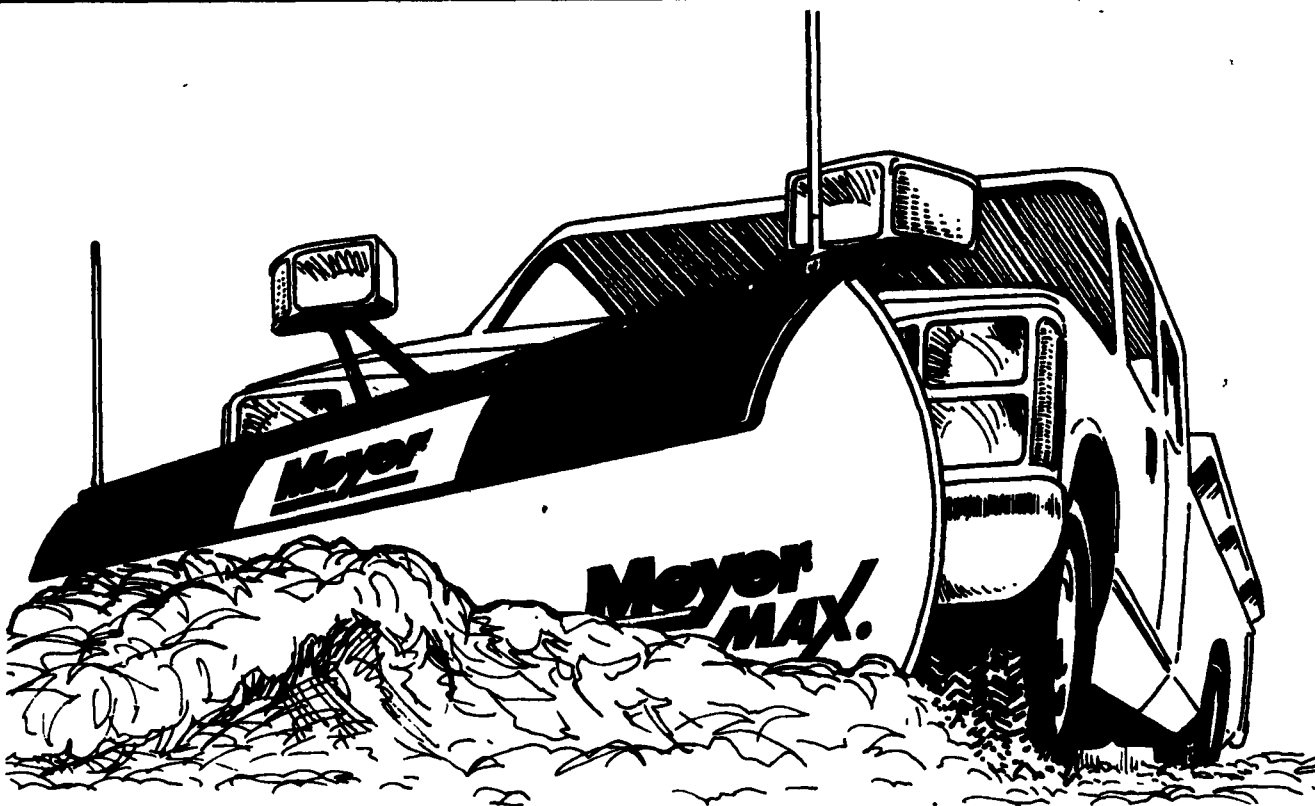
"Lancaster (County DHIA) forced a lot of changes when they changed to a different processing center," he said. The Lancastrians had forced to the front the issue of mandatory state association allegiance, when another state's association could offer a wider assortment of services.

Within the past three years, in response to a number of Lancaster County dairymen abandoning the Pa.DHIA and going to Raleigh for service with the support of National DHIA, the Pa.DHIA has upgraded its services in order to compete, and, according to Steve, has allowed its members a better chance at competition.

The even bigger change was centralization, which more or less precipitated the whole Lancaster County issue.

"Centralization has gone through," Steve said, "and for the most part, it has been smooth, except for Lancaster. It all worked out in the end and I think it's better than it was before. There's less red tape to run through to make a change in service."

Furthermore, the county DHIA has only lost one herd over the past year and he said it was recently reported to him at a Pa.DHIA regional meeting that the state membership is still strong.



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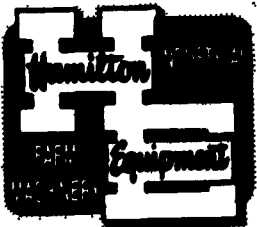
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