

New Milking Unit Unveiled At Open House



Amos Fisher, Fisher & Thompson, Inc., standing, and Leonard Smoker, dairyman, show the new flat barn milking parlor unit that is the first of its kind in southeast Pennsylvania.

PARKESBURG (Chester Co.) — A new milking system was unveiled at the farm of Leonard Smoker this week. Several hundred farmers stopped by at an open house to see the new equipment.

Used in California for quite some time, this flat barn milking parlor has moved into southeastern Pennsylvania now as a result of farmers looking for economic ways to expand their herds.

Basically, the Agromatic system that is manufactured in Wisconsin features individual stalls with milking units, milk meters, and automatic takeoffs that are installed at the end of a tiestall barn or in a special location to be accessed from the freestall barn.

At Smoker's farm, a group of eight milking stalls have been

placed within easy access to the freestall barn. The cows come in the center of the cluster of stalls, and each cow steps up 15 inches onto the milking platform where an automatic tie mechanism locks her into place. The cow's slight elevation allows the milking machine to be easily attached from the operator's seat that is part of the unit.

When the milk stops flowing, the milking machine is removed with an automatic take off, and the headlock is released to open wide enough to let the cow walk out through the front on a level walkway back to the barn.

In this system a slow milking cow does not hold up the group. Cows are brought in from the hold-

ing area through a gate operated by a garage door opener. When one of the stalls has been vacated, the operator hits the remote control button and the gate allows the next cow access to the milking area.

Leonard and his son Greg report that milking is easier with the new system. They save time and SCC counts have been lowered. One person can milk 87 cows in one and one-half hours.

Since this system can be made to fit into existing barns, it has been called a good transition parlor to help begin to increase herd size.

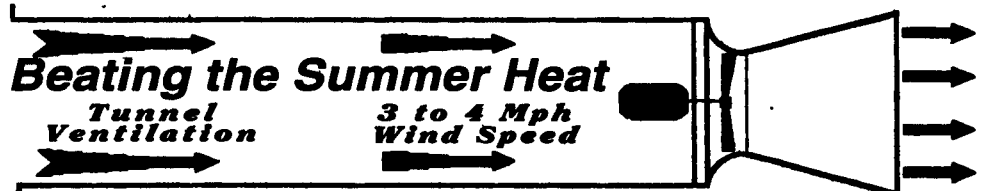
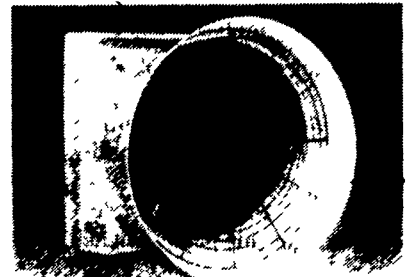
Sponsors of the open house included Fisher & Thompson, Inc.; Agri-Basics, Inc.; Genex Cooperative, Inc.; Lapp's Barn Equipment; Atlantic Dairy Cooperative, and Rufus Brubaker Refrigeration.

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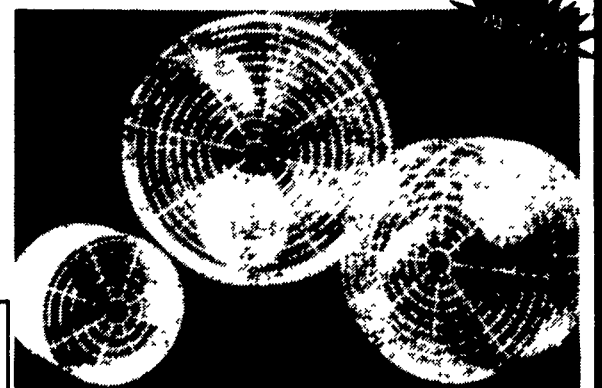
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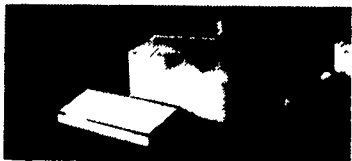
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BACS Summer Field Days-

You are cordially invited to attend one or all of the three scheduled field days to be sponsored and hosted by Brubaker Agronomic Consulting Service, Inc. (BACS) at our Hibshman Homestead Research Farm in Ephrata, Lancaster County.

*Dates of the field days are June 25,
July 25 and September 4, 1996.*

Currently, there are 40+ plots being used for a variety of research projects such as:

- Fertility Trials
- Pesticide Trials
- Herbicide-Resistant Crops
- Variety Trials
- Row Width Studies

The field days will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. A free lunch will be provided and guided tours of the plots will be given by Rob Kauffman and BACS agronomists. In addition, various agribusiness representatives will be on hand to answer any questions you may have.



Please call the BACS office at (717)859-3276 if you have questions, need directions, or would like to make reservations.