

# Here's the Dairy Barn that Scored "PERFECT"

Maryland Milk Producer Cashes In on Best Ideas  
of 175 Others

BY GEORGE H. DACY.

**M**OUNTAIN Top Farm owned and operated by Roger L. Dade and his three sons would attract attention even though it did not feature a perfect score, 100 per cent dairy barn as part of its equipment. It sparkles with prosperity and you can find neither briar, bramble nor fencerow weed within its boundary fences. This rolling layout of 185 acres in Frederick County, Maryland, boasts some of the finest permanent bluegrass pasture in the Atlantic and South Atlantic States. The Dade place is one of those intriguing picturesque farms which you sometimes read about but rarely visit. To complete the setting from the practical farmer's standpoint, the farming management and the dairying methods are exactly as good as they should be on such a high-quality establishment.

Like the mill-run of his community Dade "dairied" in his old-fashioned bank barn as long as the law and dairy inspectors allowed. Every once in so often, the county inspector, a representative of the Washington, D. C. health department, told Dade the day of reckoning would come when he would either have to build a new barn or seek a new market for his milk. Dade decided not to sink an additional penny in his old barn. When the deadline arrived he determined to begin anew with a modern dairy barn and spick and span equipment, fresh from the factory.

#### 5,000 Mile Inspection

He devoted his spare time for six weeks to personal inspections of dairy barns in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware, and Pennsylvania. The father and sons motored some 5,000 miles in quest of dairy-barn lore. They visited 175 dairy farms, gaining firsthand information about the merits and defects of different types of construction.

The Dades aspired to build such a dairy barn as was never built before on a practical farm in Maryland. Eventually, they drafted rough sketches, incorporating ideas gained from their dairy barn survey. The county dairy-farm inspector aided measurably in revising and improving the plans. The final plans were submitted to the District of Columbia health department.

Just to indicate the thoroughness which Dade devoted to his new-barn construction, drainage around the building is so perfect the barnyard is never wet nor muddy regardless of how heavy the downpour of rain may be. All storm water from the barn roof and run-off water from a nearby hill empties into a sewage system under the barn, which vents in a remote field. The sewer mains

Roger Dade is a firm believer in home grown grain for his dairy herd.



are from 6 to 8 inches in diameter; the fall is so great it is impossible for the mains or laterals to clog. Three hundred feet of 5-inch tile compose the "carry-away" line.

#### 40 Cows Accomodated

Dade also capitalized on the lay of his land in the location of the new dairy barn. The arrangement is such that the ground line is 5 feet higher at one end of the barn than at the other. A man can easily unload sacks of feed from a truck into the feed room on the second floor.

The dairy barn is built of hollow glazed tile with a steel roof, twin tile silos, each 12 by 32 feet, concrete floors, and steel stalls, stanchions, and feed manger partitions. Maintenance costs are minimized because of the permanency of construction. The glazed tile finish is attractive externally and wearworthy. Its use facilitates keeping the interior of the stable, dairy, cooling, washup, sterilizer, and boiler rooms as clean and sani-



Hired help's no problem for Roger Dade on his Mountain Top Farm, Frederick County, Maryland. With his three sons, this successful dairyman does all of the work on his 185-acre farm.

Dade is shown in action here, doing his part of getting up the bill of fare for his high producing Holstein herd. In fact, Dade says the family's biggest task is to produce an abundance of feed so that the cows can yield their peak production of milk.

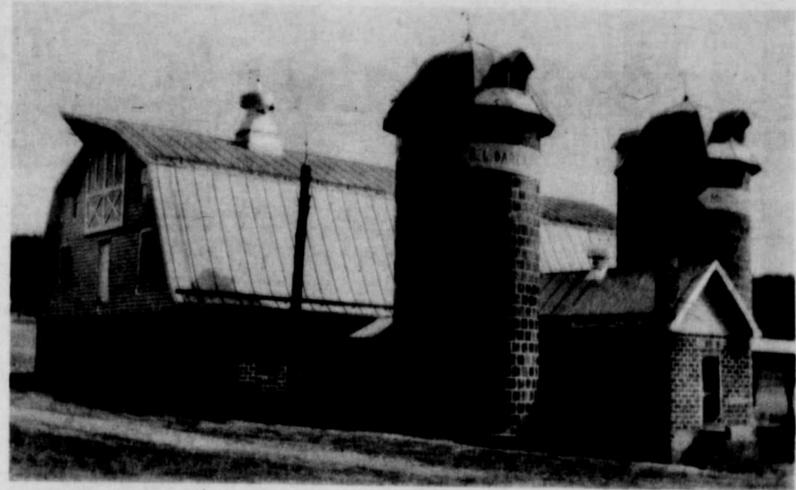
All repair jobs as well as machinery maintenance are performed in the home shop.

tary as a modern hospital. The glaze of the tile is such that in service only 0.05 of 1 per cent of moisture penetrated its surface during a 24-hour test. This guarantees a dairy barn free of moisture. And as every experienced dairyman knows, moisture in the stable is one of the most objectionable atmospheric conditions which can occur.

