

Fultonway Farms Stands for Quality in Lancaster Co. Dairying

Any way you judge a dairy herd for quality, Fultonway Farms will emerge near the top in Lancaster County.

The farm consistently shows top animals at both local, state and national dairy shows. It has among the highest herd averages in the DHIA program, winning DHIA awards in four of the past 10 years. It has outstanding cows which produce more than 30,000 pounds of milk in a lactation and more than 1,000 pounds of butterfat in a lactation. Some of the herd animals maintain high butterfat averages of over 4.5 per cent. Some of the cows have top all-time individual records with the Holstein-Friesian Association of America.

Last week, the herd had the top individual animal, Alnat Totilla Ivanhoe Ginger, at the Lancaster District Black and White Show. Last year the animal was reserve grand champion All-American and Frey considers her the best show cow ever in his herd.

But Frey was equally pleased with the performance of his children's animals. Three of them were first in their class in competition with animals shown by both youngsters and adults from all over Lancaster County. In addition, one was junior champion, one of the most sought after prizes next to the grand championship itself.

Frey thinks the results of the show indicate that the young stock now growing up on the farm may be the best ever for Fultonway Farms.

He notes, for example, that the 60 to 65 milking cow herd now consists of some 15 cows which average about 10 to 11 years of age. These he considers "brood cows", the basis for what is otherwise a relatively young herd. He has about 25 first and second calf heifers. He also feels his yearlings are especially good.

Frey readily admits that the

(For related story on why Frey likes to show his animals, see page 1.)

youthfulness of his herd was not by design, but resulted in large part because he "missed on the daughters of one unproven sire. This is something you have to work yourself out of."

But he has a strong base on which to rebuild. He has 19 Ivanhoe daughters, which are the backbone of the herd. His Ginger is an Ivanhoe.

Another cow, Rae, a 12-year-old, is considered the greatest cow in the herd. Rae has five records averaging 30,000 pounds of milk, all over 1,078 pounds of butterfat. Rae has the highest butterfat record of any living cow in the nation for a one year period with 1,615 pounds of butterfat. This record was made with 33,000 pounds of milk for a 4.6 cent average.

Another outstanding Fultonway cow is the old Rachel, which was grand champion of the former Southeastern ABC show.

Frey says he takes more pride in the records of his individual



Left to right, Shelia, James and Sandy Frey display Fultonway animals. The small calf is a maternal sister to Ginger and is a pet of the two younger children.

cows than in the show ring achievements. "The show ring is something I enjoy."

Frey has been farming for 14 years, the last eight of them at the present farm on Beaver Valley Pike which his father, J. Mowery, bought in the 1930's.

The farm includes 120 acres. In addition his father is farming 70 acres and they rent an additional 70. The entire acreage is farmed as a single farm using one set of equipment. However, the elder Frey maintains his own 40 cow herd.

Use of the combined acreage is divided approximately as follows: 75 acres of alfalfa, 60 of

corn silage, 50 of field corn, 40 of pasture and 25 of wheat.

The younger Frey raises all his heifer calves, preferring not to sell heifer calves, but bred cows. He sells about half of the bulls raised either to AI services or syndicates. He would like to sell more bulls and maintain a half interest, enabling him to keep and work with the bull and promote him.

Shortly after he took over the farm eight years ago, he remodeled the barn for 60 cows. He has a comfort stall type operation.

Frey is not anxious to get bigger. "Everybody wants to get too big." He believes that the

farmer can get maximum production by keeping herd size down, and still enjoy life.

Frey notes that he takes more pride in the records of his individual cows than in the show ring achievements. "The show ring is something I enjoy."

Although he has won four DHIA awards in the past 10 years, Frey says he's not as herd average conscious as he once was.

He explained that a real good cow which doesn't breed at a particular time can be sold for beef for about \$275, but if the farmer works with her for a few months and gets her bred,

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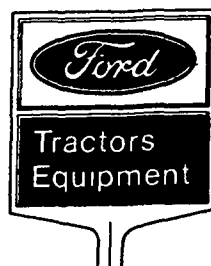


J. Mowery and son John display Fultonway Rachel Amy Jane, a great granddaughter of the herd's well known Rachel cow.

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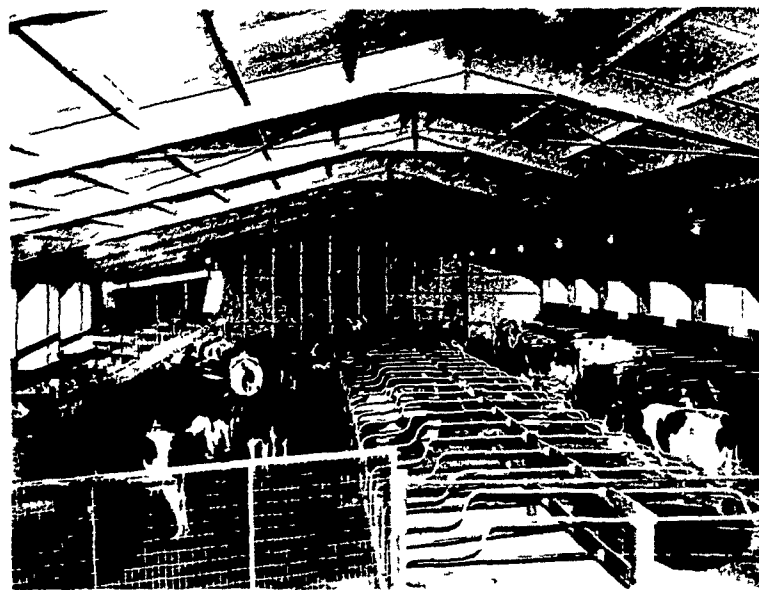


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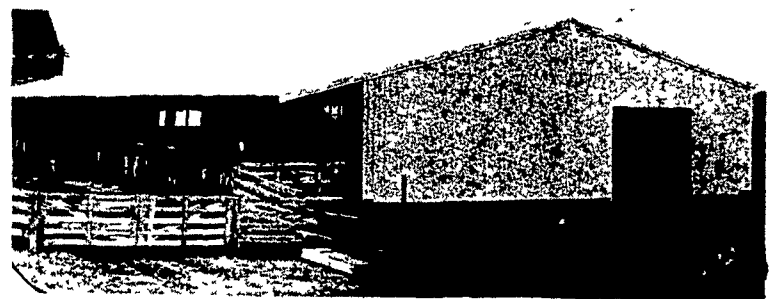
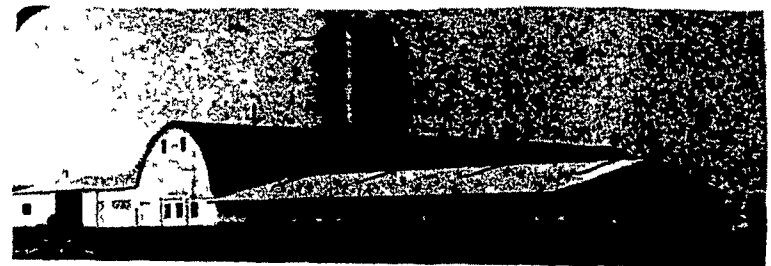
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