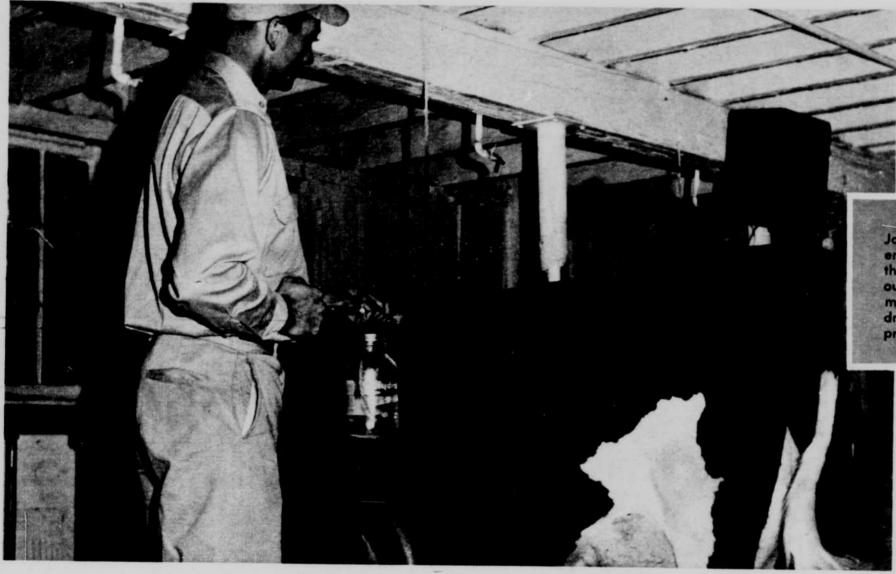
## HAVE TO BE RICH TO MILK!



Jack Binghom is very conscientious about fly control on the farm. He believes that serious fly infestations can torment cows to the extent of drastically reducing their milk production.

The first year's calf crop was somewhat of a disappointment. The genetic law of averages didn't hold up. Thirty of 33 calves were bulls. Things have averaged up since then, though.

Bingham uses artificial breeding with the herd. It enables him to use the best bulls in the country without having to own them. Careful selection results in higher production and improvement in dairy characteristics and physical points.

What about production? Well, last year the total milk production figure was over 400 thousand pounds. His top producing animal reached 17,061 pounds of milk and 733 pounds of butterfat. The total figure above represents the amount of milk shipped off the farm. He also feeds his calves lots of whole milk.

A highlight of this operation deals with the economics of production. Many economists say that a dairy farm usually averages one man for every 200 thousand pounds of milk. Jack Bingham's figure is well over 300 thousand pounds. He ordinarily has a hired man for just a few months of the year and then uses him mostly in the field. He works hard keeping up with his two bucket milkers on 30 to 36 cows twice a day, but, he says he makes as good a time as others with milking parlors.

Jack Bingham likes the life of a purebred dairyman. He likes it because he feels a man has the opportunity to make of it what he will. He figures his cash crop on the place is calves. His goal is to average as much income from sale of calves each year as he gets from milk. Last year his milk checks totaled something over \$15,000. He didn't sell anywhere near that amount of registered Holstein calves last year, but his herd is constantly improving and there are other years coming. As the reputation builds, so will the demand for his stock.

"Milking cows is sort of like cash grain cropping a farm," says Jack. "You have to constantly 'put back' if you expect to keep production up. I work hard at keeping my milking animals in good condition and comfortable. I treat every cow as an individual and it pays off."

One of Jack's projects is an exacting fly-control program. He is cooperating (mighty willingly) with Illinois Extension workers in their attempt to eradicate flies on the farm. He strip grazes his pasture to keep his cattle a jump ahead of the pests.

