

Pa.'s outstanding grassland farmers chosen

UNIVERSITY PARK — Six Pennsylvania farmers, who operate some of the most efficient forage cropping systems in the state, have been named winners of the 1978 Outstanding Grassland Farmers Awards presented by the Pennsylvania Grassland Council.

Included in the list of winners were:

Albert Miller and Dennis Rex, Andreas R1, who received the award along with the other winners on Penn State's main campus.

Dennis Rex has an off-farm job but contributes materially to the farm labor force. The farm is in-

corporated and goes by the name of Miller and Rex, Inc.

A small farm, cropland consists of 60 acres owned and 145 acres rented. There are approximately 55 acres of corn grown with about half harvested for silage and the other half as ear corn.

About 40 acres are planted in alfalfa-grass mixtures, 30

acres in clover-grass, and the remainder in grass. Although 20 acres of haycrop are ensiled for summer feeding, the majority of the hay-crop acreage goes into hay.

This past September, their 36-cow Holstein herd averaged about 18,700 pounds of milk and 739

pounds of butterfat with a \$1,177 return over feed cost per cow.

Home grown grains, corn, oats, and wheat, make up about 80 per cent of the grain requirements of the milking herd.

Wilbur and Stanley Burkholder, Chambersburg R1, also received the award, a plaque.

Burk-Lea Farms consists of 225 acres of owned cropland in addition to 50 acres which are rented. There are 28 acres of permanent pasture used as forage for dry cows and heifers.

The first, second, and fourth cuttings of the 100 acres of alfalfa grown are stored as medium moisture silage in a sealed silo. Most of the third cutting of hay is field cured and baled by a conventional square baler.

Corn silage, approximately 45 acres, is stored in a conventional tower silo and an additional 100 acres harvested as shelled grain and stored as high-moisture corn in a sealed silo. Approximately 15 acres each of wheat and barley complete the cropping program.

The Burkholder 100-cow herd of Holsteins produce an average of 17,500 pounds of milk and 630 pounds of butterfat per cow with a \$1,126 return over feed cost. Over 730,000 pounds of milk per man were sold in 1977.

Fifty per cent of the forage for the milking herd is provided by corn silage, 40

per cent by alfalfa hay-crop silage, and 10 per cent by alfalfa hay. Almost three-fourths of the grain fed is supplied by high-moisture shelled corn.

Manure and milkhouse waste water are stored in an earthen lagoon which provides six months storage.

James E. Rider, Warriors Mark, was also named a winner.

He owns 160 acres of cropland and 40 acres of pasture, grows approximately 90 acres of alfalfa and alfalfa-timothy mixed and 70 acres of corn.

The first, second, and fourth cuttings of hay are wilted and stored in a conventional tower silo. The remainder of the hay crop is partially field cured then fan finished using natural air.

Thirty-five acres of corn are harvested for silage and stored in a conventional silo. The other 35 acres of corn are harvested as high-moisture ground ear corn.

The 70-cow Holstein herd is housed in free-stalls. The herd averages approximately 16,900 of milk and 673 pounds of butterfat with a \$1,167 return over feed cost per cow. Milk sold per man was almost 500,000 pounds in 1977.

Currently, bunker-type manure storage is under construction to handle slurry manure from the milking herd and the free-stall heifer facilities.

R. Wayne Harpster,

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Winners of 1978 Outstanding Grassland Farmer Awards from left are: R. Wayne Harpster, Spruce Creek; James E. Rider, Warriors Mark; Stanley Burkholder, Chambersburg R1; Dennis Rex,

Andreas R1; Albert Miller, Andreas R1; Robert H. Jones, Bath R1. Dr. John E. Baylor, right, Penn State Extension agronomist, served as contest coordinator.



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