

Hoof Clinic Held At University Park

GAIL STROCK
Mifflin Co. Correspondent
STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.)—Ask some people to list the most important parts of a dairy cow and very few would even think of the hooves. But to the 375 people who attended the Pennsylvania Foot Clinic at Penn State's Ag Arena on Friday,

February 4, good hoof health is very important.

Dairy producers, veterinarians, nutritionists, researchers, agribusiness representatives, and other consultants came to hear dairy industry specialists speak of the various issues that affect hoof health. Nearly 60 hoof trimmers, from as far away

as Ontario, Canada, came also to watch hoof trimming demonstrations on dairy cows with various foot problems.

Professional hoof trimmer Paul Neer, Belleville, hosted and coordinated the event along with sponsors from Agway, Monsanto Dairy Business, Roche Vitamins, and Zinpro Corporation. Neer sponsored a similar appreciation clinic two years ago in Belleville. Nearly 250 dairy producers, veterinarians, hoof trimmers, and nutritionists attended that event.

"There are a lot of theories about chutes, chipper tools, and the best combinations," Neer said as he welcomed the crowd, "but I say it [the quality of the hoof trim] is only as good as the guy behind it." Neer, a firm believer in hoof maintenance, then introduced Penn State Extension Agent Dan McFarland who talked about the importance of proper housing and environment for cow comfort.

The morning session ended with hoof trimming demonstrations. Participants moved throughout the Ag Arena to watch ten hoof trimmers demonstrate maintenance and problem hoof trimming.

In the afternoon, Dr. William Seymour, a nutritionist with Roche Vitamins, spoke about biotin and hoof health while Dr. Chris Canale, a nutritionist with Agway, spoke about laminitis and nutrition.

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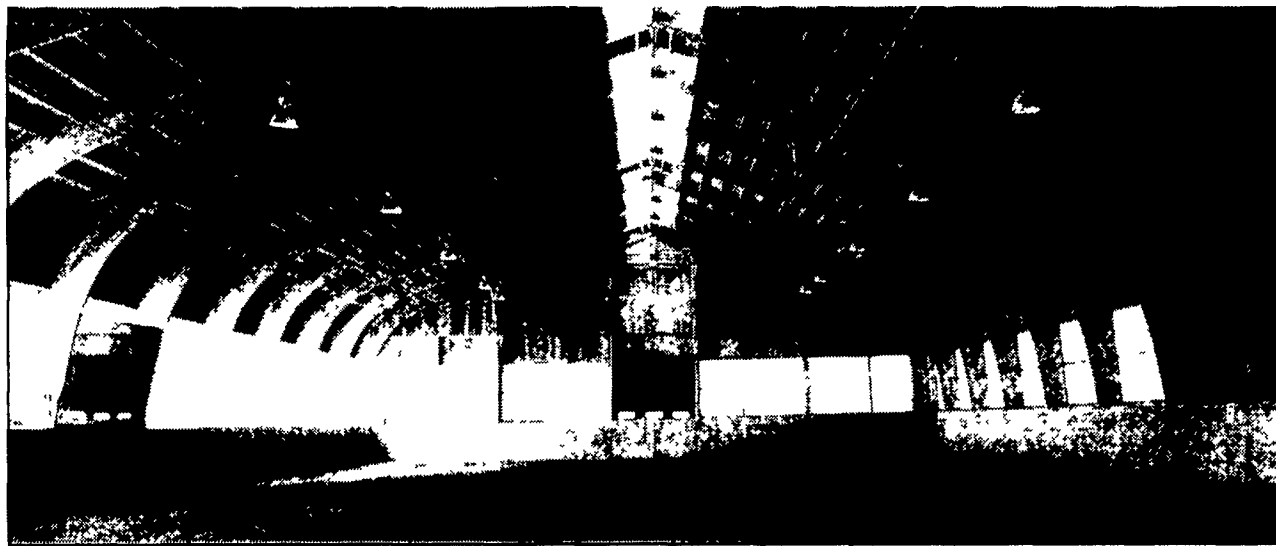
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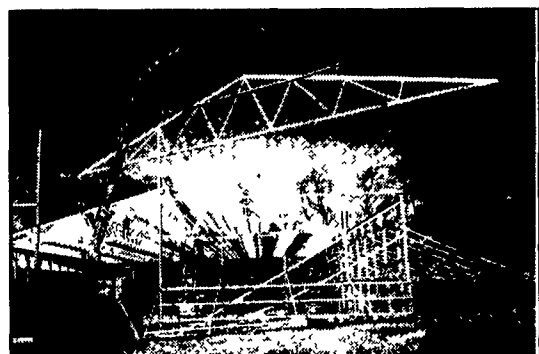
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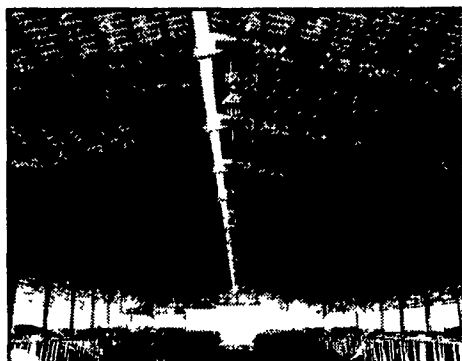
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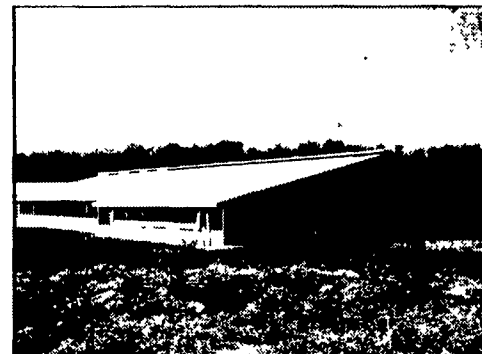
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