

# Pa. Outstanding Young Farmer breeds top bulls

By JUDY MITCHELL  
Berks Co. Reporter

MOHRSVILLE, Pa. - At home on Reu-Hel Farms, Mohrsville R1, Elwood Ohlinger took time out with Lancaster Farming to consider his recent honor of being named the Pa. Young Farmers Association Outstanding Young Farmer (over thirty years of age).

A member of the PYFA for six years, Elwood outlined the basic functioning of the Association and explained that the term "Young Farmer" applies to any farmer willing to learn; but he was noticeably less eager to explore how his willingness to learn had led to his receiving the Outstanding Farmer award his first year in the competition.

Obviously modest about citing his own accomplishments in farming to date, it took some prodding to get Elwood to concede that production figures required in his application certainly pointed to a sound management of Reu-Hel. His wife Ruth further advanced that owning their farm may have been a contributing factor.

Elwood recalled that he began working at Reu-Hel when he and Ruth were married in 1961. Ruth's father, Reuben Field, owned Reu-Hel at that time, and Elwood continued to work for him until he entered the business as a corporate owner in 1967. In 1972, he said, he and Ruth bought out

the corporation and since then have managed to purchase the farm from Field, who Elwood says is now retired but a reliable helping hand at Reu-Hel.

The Ohlinger's own 200 of the 405 acres they farm and a 220-head dairy operation which includes 120 milking cows, 95 heifers and five service age bulls.

Elwood finally determined that the work he has accomplished with registered Holstein cattle was probably an important factor in his receiving the Outstanding Farmer award. Besides an impressive rolling herd average which has climbed even higher than that stated on his application to its present 16,910 pounds of milk and 589 pounds of fat, some excellent cows have enabled Elwood to breed six bulls which are AI studs throughout the United States and a seventh which was exported to France. Among the five bulls he still owns is Big Mac, the reserve grand champion at this year's Eastern Champion Holstein Show. Also, through his membership in the Berks County Holstein Association, Elwood attended the Sire Power school and is certified to do his own artificial breeding. For this purpose he maintains a liquid nitro tank which preserves semen indefinitely.

A firm believer in the advantages a farmer gains through Association membership, Elwood



Elwood Ohlinger poses with Big Mac, champion bull

currently holds office with a number of organizations. Besides being president of the Berks County Holstein Association, he is a director on the county DHIA board, a committeeman on the Agway-Berks Way Zone; and was recently elected president of the Kutztown

(Continued on Page 39)

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