



AS IS TRUE ON MOST FARMS in this area, layers are kept, and eggs must be cleaned. On the John Umble farm, Dorothy, 14, oldest of five children, gets the job. She is a sophomore at Lancaster Mennonite School. This year her Holstein heifer won second in the two year old class at the Chester County dairy club roundup (LF Photo)



ASSISTING JOHN UMBLE hold the two cows that were classified Excellent is his son, J. Richard Umble, nine. And a little too young to be of help is Allen Ray, five. The cows, Avorill Sovereign Tiny Pabst, front, and Hyup Inka Sally, are both from Canadian bloodlines and were purchased by Umble when he started to rebuild a registered herd. (LF Photo)

John Umble Got Back in Dairying By Selecting Good Foundation Stock

By Bob Best

In 1947 John R Umble of R1 Atglen got out of the dairy business. He sold his grade herd and quit completely.

In the fall of 1948 he was back again with a herd of registered Holsteins. And the cows were in a completely remodeled dairy barn.

Buying the new herd, Umble got cows from Canada and from the Wisconsin-Michigan dairy country. The bulk of the herd is Ragapple breeding which is now being crossed with Pabst Farm bulls.

Umble recognized good cows when he saw them. This was proved this summer when two of the cows in the herd were officially classified as Excellent.

Both cows are from Canadian bloodlines. One, Avorill Sovereign Tiny Pabst, produced 537 pounds of butterfat and 13,000 pounds of milk as a five-year-old. This year she is heading toward a 600 pound record. She has made 400 pounds of fat in 240 days on test.

The other cow, Hyup Inka Sally, has been on the show circuit too much to have an accurate production record, although she has been in the 400 pound class. This cow was named All Pennsylvania three year old at Farm Show and last year was third in the aged cow class at Farm Show.

The present herd sire on the farm is a Pabst bull that was Grand Champion at the 1957 Farm Show.

On the farm, Umble keeps about 30 cows in the milking herd, and has an equal number of junior and senior heifers.

One of the unique construction features Umble incorporated into his remodeled barn is a covered manure pit. The pit is so constructed that the gutter cleaners feed directly into it.

In the pit there is enough room for a tractor, spreader, and a tractor with loader. If Umble desires, the manure can be dropped directly into the spreader.

However, he usually allows it to accumulate on the floor of pit, then loading it onto the spreader with the tractor loader.

"This seems to catch and soak in more of the liquids," Umble says. "I've noticed a big difference in crops since we started using it this way. By using more

manure, we cut down on the amount of chemical fertilizer and get the same yield."

Speaking of yields, Umble reports that he is going to have a good corn crop this year, despite the dry weather. "It's not as good as it could have been if there would have been more rain, but it will still make about 70 bushels to the acre," he said.

Hay is short on the farm. Umble believes that he will have to get about 1,000 bales of hay to carry the herd through to grass next spring.

Roughage plays a big part in the herd management. Heifers are kept out all winter with only hay being fed. Umble believes that he has less calving trouble, less disease, and gets young cows with a greater body capacity by using this method.

Just before calving time, the heifer is given some grain, but this is more to train her to become used to the barn than it is to do anything else.

One heifer that freshened re-

cently bears out the results of the program. The heifer had never been in the barn from the time she was a calf until she dropped her calf. She is now milking about 50 pounds a day.

By using good bulls and by culling low producing animals, Umble has raised his herd average by about 60 pounds of butterfat in the past five years. Last year the herd averaged 449

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