



Montgomery County dairy farmer Harold Halteman has been on top of his county's DHIA program for four out of the past five years. He's

the first in Montgomery County to break the 700 pound butterfat mark.

### Montgomery County DHIA

# Harold Halteman's Holsteins hold high honor

By DIETER KRIEG  
**TELFORD** — For the fourth time in five years, Harold Halteman milked his way to the top of the Montgomery County DHIA list. At a recognition dinner held last month, the 37-year old Holstein breeder and his family were singled out for having reached a milestone not only for themselves, but for Montgomery County DHIA as well.

The recently completed testing year marks the first time ever that a Montgomery County dairy herd eclipsed the prestigious 700 pounds of butterfat mark. Halteman surpassed it with his 60 cows averaging 18,012 pounds of milk and 703 pounds of butterfat. A year ago, when his herd was also tops, his cows' credits stood at 17,274 pounds of milk and 641 of butterfat. Ten years ago he ranked eleventh in the county with a 577 pound butterfat average.

The Montgomery County credits his feeding program for much of the progress that has been made. Corn and grass silage with a little hay provide the roughage. "You can't just mix up feed as they did years ago," Halteman told Lancaster Farming in an interview last Spring. He believes in a nutritionally balanced ration, explaining that "it's not just protein and energy nowadays, but vitamins and minerals too."

Aside from the amounts and kinds of feeds offered, Halteman also considers feeding practices themselves to be important.

The last chore he does at night is to check his cows' feed situation. His higher producing cows receive an extra helping of hay and grain at that time. "It only takes a half an hour on the average," the young dairyman said, convinced that it's a practice which helps boost production.

His best cows do not usually receive more than 30

pounds of grain per day, although on occasion that figure approaches 40 pounds. He feeds an 18½ per cent protein ration.

"We try very hard to harvest for optimum nutrition value from our forage," Halteman told Lancaster Farming. Hay is cut relatively young. On an average cows receive 35 pounds of corn silage per day, 15 pounds of grass silage and eight pounds of hay. The main hay crops are clover and timothy. Alfalfa hay is purchased.

The herd is stabled in stanchions and free stalls. Pipeline milkers are used twice a day.

Keeping abreast of new techniques and trends is also considered to be important for running an efficient and productive farm. For that reason, Halteman says "I like to read," and confesses that he's picked up a lot of knowledge by doing just that. Involvement with organizations such as the Pennsylvania Farmers Association, the Holstein-Friesian Association of America and DHIA round out his experiences in the profession of being a dairy farmer.

In addition to having the high county average, Halteman is also owner of the cows with high individual milk and butterfat records.

His "Indiandale, Victor Vickie" was high in the milk race with 25,296 pounds. A 3.3 per cent butterfat test gave her 838 pounds of butterfat.

"Leesknoll Ty-Vic Promis Pat" went to the top of the butterfat rankings with her production of 24,575 pounds of milk and 955 of butterfat.

The second high herd in Montgomery County is that of E.N. Halteman and Son of Harleysville. They are Harold Halteman's father and brother, respectively.

Milking 43 Holsteins, the father and son partnership combined for a 1977 DHIA

average of 17,126 pounds of milk and 680 of fat.

Third in the rankings was Richard Bechtel of Harleysville with 37 cows averaging 16,937 pounds of milk and 668 of fat. Darrell Alderfer, Harleysville, followed with an average of 17,204 pounds of milk and 661 of fat on 47 Holsteins. Fifth place went to the Henry Gottshall herd at Royersford which averaged 16,346 pounds of milk and 642 of butterfat.

Woodson Farms' Holsteins at Pennsburg finished sixth with 39 cows averaging 16,590 pounds of milk and 629 of fat. In seventh place was Merrill Mest of Obelisk with 29 Holsteins averaging 15,667 pounds of milk and 625 of butterfat. Robert Moses, Schwenksville, followed with credits of 16,782 pounds of milk and 624 of butterfat on 99 cows.

The mixed herd of Gehringer Brothers at Bally finished ninth. Their 58 cows pumped out an average of 14,554 pounds of milk and 618 of fat for the year. Jay Renninger, Royersford, had 111 Holsteins averaging 16,166 pounds of milk and 618 of butterfat to fill the tenth slot on the list. Charles Rhoads of Obelisk followed with an average of 15,866 pounds of milk and 614 of fat on 41 cows.

Merrill Ruth, Telford, was twelfth with 64 cows averaging 16,243 pounds of milk and 612 of fat. The final herd to break the 600 pound butterfat mark was that of George Seneko, Harleysville. His 49 Holsteins produced an average of 15,237 pounds of milk and 606 of butterfat.

Montgomery County DHIA had 63 herds on test this past testing year, with 13 eclipsing the 600 mark, 28 over 550, and 49 over 500. Eight herds were below the 450 mark with their averages, and three of them failed to crack 400

The county average this

year stands at 13,656 pounds of milk and 534 of butterfat, an increase of 750 pounds of milk and 33 of fat over last year. The state DHIA average stands at 14,142 pounds of milk and 545 of butterfat.

Significant improvement came to top Montgomery County herds this year, with the generally accepted reason being better feeds, particularly forages.

Although the average value of milk is rated as higher than the state average, higher feed costs eroded the margins. High land prices and encroachment by housing developments have left Montgomery County dairymen with higher feed costs in every category but one -- pasture. That's because many do not have pasture. In the case of Harold Halteman, his cows have access to a 2-acre exercise lot.

## Wivell's corn yields high

COLUMBIA, Pa. — Joseph Wivell, of Columbia, has placed high in the local Project: 200 corn growing program with a corn yield of 151.5 bushels per acre.

Wivell used Funk's G-4636 in his high yielding plot. His fertilizer program consisted of 190 pounds nitrogen, 62 pounds phosphorous and 2 pounds potassium. He used Aatrex/Lasso for weed control. The crop was planted on May 7 in 30-inch rows at 23,000 plants per acre. The yield was adjusted to 15.5 per cent moisture.

Project: 200 is sponsored annually by The Producers of Funk's G-Hybrids and is the largest corn growing program of its kind in the nation.

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