

Maryland University Clarksville Farm Has New Dairy Facilities

(Continued from Page A24)

ram manager, said studies show that cows have a need to drink a lot of water right after being milked. This experiment will allow the cows to have that drink and keep cool right in the parlor.

Milk production data is transferred into computers, along with feed data right from the parlor. This data is electronically transferred to College Park. Statistical analysis can now be speedily obtained as soon as two weeks after the trial has been completed. In addition, preliminary and on-going data can be studied as the trial progresses.

"Research projects have been continuous since we have the new facilities completed," Moreland said. "And we have to stack the projects because you can only use a certain number of cows in any one trial. It is a lot of individual work."

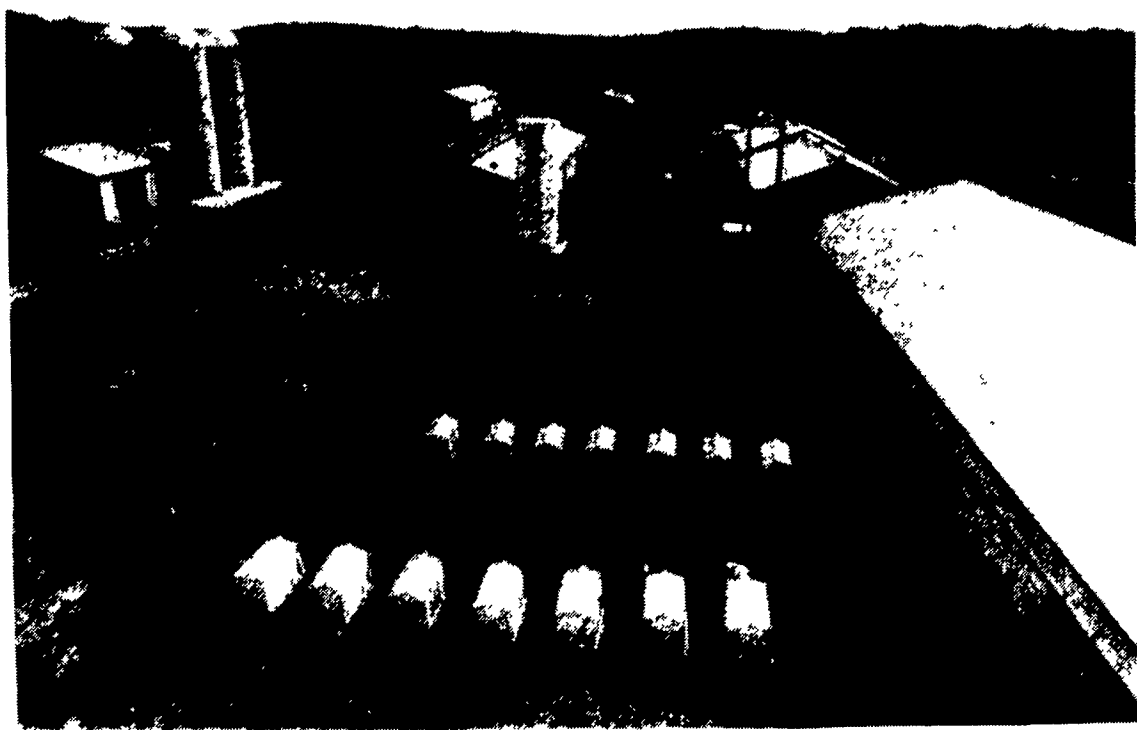
Cows are tethered to individual feed bins that are mobile and lock in place in front of each cow for intensive feed studies and indi-

vidual rations. The gutters are deep to accommodate pans to catch the excretion from each cow.

