## 'Brown Cow' Store

(Continued from Page 18) gallon holding tank to await fur-

ther processing.

The facility includes the minidairy that can process yogurt items, ice cream, cheese, and eventually specialty butters. Their milk, sold in half gallons, quarts, and pints, is labeled on the refrigerator door in the retail store as "cream line milk." That type of milk is unhomogenized. The customer must shake it to blend the cream in - the "natural" way to drink milk and supposedly, according to Heindel, more nutritional.

He said, "Sometimes, to a consumer, the milk doesn't always look pretty. But what's the issue — is it going to be pretty or more wholesome?"

A batch ice cream maker can make five gallons in 20 minutes. Heindel believes that the product will prove to be "one of our better sellers" and they are already thinking about purchasing a larger model.

All equipment in the minidairy meets OSHA regulations, he noted. In use is a French pasteurization system, different in

some ways from the American system. The French is a hightemperature, short-duration system that meets federal guidelines. About 250 gallons per hour can be pasteurized.

Heindel was careful to ensure backups are present. The market uses a 125-kilowatt, diesel-generated backup generator that costs about \$18,000.

A room used at the farm market for storage will become a small bakery in the future, noted Heindel.

Many "bugs" in obtaining federal approval to market the



All equipment in the mini-dairy meets OSHA regulations, Heindel noted. In use is a French pasteurization system, different in some ways from the American system. The French is a high-temperature, short-duration system that meets federal guidelines. About 250 gallons per hour can be pasteurized.

dairy products have been worked out. Heindel noted that, in the bureaucracy, "there are good people and some can be nastv.

For the Heindel family, it is critical that the farm market is perceived correctly. Plans are to place an observation window into the processing plant for tour groups after all the "bugs" have been ironed out.

They used the main road frontage of Rt. 74 to provide visibility. Fortunately, because the market is located next to the Clearview Elementary School of the Red Lion School District, zoning approval was easier to obtain.

The farm itself includes Dan Hushon, dairy manager; Dan Wagner, field crops manager; and Andy Peterson, beef manager. Adam Rishel is farm market dairy plant manager.

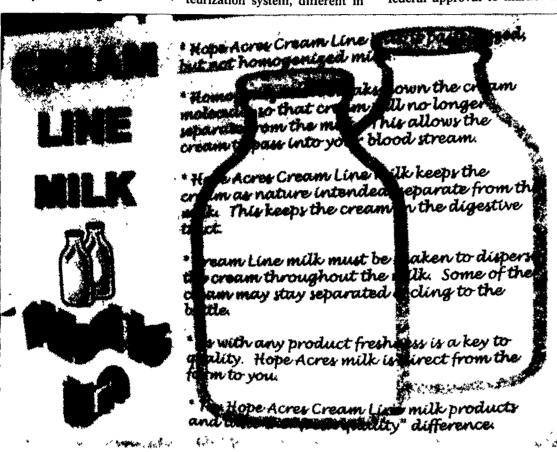
The dairy operation is comprised of about 200 cows. H.E. Heindel and Sons raises about 2,000 acres of crops, including corn and alfalfa.

"If we do this right," said Jeffrey Heindel, store manager, "it will help us and the dairy farmer, as an example of how a mini-dairy can be successful. It will also create a good image for the dairy farmer as well."

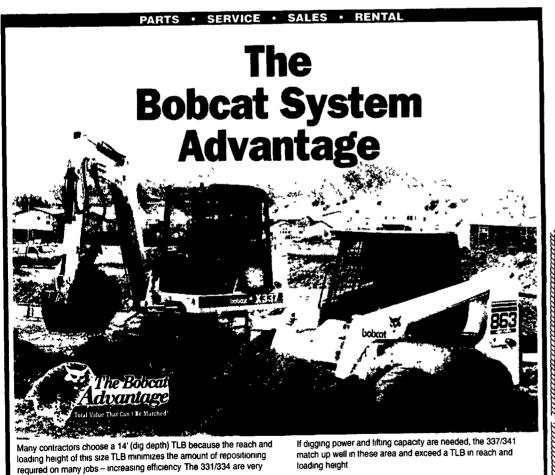
The central issue: to market the product, 50 percent of it must come from the farm. A farmer, noted Heindel, should be able to "sell his products and build a store to sell them in," he said. But what does the 50 percent refer to? The value of the product? The amount in the retail space? That is not specified in the zoning.

Regardless, the farm market will expand its retail offerings in the days ahead.

According to Jeffrey's wife, Roxy, a grand opening is scheduled May 11-13. Farm store hours are 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and closed Sunday.



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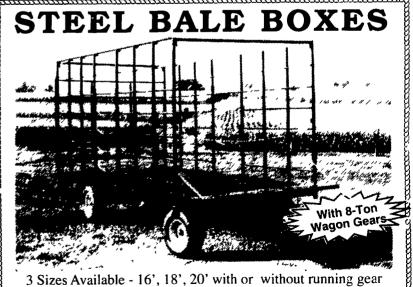
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