

Stoner Family Passes Corporation To Second Generation

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any fresh, treated, or sick cows. "It's a little bit different than traditional set-ups," said Tim. "It helps us keep a close eye on all of the special needs cows because they're all in the same area."

New to hosting events at their farm, the Stoners are also preparing to host Franklin Fall Farm Fun Fest on Saturday, September 9. They're expecting around 1,000 people to attend the Fun Fest. On the Thursday and Friday before the Fest, 1,500 fourth graders from every school in the county will visit the farm.

"It's a good opportunity for us to educate the public about farming," said Tim. "The County Farm Bureau coordinates it, and we will set up stations around the farm to tell people what's happening and answer their questions."

Decisions like whether or not they should host the Fun Fest are discussed during monthly meetings with all of the partners. The Stoners use the meetings to discuss daily operations, identify issues with employees, and vote on any major decisions. "We don't do a lot of voting,"

said Stoner. "The meetings are usually a good time to look into things we should be doing and things that we want to try."

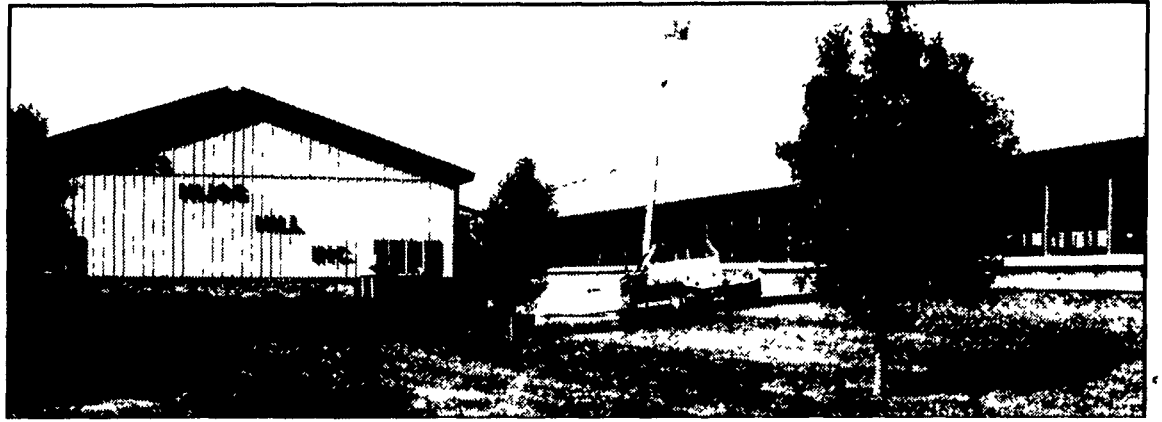
The Stoners also rely on the advice of their veterinarian, nutritionist, and other consultants who work with the farm. "We thought about having regular meetings with them, but right now we just work closely with each of them on different issues that come up," said Tim.

According to Tim, the transfer from one generation to the next came at a good time. "We talked about it for two or three years, and we wanted to find the best way to handle the transfer and be fair to both sides," he said.

The Stoners worked with a lawyer who was new to transferring family corporations. "We listened to speakers who talked about handing the farm down," said Tim. "But this situation was a lot different than a father handing his farm down to the son."

The transition went smoothly thanks to the cooperation of both generations. "Our uncles were very helpful," said Tim. "I am glad we did it when we did."

According to Tim, becoming



The Stoner family operates Hijos Hill Dairy in Franklin County. Purchased by their grandparents in 1942, the family corporation was recently passed down to the sons of the brothers who formed the original corporation called Hijos Hill.

Built in 1998, the Stoners' dry cow and special needs area houses freestalls for dry cows, bedded pack for prefresh cows, and calving stalls for freshening cows. It also features a four-stall milking parlor to prevent treated milk from getting in the bulk tank.

owners of the business motivated the cousins to take more interest in what happens on the farm.

"When you're a younger guy working under your father, you don't feel like you own anything," he said. "Now that we made the transition, we're more motivated to do the things we have to do."

Tim's Uncle John said it best. "We older guys started putting

this puzzle together 30 years ago, and we at least have the border finished," he said. "Now

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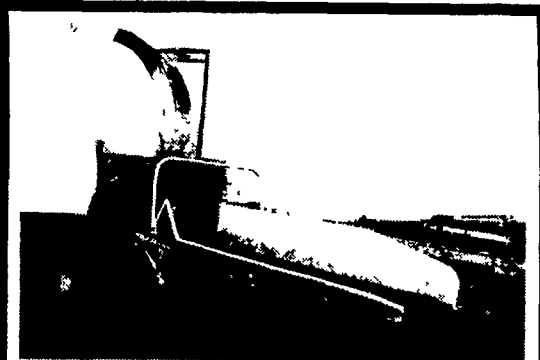
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