

# Tornado Levels Property

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Don Hoover of Binkley & Hurst Bros. farm equipment. Hoover traveled to Potter County later in the week to provide an electrical generator for the Smokers.

All members of the Smoker family survived relatively unscathed.

Kevin Smoker grew up on the dairy farm here, which he and Judy now own. The family feeds about 200 heifers for a nearby dairy producer. Four of the heifers were killed by the tornado, and several had to be sold because of injuries.

The remaining heifers are OK and are still on the farm, out on pasture.

As far as the property is concerned, cleanup and rebuilding are going to take "a long, long time," Judy Smoker said.

Besides the devastation of the house and barn, the twister also toppled two silos and took the family car for a ride.

According to Hoover, evidence shows the full-sized car was pitched about 200 feet, bounced off a silo, and thrown another 1,000 feet in the opposite direction.



Neighbors join in cleanup work at the Smoker farm.

In addition, the Smoker's two-car garage was picked up and "thrown in a pile in the woods, about 800 feet away," Hoover said.

In the days following the disaster, hundreds of neighbors came to help with the cleanup, Hoover said.

Weather service officials estimated the tornado winds at 200 miles per hour. Debris from the buildings was found at least a

half mile away, according to Hoover.

"As you looked out across the valley, you saw debris scattered as far as you could see," he said.

Judy Smoker said the family plans to rebuild the house, and possibly the heifer facilities as well.

People interested in helping with the cleanup should contact their nearest Mennonite Disaster Service representative.

A focus on the latest forage varieties will be part of the Sept. 13 issue of *Foraging Around*. Also scheduled: update on pastured poultry research at Penn State and the latest haymaking and grazing information from various field days.



On another farm near Ulysses, a tractor was lifted into a tree by the twister.

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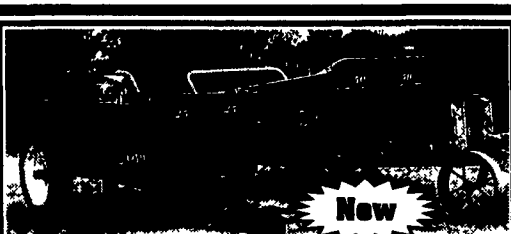
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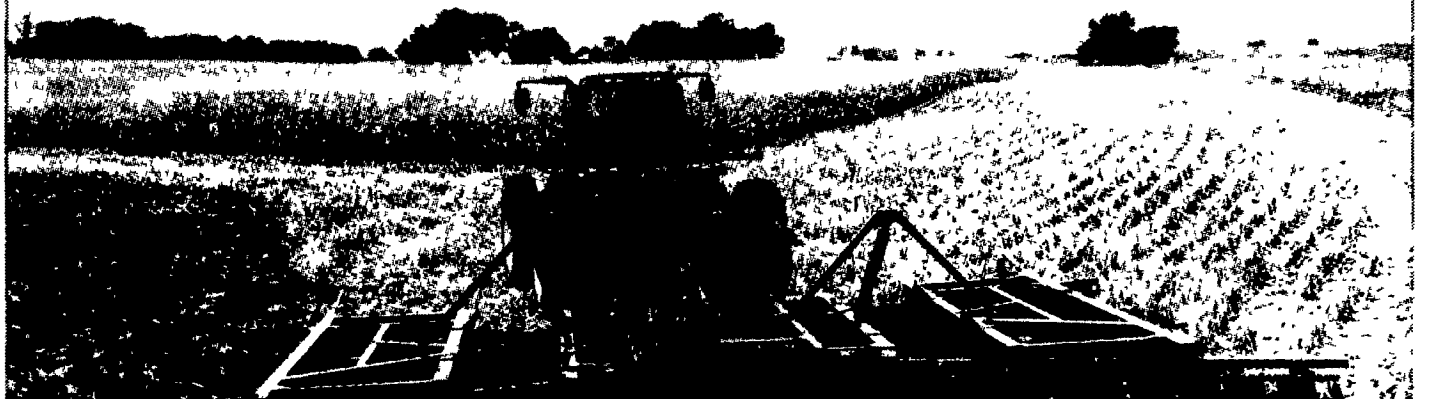
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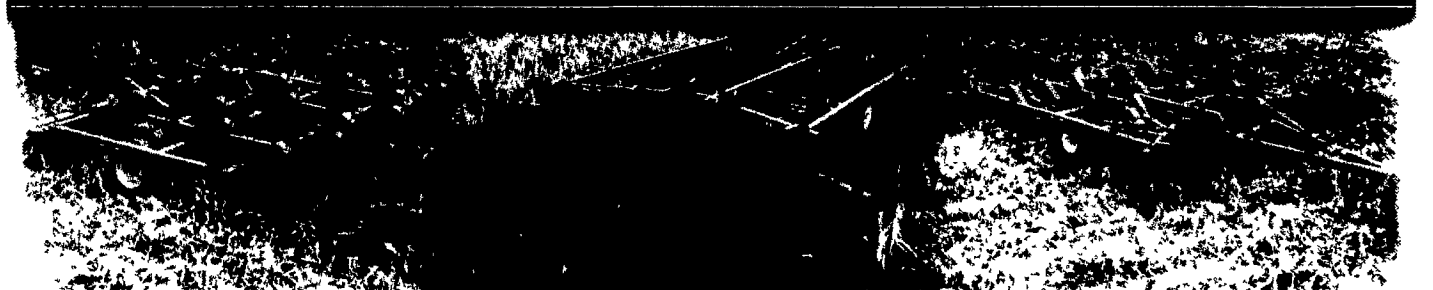
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