This farm specializes in research

There is a farm in Halton Hills unlike any other in this municipality which is noted for its exceptional farms.

Its 150 acres are farmed year round by 13 hands and in the summer months, it takes on four students as extra help although the first of that extra help came when spring was only a month old. One of the help is a university graduate and three hold college diplomas.

Besides a two-storey red brick farmhouse, it has two greenhouses, two swine barns, five poultry barns, one it rents out and one which serves as an administration building. A corral is under construction to contain a 40-head cattle herd the farm is adding to its operation after starting from scratch, so to speak, nine years ago.

What distinguishes this farm from the others is the large agn at its Trafalgar Road entrance which "Research"

"There's not really that much difference," says Tage (pronounced: Tay) Nielsen, 26, who operates the farm for Maple Leaf Mills.

Nielsen first worked as help on the farm in 1972 and '73 before returning to Denmark to finish agricultural college. Since graduation, 18 months ago, Nielsen is what today is called a farm manager and lives with his wife of six months in the farm house. His own farm, "a hobby farm", he says, is in Grand Valley.

As a research farmer. though, Nielsen gets a lot more visitors than the average, and many of those visitors are themselves farmers who at a balance can spot the banes of their fivlihood; weeds and dirt in barns. And because it is a year round farm the visitors come year round too although in the winter the visits taper off to one or two a month.

One of the things it means is that though the lawns surrounding the rear barns are not as lush as those close to the

roads, where every passing person can see them, they must be kept just as weed free. What visitors see is not a model form in the sense that it has the latest in automation

including the ubiquitous computer. "We're not as automatic in some senses," says Nielson, we're perimental." He goes on to say that the farm is a "seed and feed" operation. Record keeping is of the nominal kind

and not computerized-"not

yet" says Nielson. Like any farmer, Nielsen's duties consist in making sure the fields get planted, the machines are working, "fix and weld everything", and do what he can to co-ordinate the workload and ensure a "smooth running operation"

The competitive edge added by a world-wide market place-Europe, North Africa, North and South America-is intensified by the need to continually be producing better

seed and feed to meet the demand of all the world's appetite. In corn, for instance, Nielsen says you have to get four variety licences each year

of opertion just to stay on top. But the basic challenge in research farming "is to get better plants to produce more and help fight food shortages in the world," Nielsen says As an example, he tells of trying to develop a grass which could grow in Iceland, or in northern Canada. "More can be done

about that," he says. "Or maybe we could develop deease resistant crops for countries where the best soil and climate are but have

How does forming here compare with Denmark? Danish forms are hard to compare with Canadian farms, replies Nielsen.

"Feed Farming today just about needs a PhD." he says. "Over there a tarmer grows his own feed and makes his own diet. Another comparison, and

me close to the famer's heart and pocketbook, is the price of land. "Farms are more expensive there," Nielsen says. When he left in 1974 the mortgage rate was 18 percent although that has since

where, he says, the alfalfa has survived four winters. After three more winters, those plants still surviving will be harvested for their hardy seed. "It takes five years to get an

There is less tax, too, in

Canada than there is in

Denmark, Nielsen says. Over

there 42 percent of his income

there are small plots of alfalfa,

timothy and broom grasses.

alfalfa off one plot." he says.

"We would have had four."

Nielsen points to one.

In the seed end of the farm

"We got three crops of

He points to another plot

was laxed.

Nielsen says. Separating the test plots are small fields of barley and winter wheat

alfalfa variety licence,"

With the exception of the barn where the turkeys are the burns for layers and broilers are kept at a constant 68 degrees on the Fahrenhiet thermometer and have observation rooms from where visitors view the fowl. This is a precaution so that someone visiting from a distant place cannont accidentally contaminate the flocks with a disease clinging to pant cuffs or shoe soles.

Of the 12 different rations fed to the layers, with the purpose Nielsen recalls also that on in mind of producing a better graduation day at the egg through diet, only one will agricultural college in Den- make it to the feed store, mark, the college teacher told Nielsen says. The eggs the graduating class not to buy produced from 3,600 hens are farms, the first time he had shipped to market and end up ever so advised a graduating on your grocer's refrgerator

In the barns for the broilers -- "The Kentucky Fried Chicken bird," Nielsen says -there are rolls of paper beneath the cages enclosing the birds to help ease the daily task of cleaning the barns, all of them. And whenever a barn is completely emptied of its crop, the entire area is cleaned

and disinfected. Over in the Broiler Breeder lxirn, 1500 birds are kept in 30 pens where anywhere from two to five roosters per nen keep the hens company. Nielsen estimates that the farm "gets back maybe one crop a year" here. He says that the various pens of neds are fed different feed to produce a better hatching percentage which now is "around 80 percent."

