

Chester County Angus

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“the other eight days,” on the farm, where he admits his heart is.

“He says he feels more tired from a day in the office than from working around on the farm,” said son Steve.

A Pasture Operation

A purebred Angus operation of 40 registered brood cows, Glen Oak Farm consists of 275 acres — 70 acres in permanent pasture parceled into 15 paddocks. The animals are on the paddocks for one week before the area gets three weeks of rest in Heim’s grazing system.

The cows are bred mostly with natural breeding and the

heifers with AI. Heim is working to breed easy-calving cows that produce calves with strong weaning and yearling weights on their grass-based system. He relies on AHIR Performance Records as a breeding management tool.

When the calves are weaned in the fall, Heim selects calves to be used as registered breeding stock and sends the remainder to Lancaster County feedlots.

One challenge is the 60 acres located one side and the remainder of the land on the other side of a road. Clover and perennials are broadcast in the spring, as the seeds “hoofed in” by cows churning the soil with their hooves. The extremely rocky

acres are no-tilled with alfalfa and orchardgrass.

Heim offered suggestions in tilling methods, seedstock, and his ideas about a variety of grasses for differing conditions.

On the farm, for example, he deals with shallow soils on the hillsides which may dry in the hot summer.

Although the area is ideal for cow/calf pairs, the surrounding woods makes deer pressure a problem, according to Heim. The woods do, however, provide shade in every pasture.

Reclaiming Land

Recently Heim expanded the operation by purchasing 185 acres of pastures, cropland, and cattle barns of land formerly owned by the Devereux foundation.

He was able to show visitors the results of the family’s work at reclaiming the land back into production after 15 years of neglect.

After acquiring the land, Heim went to work clearing the overgrown bittersweet, multiflora rose, and other weeds. He maintains the fencelines with a grass to ensure the grass takes over the vacant soil.

“If the grass takes over, I don’t have to spray every year,” said Heim.

After taking dumpsters of barbed wire off of the land, Heim fenced the perimeter of the area with high tensile fencing.

Additionally, cutting a road through the woods created a way to move into the new pastureland and avoid the road.

On the former Devereux land, the Heims cleared the rocks to the side of the pasture, added an animal handling facility, and put in 800 tons of slag stone, 18 inches thick, in the



The overgrown areas of the newly-acquired land, neglected for 15 years, will be cleared, subdivided, and grazed. The animals will finish clearing brush, as evidenced by the work the cattle have already done on the pasture on the left.



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cattle barn area where he plans to winter the heifers.

Underground water was already in place, so Heim replaced a few parts, flushed the lines, and began to use the equipment.

The “bush” areas, as Heim dubbed them, will be cleared, subdivided, and grazed. The an-

imals will finish the work to keep the area clear and create a new pasture for the operation.

“It’s amazing what they (the cows) eat. They’ll eat the weeds or underneath rose bushes,” he said.

He hopes to expand to 80-90 head.

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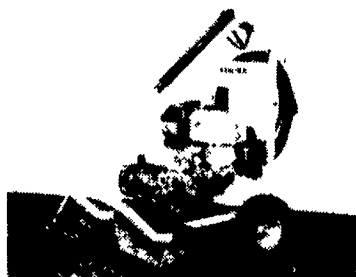


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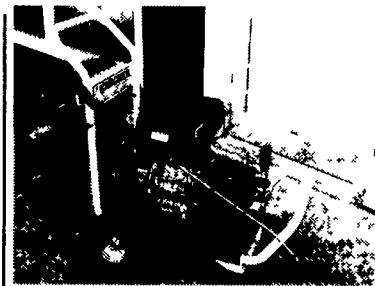
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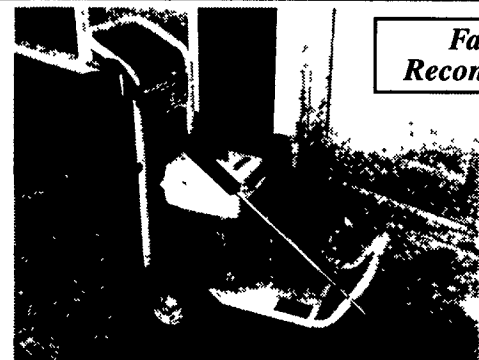
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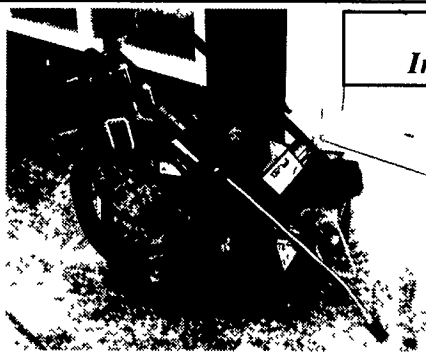
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