



Brookfield Farms is the home of the Mehrle Ramsburg, Jr. family.

## Dedication To Farming Pays Off At Brookfield Farms

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Mehrle still has the first tractor he ever purchased: a 1953 Farmall Super C he bought in 1956. He has restored it and uses it, but the proud grandfather says it will be 5-year-old Jacob's tractor when he's ready for it. In addition to the Super C, over time he has invested in a full line of Internationals, including a 1955 300, a 1959 340, a

1965 706, a 1972 1066, a 1983 5088, a 1985 86 Hydro, and a 1995 Case IH 7220. He uses a 1990 Ford 276 Bidirectional tractor loader to fill the bunker silos.

Some of the tractors have been modified so Mr. Ramsburg can operate them more safely and efficiently following the loss of his arm. His sleeve was caught in the PTO shaft as he was unloading

ground ear corn on December 15, 1989. After the accident, "I was just laying there thinking, what am I going to do? I could take the left lane, and do nothing, or I could choose the right lane, and manage and keep active in the farming operation. And it wasn't a hard decision," said the dairy farmer. "Now I have to be careful because I don't have good balance," he explained. Special steps and a platform have been welded onto the 706 and the loader tractor that help Mr. Ramsburg climb in and dismount more safely. And spinners have been added to the steering wheels of the trucks and the tractors. "I decided when I was laying in the hospital to get two-way radios so I could keep in touch with them and they could keep in touch with me," Mr. Ramsburg explained.

It is that kind of thoughtful determination that has led Mr. Ramsburg to excel in farming. He was recently recognized by Pennsylvania Farmer magazine and the Penn State Cooperative Extension Service as a Master Farmer. The Ramsburg family was honored in 1986 as Frederick County Farm Family of the Year. Over the years Mr. Ramsburg has been honored with the FFA American Farmer degree, the MD 4-H All-Star award, and the Outstanding Young Farmer award for Frederick County given by the Jaycees. He has been director of the county Farm Bureau, and director and officer of the Frederick County and Mid-East DHIA. He is a dairy representative on the MD Ag Commission, a director of MD-VA Milk Producers Co-op, vice president of the Thurmont Co-op, a di-



A special landing and steps have been welded onto this tractor to allow Mehrle to get in and out more easily. Spinners have also been added to all steering wheels, and each tractor and truck is equipped with a two-way radio for safety.

rector of Central MD Farm Credit, and vice president of the Dairy Council of Greater Metropolitan Washington. He also serves on the American Farm Bureau Federa-

tion's dairy advisory committee, and is active in the county Farm Safety Camp for Kids. The family is also active in the Glade United Church of Christ.



Mehrle's reflection can be seen in the 3000 gallon milk tank.

## Brosius Outlines Position On Agriculture Research

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The past several years have seen an erosion of public support for agricultural research. While private contributions to the research effort have been on the increase, federal support has been eroded by some 20 to 30 percent during the past five years," said Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Charles C. Brosius.

"This is a trend that must be stopped. Food and fiber are essential to all people, and we must ensure our productive capacity is secure."

In testimony late last week before the U.S. Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee on the reauthorization of agricultural research, Brosius said that the 1996 Farm Bill began the process of fundamental change in agriculture. He said the seven-

year phase-down of commodity programs increases the need for greater global competitiveness on agriculture.

"This situation increases the demand for sound, progressive agricultural research," Brosius said, adding that "in the past, public investments in agriculture research have paid large dividends to society, and the global, high-tech, environmentally sensitive era we have now entered requires support of public research."

Brosius, a member of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) Agricultural Research Task Force, told the Committee that the nation's land grant universities must remain a strategic resource for agriculture and the general public.

"Publicly funded research is needed to ensure society's goals

are achieved. While private and public research are complementary, private research is more narrow and short term. Public research can be more speculative, broader and longer term. Public funding ensures that needs voiced by concerned citizens are achieved. Items such as a safe and secure food and fiber system, a healthy and well-nourished population, harmony between agriculture and the environment, global competitiveness, and general economic development can be addressed with public funding. All of these factors help provide the quality of life desired by each of our citizens," he stated.

According to Brosius' statement, NASDA believes legislation reauthorizing agriculture research and education programs

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At home with the Holsteins.