Between the poultry barns and the swinebuildings. Nielsen points out where four corrals are being built, each to contain ten head of cattle. Two of the corrats will hold Holsteins, Nielsen says, and two will hold mixed breeds and all will be fed different feed mixtures.

In the swine buildings. Nielsen casts a more critical eye on the animals, perhaps because he specialized in swine at agricultural college. Here, purebred boars are bred to 20 sows each. After the sows are bred, they are kept penned during the 114-day question period. On or about the 104th day the sows are washed and disinfected, Nielsen says, adding that the pens are

cleaned daily. Healthy, clean animals are better proucers. Each sow produces 2.2 litters per year with an average of 8.7 piglets per litter.

After being bred, the pigs are kept six to a pen for the 150 to 155 days it takes to reach market weight, Nielsen says. It takes three pounds of feed to produce one pound of meat. There are three breds: Duroc, Hamshire and Yorkshire. The two farmers are for hams and the latter," "long lean type", for bacon, says Nielsen, "but nothing

compares to Danish." Nielsen comes from a line of farmers and when in Denmark worked for his father who farmed. In high school, he was a gymnast and holds standing as a physical education instructor. Here in Halton Hills he is a soccer coach for the Pineview Soccer Cub.

The appeal of being a farmer, he says, is "You are free. were own hoss."

"A farmer today has to be an intelligent businessman," Nielsen says, "If he doesn't know about ecomomics, he's lost. Today is not the day you can work to a fortune. You hve think."

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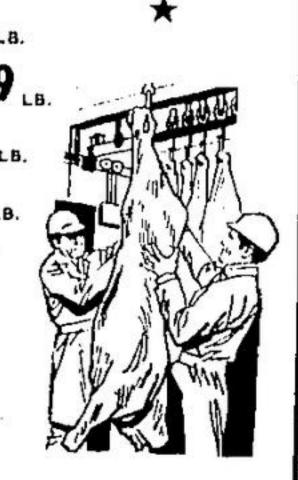
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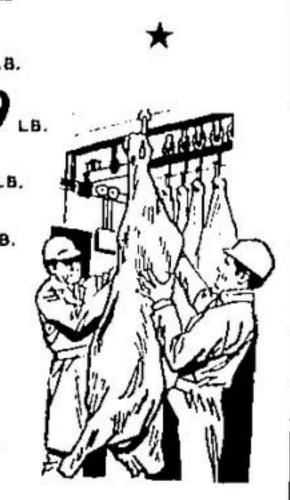
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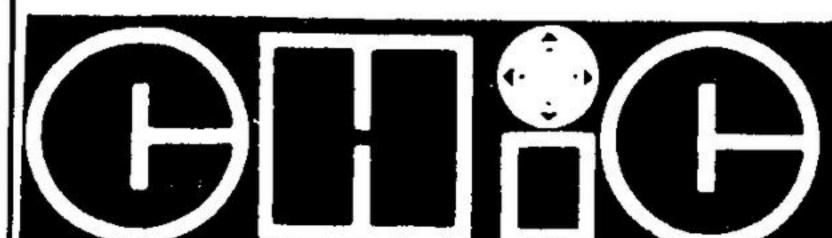
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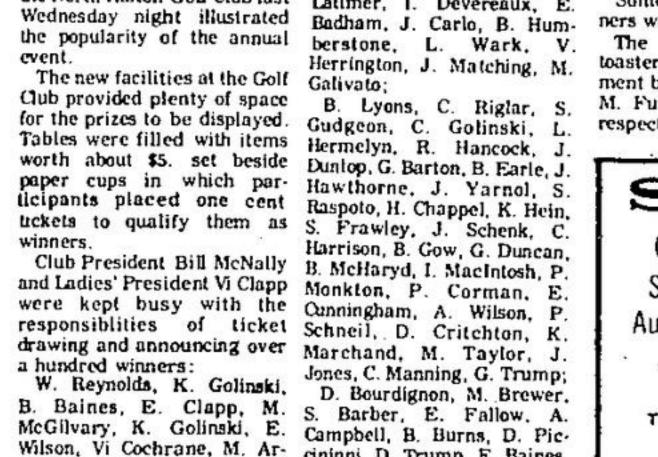
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