

Farming On The Edge

(Continued from Page A22)

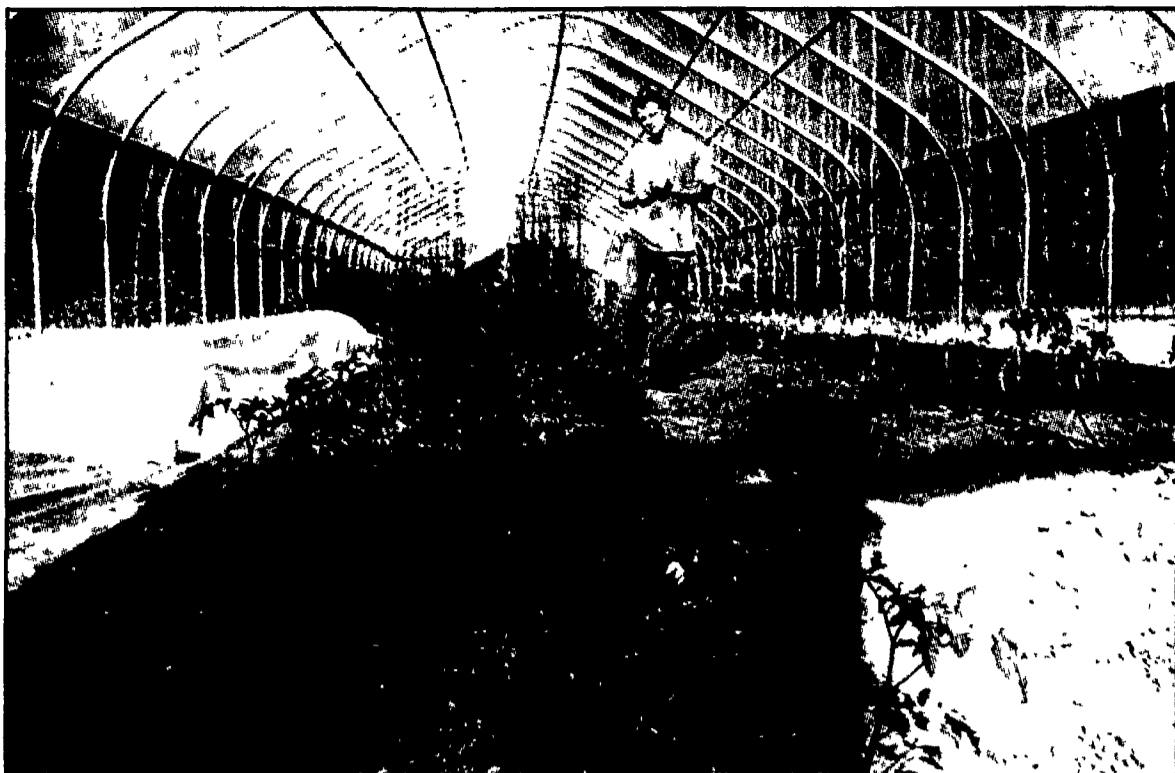
few frames for other farmers. Since then the business has been slowly growing."

That's putting it mildly. Today, Person's high tunnel frames are found on farms throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. The University of New Hampshire used his frames for research throughout the 1980s. When Penn State established its Center for Plasticulture

(www.plasticulture.cas.psu.edu) in 1998, it bought two dozen of Person's frames.

"Use of this technology will allow growers to produce certain crops year around. (High tunnels) will allow the consumers of the commonwealth to purchase locally grown produce for a longer period of time than has been previously possible," report Penn State horticulturists William Lamont and Michael Orzolek.

They're not kidding. High tun-



Tomato and other seedlings planted this spring with drip tape, twine trellis tied to the frame, and floating row cover on heavy wire hoops keep bugs out, beside providing extra warmth.



Salad greens in the ground. Plastic hoops and floating row cover provide extra warmth and protection, like an extra blanket on a cold night.

nels start the cash flowing in — not out — for us in late February or early March. They carry us through to Thanksgiving or even Christmas, depending on weather and how hard we want to push ourselves.

We could use them to farm

from October through May, like Eliot Coleman does in coastal Maine. But we usually don't. After all, we have to rest sometime. On second thought, maybe Eliot has the right idea — surely would be nice to take the summer off for a change.

Winter-Harvest Manual, Farming The Back Side Of The Calendar" by Eliot Coleman (2001). Send \$15 (payable to Four Season Farm) to Four Season Farm, 609 Weir Cove Rd., Harborside, ME 04642, www.fourseason-farm.com.

A few high tunnel manufacturers:

- Atlas Greenhouse Systems, P.O. Box 558, Alapaha, GA 31622, (800) 346-4600, www.atlasgreenhouse.com.

- Farm Tek's Growers Supply, 1440 Field of Dreams Way, Dyersville, IA 52040, (800) 327-6835, www.farmtek.com.

- Ledgewood Farm Greenhouse Frames, RFD 1 — Box 375, Moultonboro, NH 03254, (603) 476-8829.

- Ludy's Greenhouse Manufacturing, P.O. Box 141, New Madison, OH 45346, (937) 996-8031, www.ludy.com.

- X.S. Smith, P.O. Drawer X, Red Bank, NJ 07701, (732) 222-4600, www.xssmith.com.

Editor's note: With his wife and 26-year-old son, George DeVault raises certified organic vegetables near Emmaus, PA. He is a Food and Society Policy Fellow with the Thomas Jefferson Agricultural Institute and Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy in a program funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The DeVaults' articles on diversification, high-value crops, cut flowers and direct marketing are available on the Rodale Institute's new Website, www.newfarm.org.

For more information, two of the best books about high tunnels on the market today are:

- "The Hoophouse Handbook, Growing Produce and Flowers in

Hoophouses and High Tunnels" by Lynn Buczynski (2003). Send \$15 (payable to Growing for Market) to Fairplains Publications, P.O. Box 3747, Lawrence, KS 66046, (800) 307-8949, www.growingformarket.com.

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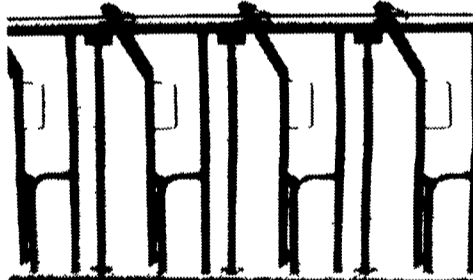
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• The nation's largest dairy show, the All-American, is scheduled at the new and renovated Harrisburg Farm Show Complex Sept. 21-25. To highlight the event, Lancaster Farming has scheduled its annual All-American Show issue Sept. 20. Along with the issue will be family farm features on who is exhibiting. Also planned for pages of Section A: the complete All-American schedule and additional highlights

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