

# Depends On Conservation

They also upgraded the existing pastures to get more cows out of the barn for longer periods of time. While they don't use intensive rotational grazing, the pastures are used as exercise areas for the cows.

Recently the Sells installed 500 feet of streambank fencing and put in protected crossings and three livestock watering troughs. Fencing was also used to set up pasture subdivisions and to improve forage quality in a rotational grazing system. The cows no longer need to rely on water from Coplay Creek, which runs through the farm.

Sell noted, "We fenced in the side away from the barn and installed self-contained springwater tile systems for the cows to drink out of, instead of the cows going to the creek to drink. The spring water is cold, it's flowing constantly, it's clean, it's clear, it's

so much better than creekwater and they know that."

Sell noted, "I want us to be seen as a (family) that is doing their utmost not to pollute."

According to information supplied by the district, the Sells apply various conservation practices on their cropland. They have installed 1,500 feet of grassed waterway, 1,700 feet of diversions, 53 acres of contour strip cropping, and one water control structure.

They double-crop rye on 65

acres which allows them to utilize more of their manure in the fall. Corn acreage numbers about 165 acres and alfalfa about 80 acres.

Sell believes he has an aggressiveness about practicing conservation.

But he also knows how things have changed, compared to the way he farmed as a kid.

"My dad was a very aggressive farmer for his time," he said.

Back then, Lehigh County was a big potato-producer. At the time,

you were done.

"How things have changed," he said.

These days, his advice to farmers starting out is "buy a brand new big round baler.

"If you make a mistake, which

we're all going to make, just make up your mind that you're going to have to work hard to overcome it. You can overcome a mistake. The person that never did anything never made a mistake."

*'If there's a problem, you're going to hear that (from customers) real quick. If it's really good, if they're really tickled with it, you won't hear as much comment.'*



Back then, they sold milk in varying containers and percentages of milkfat. Then, "we were lucky" if the store sold 50 gallons of skim milk a week, said Sell. Now, the major portion of the milk sold at the store is low-fat. Two percent milk is a favorite, according to sales figures.



The dairy includes 150 milk cows and 75 replacements of grade Holstein. The Sells are not Pa.DHIA members, and do their own production tests using a computerized milk system. The herd averages about 21,000 pounds.

blight problems threatened crops all the time. His dad, Frank, came up with a way to use lime and bluestone in water to protect potato leaves from fungus.

One cool, rainy year, potato farmers in the county suffered terribly from the blight. But Hubert's father had a crop.

"He was one of the pioneers in our area in using chemicals (on that farm) to kill blight disease." Only thing is, Hubert remembers that not much caution was used when applying the chemicals.

"We were so liberal with (them)," he noted. "You didn't worry about this stuff. When I was a kid, I used to drive a spray truck. I smoked then. You'd light up cigarettes, you'd smoke, and then, coming from the spray rig, all of a sudden the cigarette tasted sweet and you'd throw it away. We had no shirt on and you'd be wet when

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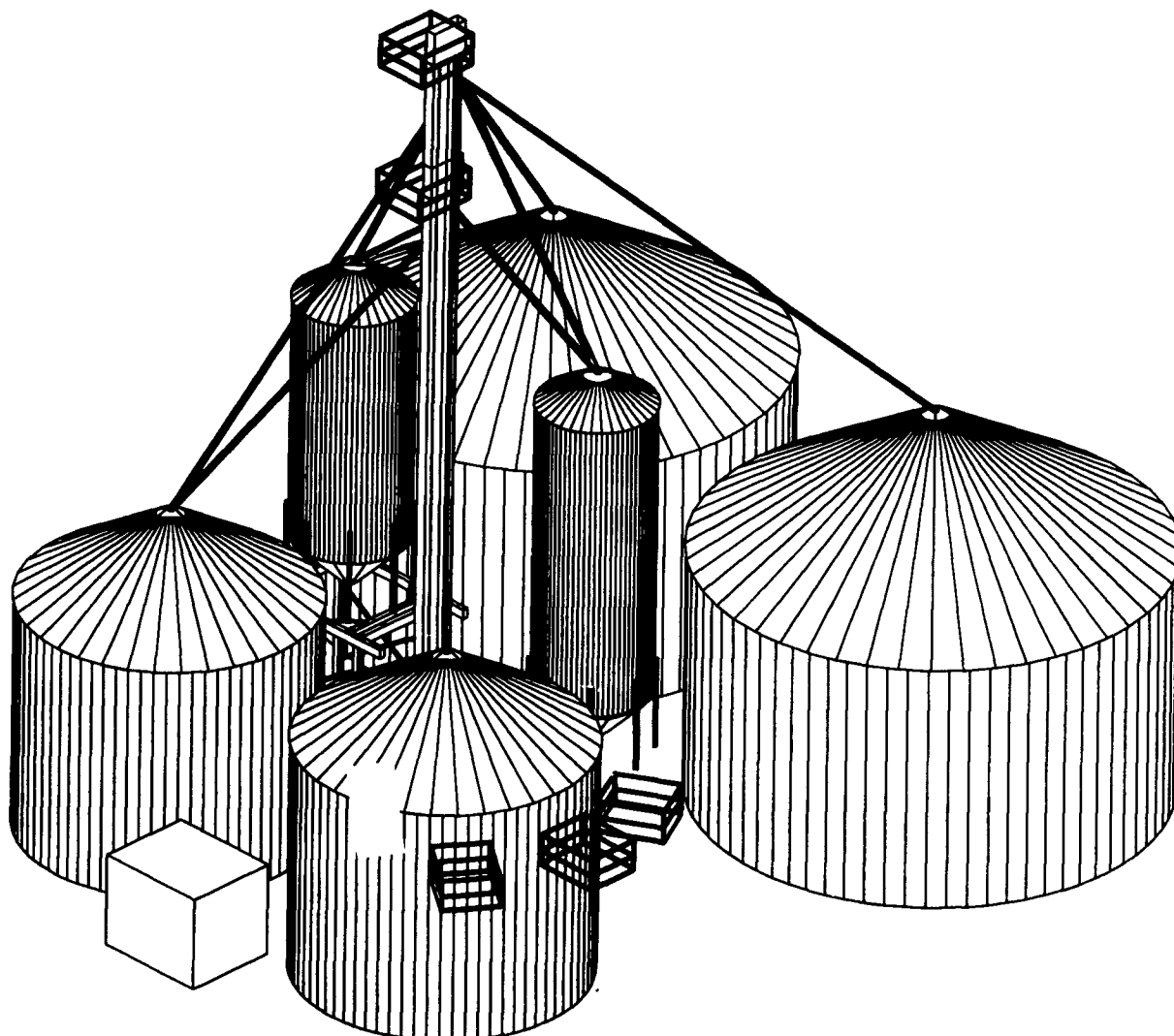
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