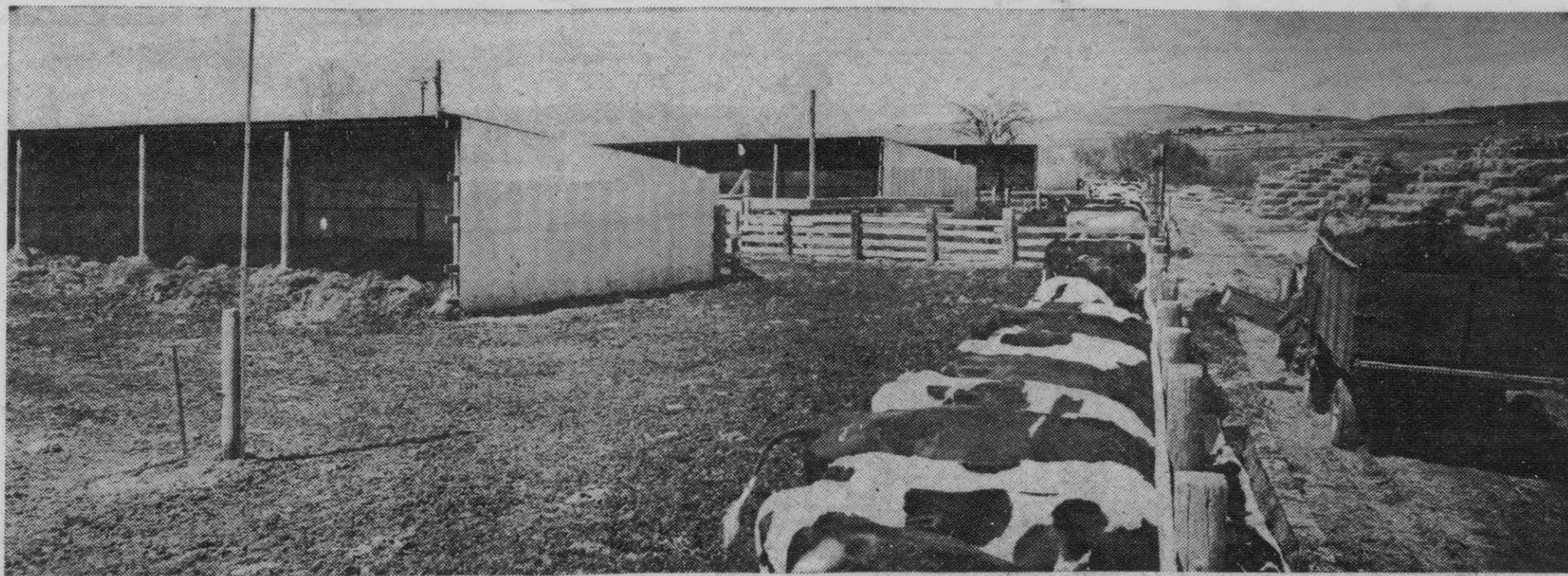


June 15, 1961

MONTANA

Farmer & Stockman



3-STALL PARLOR HANDLES 190 COWS TWICE DAILY

By RAY OZMON, Field Editor

THURBER FARMS, INC., Cascade county, is a modest little dairy setup with a 3-stall milking parlor. General manager Bert Thurber runs the operation with three full-time men and a few seasonal hired hands during the irrigation and harvest seasons.

It's modest only in terms of facilities, for by using the equipment at full capacity, they are able to maintain a milking string of 190 head. That's right, 190 milk cows, plus or minus a few, depending on the number of dries.

With 190 cows going through a 3-stall parlor twice a day, the parlor is in almost constant use. The "evening" milking gets started at noon. It takes seven hours to milk the cows and another hour to clean up. John Terribilini, milker on the afternoon and evening shift, is through at 8 p.m. and puts in a full 8-hour day. Jimmy Mital comes to work at midnight and is through at 8 a.m.

Natural Service

Larry Bowers does the feeding. He keeps the feed bunks full of hay and silage, or field-chopped alfalfa in the summer. When a cow is in heat, Bowers checks her neck-chain tag number and the records and takes her to the breeding pen. Natural service is used.

