

Chester County dairyman Jefferson Yoder has won 12 Progressive Breeder Awards from the Holstein-Friesian Association of America, an achievement which distinguishes him as being among the best in the country.

Potato stocks are record high

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Potato stocks continue to be at record high levels, according to statistics furnished to Lancaster Farming by the United States Department of Agriculture. The estimated 219 million hundredweights in storage as of December 1 was up six per cent from a year ago,

and record high for the date for the third straight year.

The record high stockpile came about even though the total in the seven eastern states, including Pennsylvania, was down by nine per cent from a year earlier. The count for those states as of Dec. 1 stood at 31.6 million hundredweights.

The potato inventory of the eastern states is the lowest for the region since 1973. The eight central states' production, at 48.1 million hundredweight was up seven per cent over last year and the eight western states, at 139 million hundredweights, was up 10 per cent from a year earlier.



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Home-bred cows keep Jefferson Yoder on top

By DIETER KRIEG
ELVERSON — Jefferson Yoder is no ordinary dairyman. The Chester Countian makes that much obvious rather quickly. First of all, he has a DHIA herd average of 19,722 pounds of milk with a 4 per cent test and 795 pounds of butterfat. Secondly, he doesn't pay much attention to what the so-called experts off the farm suggest, and he won't necessarily follow the crowd either. Yoder, who has been milking cows for 22 years, is a man who makes his own decisions and follows his own path.

Also, Yoder proclaims that the dairy business is better now than it ever was. While many other dairy farmers

might agree, not all will come right out and say it.

The most predominant evidence of Yoder's maverick approach to dairy farming is that he strongly favors his own bulls. He says a good dairy farmer can achieve significant improvement with his herd production if he uses bulls out of his own top cows, even if the top cow only produced 13,000 pounds of milk per year.

Neither Yoder nor his son, Carl, who works full-time with his dad, is quick with culling programs. Despite their just under 20,000 pound herd average, they'll keep a heifer which finishes with just 12,000 pounds of milk or less. They'll readily give her

another year to improve, confident that she'll do just that. Their emphasis is on longevity.

"A 2-year old has to be pretty bad before we'll cull her," remarked Carl, "especially if she has good type or belongs to one of our best cow families." To emphasize his point, he asked: "How do you cull a cow you've fallen in love with?"

Most of Yoder's "Rocky Side Holsteins" are sired by home-bred bulls. He claims that all but a few have done quite well for him. Ironically, they're all given minus proofs when the U.S. Department of Agriculture analyzes the statistics. "But they're doing the job for us,"

Yoder laughed in defense, adding that he never pays attention to plus or minus ratings.

"We don't care if a bull is plus or minus," the younger Yoder agreed. "We just look at the bull's dam's production."

"We don't just want to see what is on paper, we like to see the bull's offspring, his dam, and granddams on both sides," his father added.

Yoder defends his own brand of breeding philosophy by claiming that neither Osbornedale Ivanhoe nor Paclamar Astronaut - two of the all-time top sires of the Holstein breed - might have been kept if present

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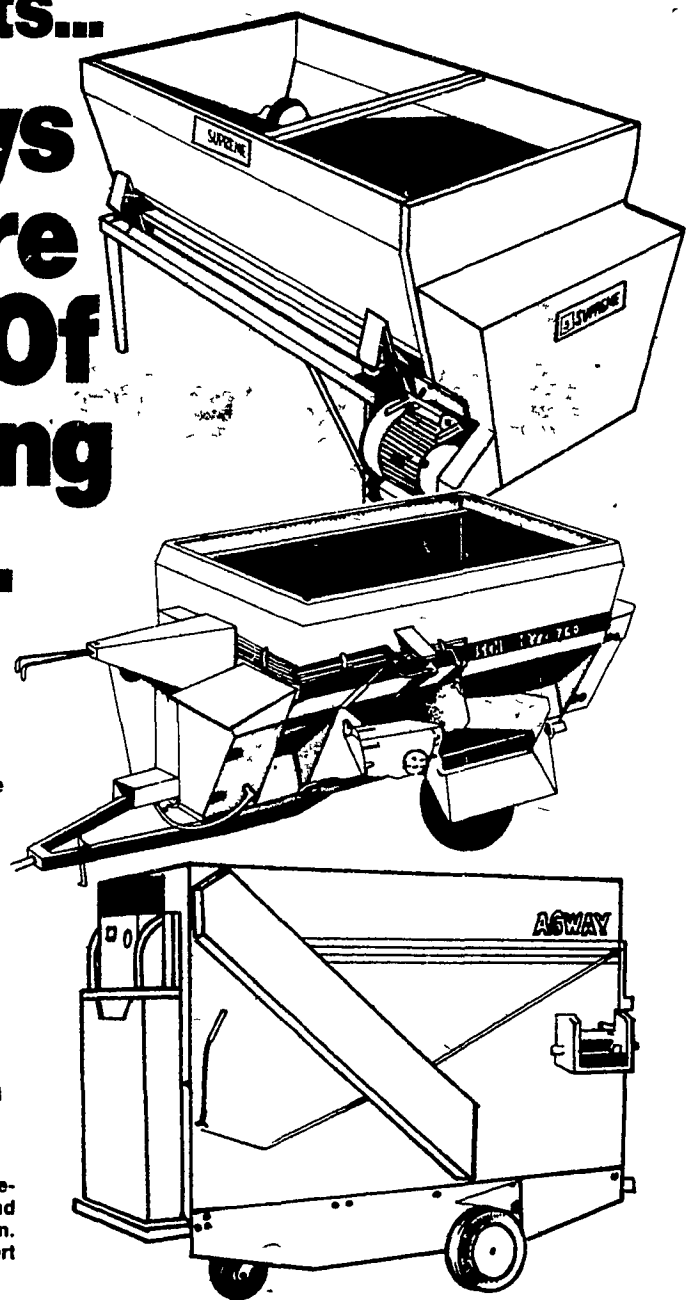
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