

Dairy research

[Continued from Page 71] producer in increasing his profitability and return on investment. "Purina has no

interest in becoming a milk producer," visitors were told

So, with management research as a motive, and self-sufficiency of the farm as a requirement, the

"Arkavalle Dairy Farm" was born. Since a majority of problems and managerial ideas at this Arkansas farm are similar or even identical to those encountered in Pa., or anywhere else, the management here believes that their work is of potential benefit to dairymen everywhere.

Nearly 1900 grade Holsteins, of which 1500 are milking, are kept at the farm which sprawls out across 802 acres of rolling, rough-looking land. As seen during this time of year, the virgin land in this part of Arkansas appears to support little more than trees (mostly conifers) and a variety of bushes, brush, and grasses. Corn cannot be grown in the area due to rapid drainage of the shallow clay and shale soil. Farming, in general, is all but void and what was seen here in this part of the country in no way measures up to what farmers in Pennsylvania and neighboring areas are accustomed to. In short, "Arkavalle" is something of a man-made oasis within a section of comparatively unproductive land. The only crop which is being grown here by "Arkavalle" with reasonable success is sorghum. All of it goes for silage.

The milking strings kept at the research farm are kept

in eight lots which fan out from the center of the operation. It features a three-pit milking parlor with an 18-cow capacity and 150-

cows-per-hour efficiency. Dry cows roam on hilly range land across the road and receive their feed along

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Manure from these litter alleys is flushed into a lagoon from where it is pumped out onto the farm's 400 acres of crop land. A unique research discovery is that solids within the

manure can be separated, dried, and then used over again as bedding in the free stalls. Farm managers report the practice is successful.



Construction principles changed dramatically after researchers learned that the older style barns did not allow adequate cooling and ventilation. Note the fans mounted underneath the roof covering the free stalls. Summer temperatures have

been recorded as high as 115 degrees and managers at the farm consider it to be their number one problem. Construction which favors free movement of air is heavily favored.

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