

Penn State Extension Dairy Agents Keep Learning Too

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Lancaster Farming Staff

NORTH CORNWALL (Lebanon Co.) — Most Penn State Extension agents have the opportunity to continually learn about the subject matter they bring to the farm.

Last week, dairy extension agents from around the state attended a day-long workshop and semi-

nar on barn ventilation held at the Lebanon Expo Center in Lebanon.

The subject has been at the forefront of concern for dairy farmers, especially because of documented and testimonial increases in milk production and herd health associated with properly ventilated barns.

A number of older, bank barns have been retrofitted with ventila-

tion systems in an attempt to increase the air exchange rate for better animal health and performance.

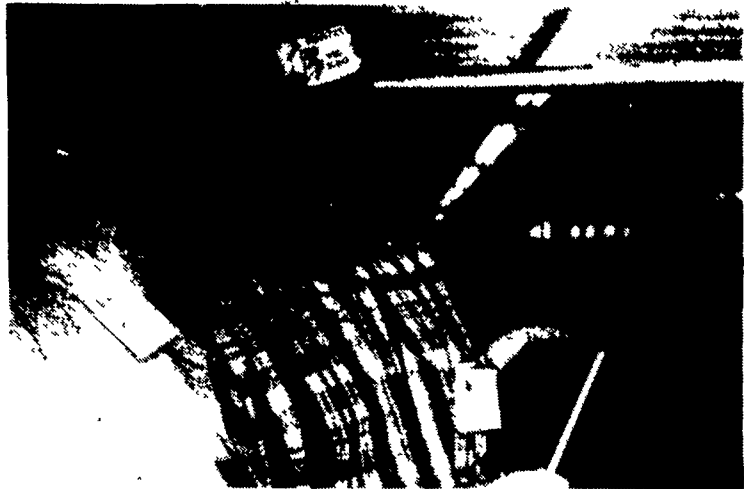
However, many have questions about ventilation because, within the dairy industry, it is a relatively

new subject.

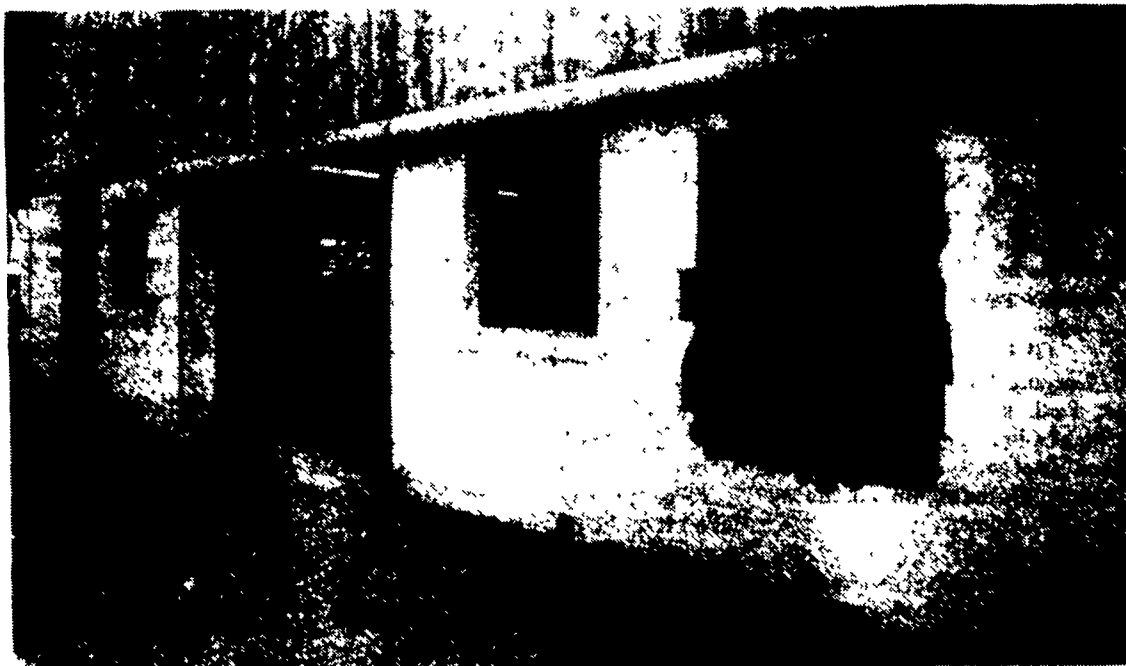
As a result of the research conducted by land grant universities such as Penn State, and because of expressed interest in the subject, Penn State Extension offered the in-service course for its agents.

The seminar was held much in the same way as the educational events agents regularly conduct; however, it was much more technical, providing a complete introduction into the details needed to be

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Dr. Robert Graves talks with Delbert Voight, Lebanon County extension agent, about the simple doll rod and plastic strip wind speed indicator. It serves to function much like a wind sock at an airport, though by walking around the barn with this simple tool, areas of dead air flow can be detected and corrected.



To establish enough area of opening to create tunnel ventilation, this window was enlarged at the Nelson Martin dairy farm. At the other end of the barn are four 48-inch fans.

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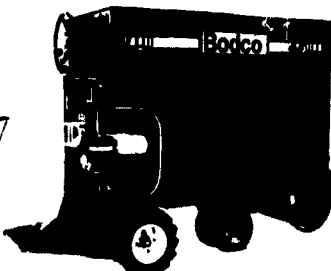
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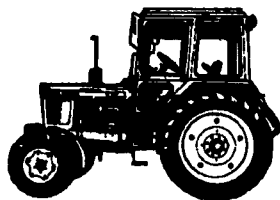
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