

Grober Inc. Presents A Modern Veal Raising Facility

(Continued from Page A26)

system.

This is a water driven system, sort of a passive flush system.

Beneath each of the two rows of 30 stalls in each bay, there is a full-length manure trough, which initially looks to be typical of a gravity driven manure system, or a scraper system.

Not these.

The manure gutters are built level and have a wooden baffle at the end, near the corridor. Each gutter is to be filled with water, and, since the manure solids float, whatever manure is added can be expected to be forced to flow over the baffle into another channel running perpendicular, underneath the corridor the length of the building.

This main gutter, with larger dimensions, also is equipped with a water-retaining baffle that functions the same way as the small gutters.

When the manure flows out of the main gutter it then flows to a manure lagoon, located slightly downgrade, and at least 100 feet from the facility. The size of the packed earth lagoon is such that it is to be capable of holding six months worth of manure, based on having a full compliment of 360 calves in the facility.

The system is based on the principle that anything added to a full container will cause overflow, and the overflow will be from the top of the container, not the bottom.

Van der Urft said that the sys-

tem does use more water to operate than does the typical dairy barn type manure collection systems, but the reason is that the facilities need to be kept as clean as possible, again to ensure a healthy growing environment.

Ideally, week-old Holstein dairy bull calves are to be purchased at auction and brought the facility for 18 cycles.

According to Grober officials, the facility is to be used as a demonstration and research facility.

In a brochure of farm Grober

distributed, it states, "We use it to show people not just what is new, but what is tried and true."

The brochure also states, "Blue Mountain View Farm is a research facility. It is here that we test new products, new ingredients, look at new management techniques, new housing methods and other ideas that we believe may contribute to easier management and more efficient production of milk fed veal."

The farm selected for the site of the facility was purchased by Grober through New Pennsylvania Realty agent Perry Long, who

attended the open house ceremony.

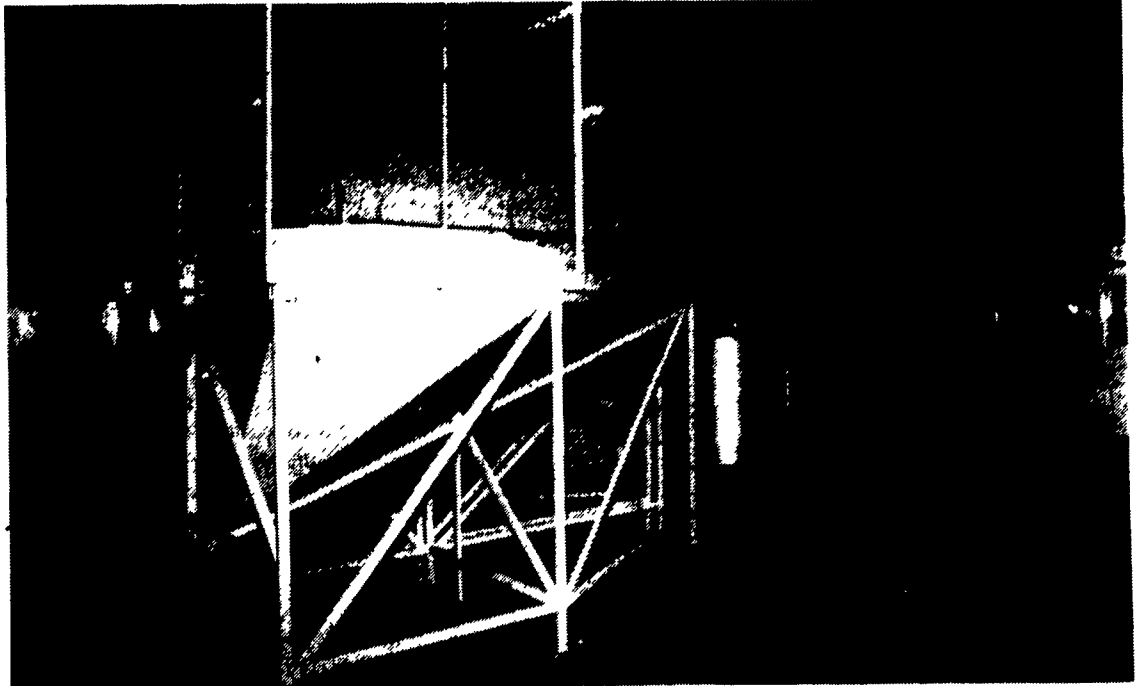
He said that he searched the area to provide Grober with several possible locations for the facility, but they decided to go with the 78-acre site for a variety of reasons, including the fact that it is located close to the company's Lehigh headquarters.

According to Long, "The farm is unique ... it's not good for development. It is in three municipalities, and bisected by high tension lines."

(Turn to Page A26)



Of the three propane tanks located at the rear of the veal raising facility, two are dedicated to fuel two forced-air heaters, while the nearest tank is reserved to serve a large backup generator.

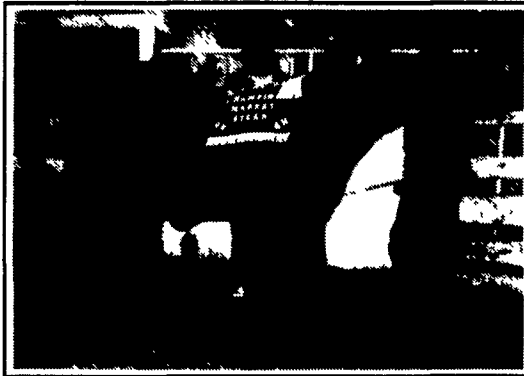


These two side-by-side bins hold 2,000 pounds of feed ingredients which are mixed in the hoppers underneath the wood-encased hot water heater. From this central location, milk replacer is piped to each of the six calf-raising rooms. The computer room is behind the far wall and window.

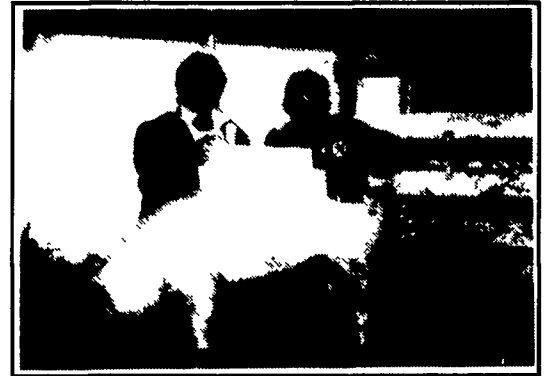
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