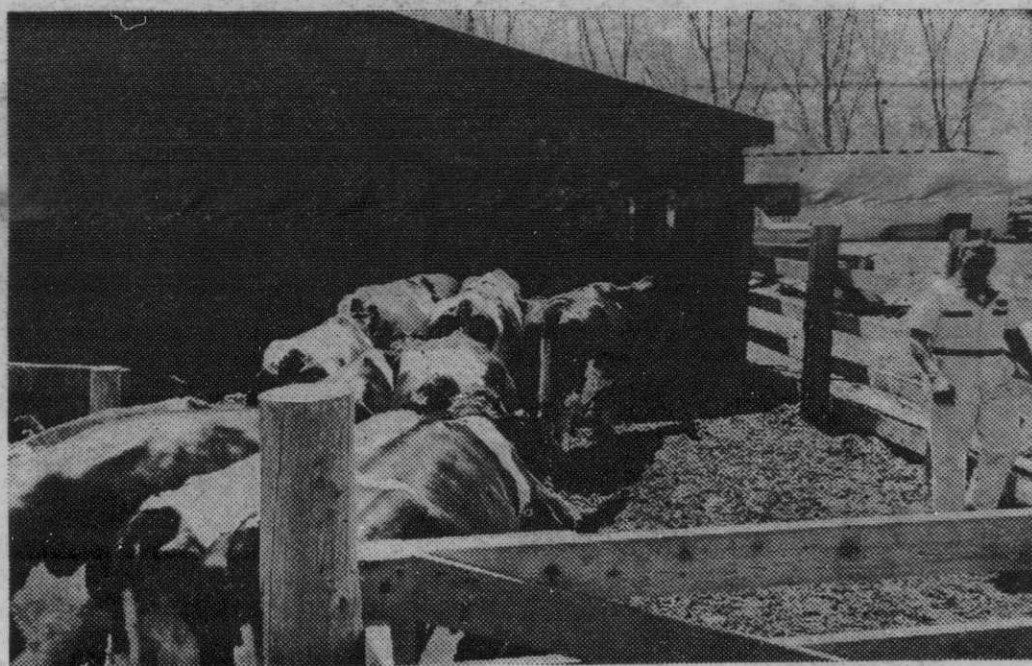
The obvious advantages to this dairy setup are these: A minimum amount of money is tied up in the milking parlor, and the equipment being used most of the time instead of standing idle for 18 to 20 hours a day.

The 3-stall parlor also lends itself to more efficient use of labor. One man can handle the entire operation. In fact, two men would get in each other's way. Thurber says one man could take care of a 4-stall parlor, but he feels the milker would have more than he could comfortably handle.

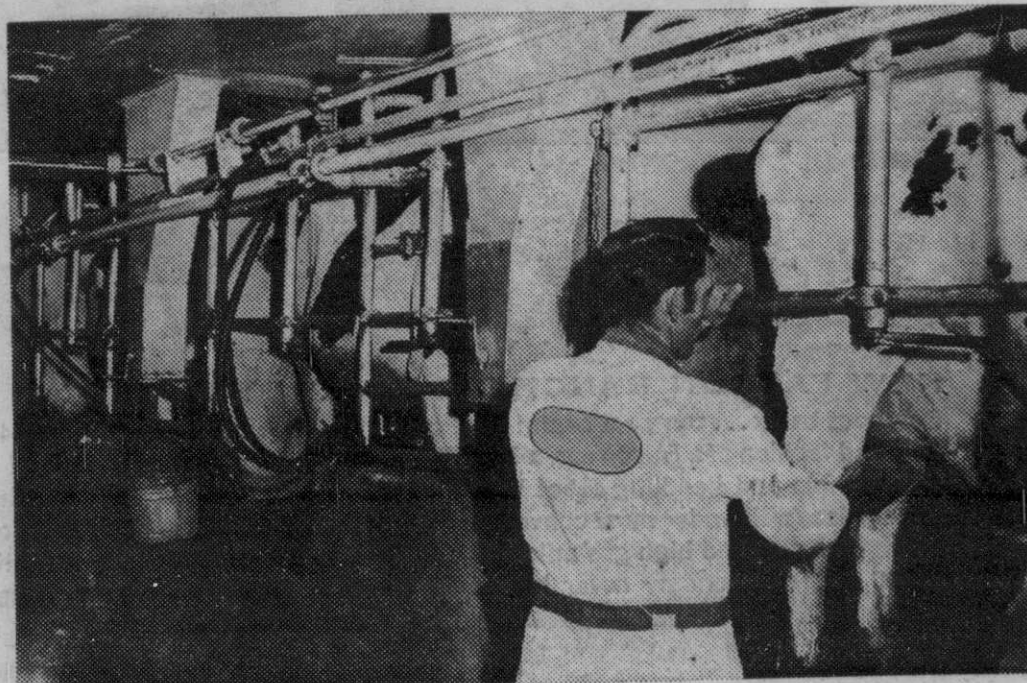
No Mastitis Problem

If he had to take a little extra time to wash an udder or had to go into the holding pen to coax a stubborn cow into the parlor, there would be a danger of leaving a (Continued on page 15)

Three loafing sheds are used to house the 190 cows at the Thurber dairy farm. They put up 3,500 tons of corn silage a year and feed 100 acres of green-chop alfalfa. Thurber says they get around 25 per cent more milk per acre by feeding green-chop instead of pasturing the cattle. (MF-S photos)



One pen of cattle are run into this holding shed at a time. The shed is heavily bedded with wood shavings, which gives the cows a comfortable place to relax while waiting to enter the milking parlor. On the right is Bert Thurber.



Only three milking stalls — count 'em. By keeping these minimum facilities in almost constant use, Thurber is able to handle a large herd with a modest investment in equipment. Pictured is John Terribilini.



LIVIN' IS EASY
WITH DAIRY FOODS
...AND THE

COVERS MONTANA AND NORTHERN WYOMING