

● **Round-Table**

(Continued from Page 7)

Vitamins, salt and minerals are added to completely balance our feed.

What is your feeding schedule?

NISSLEY—In the morning they are fed grain before milking. In the afternoon silage and hay in the feed bunk after milking and hay at about 1 to 2 p.m. In the evening in winter they are fed silage and grain in the barn before milking. Silage in the bunk after milking, and hay free choice outside.

LANDIS—In the morning cows are fed silage, dairy feed, and hay. At noon they are fed more hay and in the evening silage, grain and hay, and hay again late evening which is mixed hay. By giving this mixed hay in the late evening it helps to hold the feed in the cow longer. Alfalfa hay is given during the day.

EBY—Feed grain first thing in the morning, first cutting while milking. After milking we let cows out to silage bunk free choice and third cutting of hay at 3 p.m.—silage again and third cutting hay again 4:30 p.m. grain and then during milking second cutting hay.

SHELLENBERGER—Our feeding schedule in the winter is as follows: First in the morning we feed half of the daily grain ration. After milking cows go out to the bunk for alfalfa haylage. At noon a feeding of hay in the stanchion barn. 2:30 p.m. alfalfa haylage in barn with half of daily grain ration. Before retiring for the night cows receive another feeding of hay.

In summer, half of the daily grain ration is fed in the morning before milking. After cows are milked they are turned out to feed lot where they have access to alfalfa haylage free choice. At 4:30 p.m. cows receive balance of grain ration. After milking, cows are turned out in feed lot for the night with access to haylage free choice again.

Do you have free-stall or a tie-stall housing? Do you like what you have? Why?

NISSLEY—We have tie stalls. We like them and believe cows will give more milk in tie stalls. Free stalls also have many advantages but I believe they would take a completely different management pro-

gram. We have had no experience with them.

LANDIS—We have the lever-type stanchions in our barn. We like it because it is easier to put the cows in and out, and the cows stay cleaner. In some of the stalls we use cow mats which helps when the cows get up and takes less bedding.

EBY—We have a stanchion barn for 37 cows. A covered feeding yard to silage and hay racks used by the milking herd twice daily. The loosed housed dairy cows and heifers have access to the silage bunk the remainder of the day. I like my set up but would make minor changes if I see they will improve the operation. I have a registered Holstein herd and sell breeding stock and can do a better job of sales promotion with my milking herd in a stall barn.

SHELLENBERGER—We have a lever action stanchion barn, which we like very much. We believe that to have a cow perform to the maximum of her ability, she must be treated as an individual. First of all each cow feels comfortable in her own stall. Secondly she is given the feed she needs according to her production and body weight. The dairyman can observe each cow more easily as he works with cows tied in individual stalls. Also if a cow needs medication one man can administer it.

How important is environment for a dairy cow?

NISSLEY—A comfortable cow will give more milk.

LANDIS—Environment of a dairy cow is very important which includes such things as temperature, fly control, cleanliness of cow and troughs and good treatment. We use the dairy vac on the cows once a week during confinement.

EBY—Environment is very important. A contented cow gives more milk. A nervous and temperamental cow will not do her best. In the summer heat we bring our cows into the barn in the afternoons. They will eat more hay and drink water.

SHELLENBERGER—We have



HOW FULL IS THE TANK? David Landis, 1896 Colebrook Road, and his children, Sharon 2 and David, Jr. 3, check the 400 gallon bulk milk tank. Mr. and Mrs. Landis and their three children in-

cluding 2 month-old Daniel farm 80 acres and have a Registered and grade herd of Holstein dairy cows that produced an average of 17,417 pounds of milk and 628 pounds of butterfat last year on D.H.I.A.

L. F. Photo

learned from experience that environment for the dairy cow is extremely important. First of all a cow reacts to any extreme change, be it temperature, feed, or personnel or what ever. We believe a dairy barn should have automatic controlled ventilation. The personnel working in the dairy barn is a contributing factor for high production. Every good dairyman will treat every cow as a "lady." Cows respond to TLC (tender, loving care). A strange noise or person in the dairy barn at milking time will affect milk production.

Please describe your milking procedure.

NISSLEY—We don't have a rigid milking schedule but usually start between 5:30 and 6:00 in the morning and between 4:30 and 5:30 in the evening. Most of the time I milk alone with three surge milkers. Cow's udders are washed with

a warm sanitizer solution and a strip cup is used before milking. We use a transfer station to get the milk to the milk tank. It takes about 1½ hours to milk. My wife often helps in the morning, washing udders and putting milkers on.

LANDIS—We milk twice a day with two pail-type milkers. I believe a cow should be thoroughly milked out. This is no time to be in a hurry. "Good things take time." We massage the udder while milking which gives a softer udder and less mastitis.

EBY—Two of us do the milking, operating three units. One tends the milkers and the other washes the udder and carries the milk to the tank.

SHELLENBERGER—Milking at regular intervals is a must for high producing cows, as near 12 hr intervals as possible. We use four surge units along with a transfer system to transfer

milk into bulk tank. One man washes cow's udder and teats with warm water one minute prior to applying the milkers to get all of cow's milk. Mike's must be put on when cow releases her milk and then taken off immediately when she is milked out.

How much does it cost you to produce 100 pounds of milk?

NISSLEY—About \$2.00 per cwt. feed cost and between \$2.25 and \$2.50 per cwt. other costs, for a total of \$4.25 and \$4.50 cwt.

LANDIS—It costs us an average of \$2.10 to produce a hundred pounds of milk.

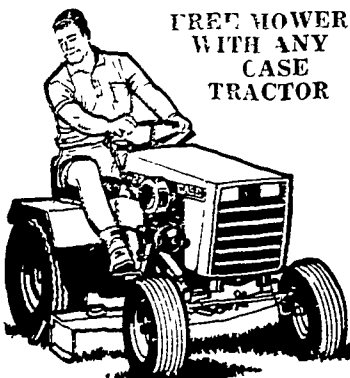
EBY—Last year according to D.H.I.A. my cost per cwt. of milk was \$2.42. For the seven months of this year my costs are slightly higher at \$2.53 per cwt. of milk.

SHELLENBERGER—Our D.H.I.A. reports would indicate that the average cost for the (Continued on Page 9)

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