

Pullers

(Continued from Page 14)

5000-lb. Modified

1 - Elwood Flowers, Manheim, Farmall M, 427 Chev.; 2 - Coleman Wheatly, Laurel Del., Massey 44, 440 Dodge; 3 - Galen Spickler, Elizabethtown, Massey 44, 2-327 Chev.; 4 - Eugene Spickler, Elizabethtown, Massey 44, 426 Chrysler Wedge.

7000-lb. Stock

1 - Coleman Wheatley, Laurel, Del., 88 Oliver; 2 - Craig Frey, Ronks, Farmall 560; 3 - Rodger Frey, Conestoga, Farmall M; 4 - James Ginder, Mount Joy, 500 Ford.

7000-lb. Modified

1 - Les Houck, Kinzers, Cockshutt 2-440 Dodge; 2 - Les Landis, Litz, Massey 55, 2-440 Dodge; 3 - Glen Darnell, Laytonsville, Md., Cockshutt 40, 2-427 Chev.; 4 - Richard Zimmerman, Elizabethtown, Cockshutt 40, 2-440 Dodge.



Straining for that extra inch in competition last Saturday in Elizabethtown is Eugene Spickler.

Heifers

(Continued from Page 1) awhile we'll get too many animals here, so we'll have a sale. I guess you could

own herd. Naturally, this means that every once in consider Registered Holstein heifers our cash crop."

Ruth said that by selling animals instead of cash crops, they could con-

centrate on dairy animals. He said it also gives them a wider selection of animals to choose from when selecting herd replacements. Ruth and his 27-year-old son, Joseph, signed a partnership agreement in April. The Ruths employ one hired hand to help with field and barn chores.

At his first cow sale in 1964, Ruth said he sold three excellent cows. "I'll never make that mistake again," he said. "From now on, any Excellent cows we get are going to stay in the herd."

The rolling herd average on the Ruth herd is 13,014 milk and 4 percent test for 526 pounds of fat, with a herd that numbers about half two-year olds.

Ruth has been a Registered Holstein breeder since 1940, and a member of DHIA since 1938. "Back then, it cost \$4.17 a month to have the whole herd tested. DHIA fees are higher now, but they're still a bargain," Ruth said. The milking herd normally numbers about 80, but is down to about 64 now after a sale last fall. There are presently 30 bred heifers in the herd which totals about 150 animals in all.

Production is important to

Ruth, but it's not everything. "I like cows that milk well, but they've got to have good udders and good feet, and they've got to be easy to work with, too," Ruth said. "High production is nice, but you can't always get everything in one package."

Nearly all the present Ruth herd are the offspring of a heifer calf brought to the farm in 1943. She presented her owners with 15 heifer calves, including two sets of good twin heifers, and four bulls over the years. He said they've tried to stick mainly to one bloodline, but have imported and Excellent bull from Kansas to avoid inbreeding problems.

Although the Ruths do use artificial insemination on their cows, all the bulls are kept on the farm. A stroll through the Ruth dairy barn is enough to convince anyone that he has managed to produce a good string of placid milk producers, cows that are nice to work with and that can be handled well in the show ring.

Ruth said that type alone wouldn't keep an animal in his herd, but that neither would production alone. The herd is on a heavy corn silage program, supplemented by top quality alfalfa hay and protein and mineral supplements.

Some 90 to 100 acres of the corn harvest goes into a pair of concrete silos, and another 40 acres or so is stored in cribs as ear corn. The ear corn goes through an on-farm grinder mixer before it's fed to the cows.

Last year, Ruth said they averaged 25 to 30 tons of silage to the acre, and had yield checks running up to 50 tons. They fertilize according to soil tests, lime to keep soil pH in the neighborhood or 6.5 or above, and put manure on the corn ground. The alfalfa fields get around 600 pounds of 1-30-15 in the fall, but they don't get any manure.

"One year we didn't get manure onto some of our alfalfa ground, and during the year we had hardly any weed problems at all with

that ground. The fields that got manure had almost no weeds than alfalfa, so I figured the weed seeds were getting to the fields in the manure. Now we put all the manure onto the corn ground, where the weeds are a lot easier to control."

Last year Ruth figured his alfalfa yielded a good four to five tons of baled hay to the acre.

What about Lehigh, we asked towards the end of our conversation. How are things going?

"It's improving. It's not a fast road back, but things are getting better. We have excellent people in management now, and we're getting our problems whipped."

"A few weeks ago I was on the witness stand for almost three hours in front of Kent Shelhamer's agriculture committee, talking about cooperatives. Three times he asked me, 'What can we legislate to prevent other coops from getting into the bind Lehigh got into?' and three times I told him you can't legislate honesty and integrity. If a board of directors can't depend on the integrity of the top managers who are running a coop, than those directors can still be sold down the drain."

"Directors have to hire key people, they have to set salaries, and they have to verify financial statements. But they should stay out of daily operations, because that's management's job. There has to be just one top manager, and if he doesn't perform, then it's the job of the directors to replace him."

In addition to their son Joseph, the Ruths have four other children. Esther is a school teacher in Bucks County, Mary Ellen is married to a plant pathologist and currently living in Brazil, Samuel owns an auto repair and service station at Port Allegheny, Pa., and Phoebe, a freshman at Albright College, was the Berks County Dairy Princess in 1973.

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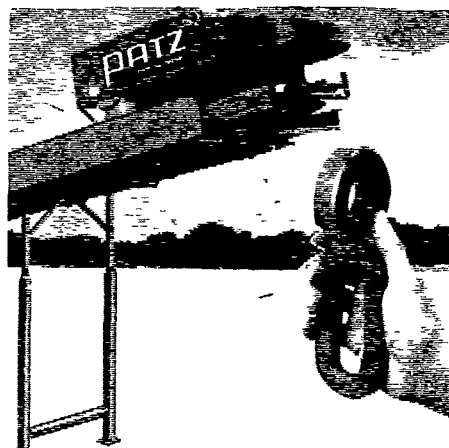
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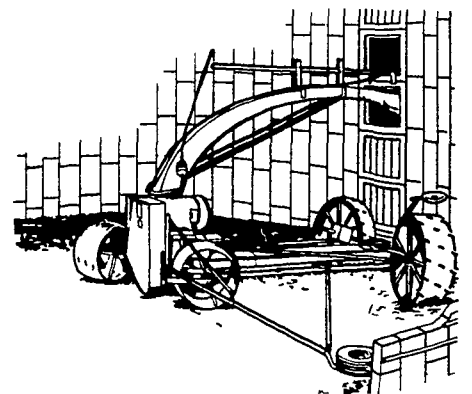
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