The dairy stable, accomodating 40 cows, has a varnished ceiling. Twenty gallons of varnish in three applications were used in producing the durable surface, which can be washed as readily as the cement floors and tile walls. Neither dairy barn appliances, utensils, nor other equipment are discernible in the milking stable. Chutes connecting with the silos are equipped with double doors of paneled type. Grain feeds and ensilage feed carts are stored in these chutes when not in use. Grain feeds by gravity from overhead storage with vents in these chutes. A storage closet for cow-clipping machines, medicine and other supplies utilize the waste space under the stairs.

#### Use Electrical Refrigeration

Swinging panel doors link boiler and dressing rooms, the first which you enter, with the adjoining sterilizer and washup rooms, and the annex milk cooling and storage room. Dade has devised a satisfactory 18-ounce canvas cover for his two-section milk cooler. This hood encircles the cooler and protects it from contamination by dust or foreign mate-



The only 100 per cent score dairy barn supplying milk to Washington, D. C. And that means perfect with a capital P.

rial after it is sterilized daily. The farm water supply is piped one-half mile from a storage tank proximate to a mountain spring.

The Dades cool and store milk by aid of electrical refrigeration; both water from the mountain spring and ice water circulate through the milk cooler. Dade has rigged up a block-and-tackle hoist which runs on a steel track, being used for lifting or lowering cans of milk into the storage tank. A concrete platform just outside the dairy door facilitates direct transfer of cans of milk from storage tank to motor truck. Empty cans are returned through another door to the wash and sterilizer rooms.

is hired. The men of the family are skilled and seasoned, mechanically speaking. All repair jobs as well as machinery maintenance are performed in the home shop. Repair jobs occupy spare time.

The major task of the Dade family is to produce an abundance of feed for their high-producing Holsteins; the cows return the compliment by yielding their peak production of milk.

Dade plants about 20 acres of ensilage corn annually, husking the surplus above silo requirements. Corn stubble is sowed to either barley or wheat for feed and straw. The barley is ground and used in the dairy ration. Wheat is raised as a cash crop. The 28-acre bluegrass pasture has not been broken in 26 years and probably will never get acquainted with a plow point as long as the Dades own Mountain Top Farm. Alfalfa is the major hay crop.

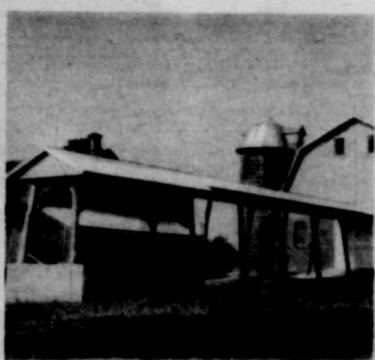
#### Real 100 Per Cent Score

The sanitary milk from Mountain Top Farm tops the Washington, D. C. market, winning the highest bonus award due to the perfect barn score. Just to show that the 100 per cent score was not a fluke, the District of Columbia health department held an education meeting at this Maryland farm at which time a dozen inspectors again scored the place. They all confirmed the perfect score accorded Mountain Top herd and barn by the District of Columbia inspector stationed in Frederick County.

The District of Columbia health department uses the Dade dairy barn as a demonstration and urges Washington shippers to visit Mountain Top Farm before they make dairy barn improvements. The Baltimore health department has followed suit and also sends many visitors to see Dade.

Many dairymen would object to having 50 or 60 visitors on every fair Sabbath inspect the dairy barn. Not so Roger Dade. His barn is really a monument to his dairying knowledge and success. He is proud of the fine building and glistening equipment. If he can help others by showing them around his premises and telling of his experiences, he is glad to do so.

Pictured here is The Mountain Top Farm dairy barn's manure disposal system.



The litter carrier system is protected by a canopy hood with a metal roof which extends from the barn to the concrete storage pit. The pit, 22 by 10 by 4 1-2 feet in size, is large enough to accommodate the refuse which accumulates during bad weather when conditions prohibit hauling the litter to the field. Concrete sidewalks connect all farm buildings.

The Dade Holsteins occupy a splendidly insulated stable which is warm in winter and cool in summer. The barn is equipped with a satisfactory system of automatic ventilation. Extension ventilators of tin at the top of the hay mow which terminate in the roof vents are covered with special insulation to prevent any ingress of moisture.

Dade's steel windows are shielded efficiently in the dairy barn to prevent drafts, are screened on the outside, operate easily, and are airtight when closed.

Electricity illuminates the Dade farm. Although there are some 75 outlets in the barns, shops, sheds and house, and that the refrigerators, washer, ironer, and vacuum-cleaner are used daily, the bill for current aggregates only \$9 a month, less than half what the ice alone would cost if used in cooling the milk.

#### No Hired Help

The Dades follow an effective distribution of home work program; no help