Holstein breeders tour top farms in Virginia

By JOYCE BUPP York Co. Reporter

LOUDON COUNTY, Va. -Under leaden skies and pouring rain, a busload of York County Holstein breeders headed for northern Virginia on April 5 for their annual bus tour.

Harvue Farm, owned by Jack Hardesty and sons, near Berryville, Va. was the first stop. The Hardesty family milks 220 cows, currently maintaining a herd average of over 16,000 pounds of milk and 608 of fat.

"We have a lowinvestment operation here," stressed Hardesty, who worked his herd up from one calf. Milking is done in a double-eight herringbone parlor and cows are fed with a loader scooping from a 4000-ton capacity trench silo. Even the old stanchion dairy barn has a unique purpose in the operation. The top 20 cows are confined there each afternoon and press-fed for higher production. Five head were milking over 100 pounds daily, with several more just under that mark, on tour day.

"Separating the cows daily keeps us familiar with the animals," believes Hardesty, whose two sons are key men in the feeding and management areas.

Every cow, but two in the herd, is home bred and raised. Most trace their pedigrees back to the Oregon Challenger Baron sire. A number of large, heavilymilking Paclamar Astronaut daughters are in the herd, as well as one Round Oak Rag Apple Elevation progeny.

Near the trench silo a pile of bags lay stacked. They contained peanut shells, a prime Virginia bedding commodity. Bedding with the peanut by-product was new to the tour members. but three of the four farms visited were found using them regularly. Because of nationwide fiber shortage, many farmers have begun using them in feed blends, causing the price to

Next farm visited was the

home of E. B. Lee and Sons, at White Post. Lee greeted recently to the facilities.

of age because of their having to compete in the plained. Several of the top breeding animals in the herd came from Pennsylvania farms.

Lee noted that one crop of growing importance in the area is fescue. Forty acres of the legume wintered 75 of the farm's dry cows, with only four pounds of supplement per head daily.

The home of the popular Round Oak Rag Apple Elevation bull at Purcellville was the third stop. Round Oak farm is owned by John Hope, who has just modernized the milking operation with the construction of a double-six parlor. The main attraction in the long tie-stall barn was the line-up of homebred Elevation daughters, some of the oldest milking animals anywhere, sired by the bull. Also housed at the Hope farm is the famous Harborcrest Mary Hoe cow, 13year-old maternal sister to all-time great brood cow Harborcrest Rose Milly.

The York countians were also shown Round Oak's two young sons of Elevation,

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his guests on the lawn of his plantation-style farm home, then led them to the original milking barn where the best animals were tied for viewing. A new milking parlor and free stall barn for the 200 cows has been added

"We freshen our heifers at nearer three than two years Total acreage in the cropparlor milking arrangement." Lee exshown by Lee to the visitors hay. Large rolling pastures

both being sampled by Virginia breeders.

A large lake, with a guest house on the island in the center, elegantly greets visitors to Foxlease Farms at Upperville, the final herd visit. Owner is Mr. Sinclair. vice-president of the Standard Oil company.

refugee, manages the farm and Holstein breeding herd for Foxlease. ping program is 1200, with 800 acres of that owned. Feed for the 100-plus milking animals housed in the long stanchion barn is raised on 400 acres of corn and 200 of surround the farm buildings and provide fresh forage for the animals.

There are a number of No-Na-Me Fond Matt milking animals in the herd, as well as several Elevation heifers.

E. B. Lee, who guided the busload of visitors on their Virginia tour, treated them to a surprise drive

Ted Haberland, a German'

Ted Haberland briefs visitors on the breeding and management aspects of Foxlease farms. Haberland left behind a large farm when he fled

the Foxlease animals have been exported to the "old country" as he terms it; and he visits there yearly.

around Carter Hall mansion, a hugh colonial home set on the rolling Virginia hills. Surrounded with towering old trees and blossoming daffodils, the home has been featured in a Walt Disney movie and on nationallydistributed Carter Hall pipe tobacco packets.

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