



MISS MILK MAID OF 1960 for Lancaster County, Barbara Keener, is not only a beauty pageant winner on the stage; She is a real milkmaid on the farm as well. Here she grooms her 4-H heifer exhibiting the techniques which won for her two successive county fitting championships

● Keener

(From page 5)

in the herd was producing up to 74 pounds of milk per day earlier this year

Any farm handling as much as a ton of milk a day must make the handling as simple as possible. Even though Level Valley farm has had a bulk tank for four

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years, there is still a lot of carrying and lifting to get the milk from the barn to the milk house.

A pipeline milker has been ordered for the farm and will be installed in the near future. This will bring the chore work one step nearer to total mechanization.

Keener has a gutter cleaner in the cow stable. The green chop alfalfa is chopped directly onto self feed-wagons and does not have to be handled again. Feeding of hay and grain are likewise planned to be as efficient as possible with the use of carts and the planned location of hay storage and the silo.

Keener believes that green chopping is one of the most economical methods of getting green feed into his cows. Last year he fed 45 cows for a full week on two and a half acres of alfalfa. This was at a time when the cows were not on any pasture and had no silage or other forage. At the present time, the Level Valley herd is being fed alfalfa chopped in the field, but up until this week the cows were getting a mixture of ladino clover and timothy.

Most of the 47 acres of grass on the home farm plus

12 acres on rented ground will be topdressed with 0-15-30 as soon as the hay is taken off the ground.

The day following baling, all alfalfa stubble will be sprayed with a blend of parathion to control insect damage. Keener believes that even a few days delay in applying this spray will get the next growth off to a slow start. With four or five cuttings for each field planned, the aftermath growth has to get started immediately.

In addition to the grass and legume acreage, Keener plants 18 acres of corn, 12 acres of wheat, 13 acres of barley and five acres of tobacco (to keep the family in pin money). Each year several acres of rye are seeded

for pasture to supplement the eight acres of permanent Reed's Canary grass

With a dairy operation the size of this one, it would appear there would be enough work to keep everyone busy, but Keener keeps about 1,000 laying hens about

This year there are leghorns in the house producing market eggs, but Keener plans to return to a heavy breed of hen to produce hatching eggs for a brood hatchery.

High production, efficient management practices and family type operation add to some mighty satisfying results for the Keener family on Level Valley farm, one of the best in the world's Garden Spot of fine farms

1 to 3



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