

# York Countian

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graduation from Kennard-Dale High School in 1961 when he went "on the halves" with his father. Two years ago he purchased his father's share of the property and all told, the family now farms a total of 463 acres.

Boasting a present herd average of 19,801 pounds of milk and 783 pounds of butterfat, Stewart has his fingers crossed to go over 800 pounds of fat this year, and claims he has a fair chance for it. He owns two dairy farms, with him managing the 50-cow operation at home, while a hired manager takes care of the 75-cow herd a few miles down the road. In addition, the Stewarts keep approximately 120 heifers and calves, and several bulls.

Citing breeding difficulties as his major problem, Stewart said a number of his cows must be served four and five times before they conceive. "I don't usually breed too many that are milking less than 80 pounds per day," he added, "and I don't believe I'm losing money until the cow has gone without calf for 100 days or more." He explained his high production records afford him the extra leeway in breeding time.

Asked what he attributed his farming success to, Stewart replied: "Dedication - get the most out of everything you do, don't try to take any shortcuts, always try to do the best of your ability." As far as getting milk out of cows is concerned, Stewart is a firm believer in regularity - regularity as it applies to milking schedules, feed, feeding procedures, and milking habits. Mangers are swept twice a day to assure cleanliness and increase appetites. Milking cows are limited to 20 lbs of silage per day, but are offered the best quality alfalfa hay he has available. Grain is fed at a ratio of one pound of grain per three pounds of milk, although highest producers are allowed to have "all they can eat." He added, however, that "we can't get more than 40 pounds of grain per day into them."

"No sir!" was Stewart's immediate answer to a question concerning lead-feeding. "I don't believe in it," he emphasized, "all it does is swell up the cows'



York Countian S. David Stewart is the 1975 Outstanding Young Cooperator for Inter-State Milk Producers Cooperative. The 32-year old dairyman farms 460 acres and has his fingers crossed to make an 800 pound butterfat herd average this year with his 51 Holsteins.

bags and cause them to fall off." Convinced that a dairyman's feeding program, if it works well for him, is best, he sticks to his own nutrition ideas rather than those of feed salesmen or nutritionists.

Displaying a definite interest in registered Holsteins, production records, pedigrees, and feeding programs, Stewart noted some peculiarities about his management program which raise eyebrows elsewhere. For example, he is convinced that three pounds of baking soda added to a ton of feed will raise the butterfat test and help prevent twisted stomachs. But he warns that such a program must be initiated gradually and cannot exceed three pounds per ton. He also adds a special commercial product to the ration which helps break up amino acids in the cow's stomach.

In spite of the relatively high costs of feed, Stewart is convinced that feeding a little extra on protein,

vitamins and minerals is a smart, precautionary practice. Feeding recommendations from Penn State always have a little extra added on to them before Stewart is done examining the figures.

The slow-talking, tobacco-chewing young dairyman also provides his cows with more room in the stanchions than is commonly found, and continues to use the old suspended Surge bucket milkers, complete with vacuum pulsators. "With these I can feel it in my arm whether a cow is off in

production or not," Stewart explained while sipping a cool drink of water in the milk house.

Receiving his start with registered Holsteins at age 12 when his father gave him a pair of heifer calves, Stewart has continued to breed Holsteins through the years and has several "Stewardridge" bulls in studs.

"As long as a man can get plenty of milk from his cows, he'll be okay," Stewart opined on the present cost-price squeeze facing dairymen across the country. But he added: "Our average per cow has increased 5,000 pounds since 1965, but the income has stayed the same." He expressed concern over this situation but does not regret being a dairyman because of it. He operates his dairy farms with the help of his family, and three full-time hired men.

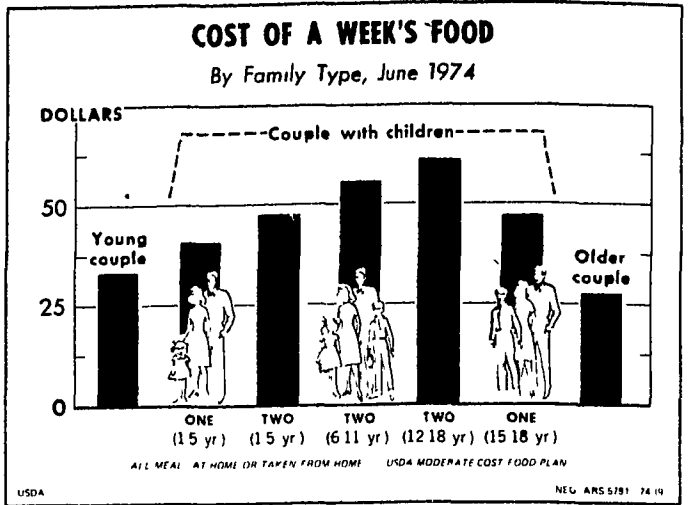
Some of the ways Stewart has for saving money in his farming enterprise are by doing all of his own repairs on equipment, except engine overhauls. With 10 tractors, 13 wagons, and a variety of other machines, he sometimes has his hands full. Outlays for new equipment are kept to a minimum, primarily because of the high price tags attached to it.

Commenting briefly on marketing of agricultural products, the young farmer, who will go to New Orleans in November for the National Milk Producers Federation contest, said:

"I don't feel that we're getting our fair share of the money that's stuck in food at any end of it. There's somebody getting more out of it than the man who spends the most of it."

## Agrifacts . . .

Early agriculture had a silkworm craze centered in Pennsylvania from 1826 to 1839. But the cold winters steadily killed off the mulberry trees on which the silkworms fed and silk farming died as quickly as it was born.



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Ken Schoeni, who is Superintendent of Athletic Facilities at Bowling Green University, Ohio, says, about one mowing job: "It used to take two men three days."

Now one man does it in a day and a half on a Yazoo."

W. G. "Buck" Siler, who is pro-owner of Longview Golf Club in Greensboro, N.C., says, "With the tractor, I was using two hand mowers trimming continuously during the season. After I got the Yazoo, we had one hand mower trimming two to three hours a week."

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