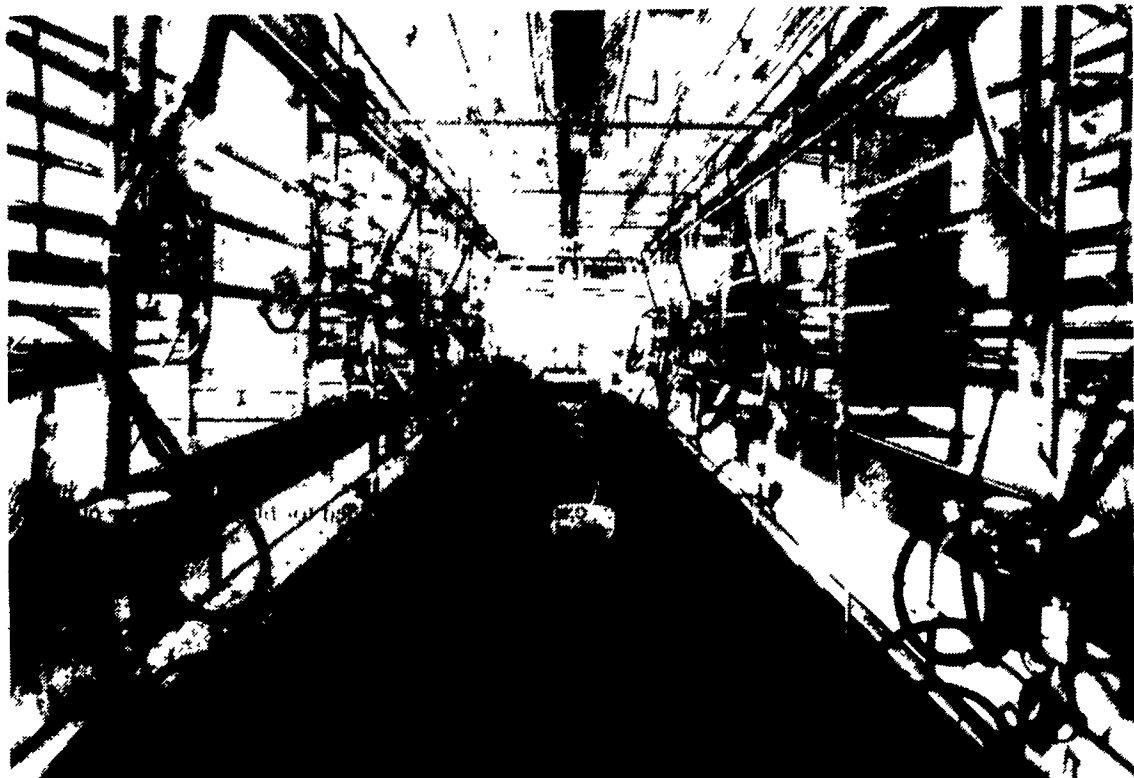
In the free-stall barns a flush system is in place that takes the manure to a settling basin and on to a holding tank that is agitated and pumped through the separator. In the separator the manure is filtered down through grates to release the solids to the ground to be put into the composting system, and the liquids to the second holding tank to be pumped to the lagoons across the road. From the secondary lagoon the water is pumped to irrigate the fields, returned to the flush system in the barns, or put into the wetland filtering trials.

Benny Erez, who is in charge of the composting operation, believes this method of handling manure will have a place in the future dairy business because of the need to move manure off the farm.

"This is a good way to export manure," Erez said. "Composting helps to stabilize the nitrogen, reduce the odor problems and



A birds eye view of the new facilities at the Clarksville research farm. A field day and dedication is planned for July 9, 1998.



The milking parlor allows individual cows to be retained for further research projects while the other cows in the row are released after milking.

develop a product to sell from the farm. To date, however, the cost of composting dairy manure with the extra labor it takes has not been fully documented."

At the field day next month, all these points of interest, along with a full schedule of reports by the teaching and research faculty at the university, will be part of the prog-

ram. While the state dairy judging team conducts a practice session, dairy tours around the farm will include reports on somatic cell counts, handling of dairy manure, and marketing milk with futures. The lunch and dedication ceremony is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. The extended program can be found in a sidebar to this article.

MDIA To Meet June 9 At Cove Mountain Farm

HANCOCK, Md. — The Maryland Dairy Industry Association (MDIA) has scheduled a board of directors meeting Tuesday, June 9 at Cove Mountain Farm north of here.

Cove Mountain Farm is the dairy test farm for the American Farmland Trust.

The meeting will convene at 10:30 a.m. at the farmhouse. A sandwich luncheon will be served at noon, followed by a tour of the new milking parlor and a discus-

sion of the New Zealand model of grassland farming and low-maintenance dairy production.

The farm is the "American Farmland Trust pilot farm for grazing," according to Will Godwin, MDIA treasurer.

The farm will showcase the "greatly reduced overhead method of producing milk," said Paul S. Weller Jr., MDIA executive director.

Address of the facility is 12462 Little Cove Road, Mercersburg, PA 17236, (717) 328-4400. Farm manager is Brian Petrucci.

Directions: take I-70 to Exit 5 (west of Clearspring). After exiting, turn left at stop sign. Take first right (Hollow Road) and travel north. This becomes Pa. Rt. 456 across the stone bridge. Follow Rt. 456 about three miles into Little Cove.

Entrance to the farm is on the right, just past the Methodist church. Look for the farm sign.

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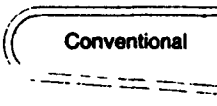
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