Guernseys are a way of life

(Continued from Page 18)

silage and small amounts of hay. High moisture shelled corn is mixed in with a commercial flaked protein supplement. The average ration they feed varies between 16 and 18 per

farms. On the home farm, 110 tillable acres are worked The cows are fed haylage, and 115 additional acres are rented. Everything fed except the commercial supplement is grown on the farm. Extra shelled corn is also sold. Soil and forage samples are a part of the father and son teams program. "Years ago, we

manganese We then began testing the soil for all of the elements," Ray said. "Soil makes a large difference in the nutrient differences in the feed. The diet affects the health and production of the cow, also," added Peter They also take forage samples to see if the soil program is working for

bunk feeders Feed is stored in three Harvestors and one cement silo

A five unit pipeline milker is utilized in their 62 comfort stall barn Six maternity pens hold the newborn calves until they are about three months old The Witmer's explained that it was handy to have the calves there. It was a dry and draft free location Sawdust was also used for bedding The calves are then moved into loose housing They are fed haylage and pastured (rye and sudan) once they are bred. When they freshen, hay is fed.

Bulls are used for clean-up or problem cows. The bull calves from the best cows are raised and sold as breeding stock.

What type of cows are being selected by the Witmers? Ray said We feel

type and production goes hand in hand We want a cow that eats lots of roughage, deep ribbed, and deep in the heart " "More a functional type," Peter added. "We like to see sound feet and legs along with well attached, sound udders We're not necessarily looking for the biggest cow in the world," he said. As an example of his statement, Peter said that one cow in their herd is in her 17th-year of milking. She

ranks sixth in milk and seventh in fat, in the nation for lifetime production. This year she produced 16,636 pounds of milk and 693 pounds of butterfat and "she's a cow that many would say is small," Peter added.

Ray Witmer is the president of the Pennsylvania Guernsey Breeders Association and a past director of the American Guernsey Cattle Club.

ELCO medical center opened

MILLBACH - The ElCO Family Health Center was formally dedicated last Sunday, June 10. Located equidistant between Schaefferstown, Richland and Newmanstown, the new facility will serve the medical/dental needs of the residents in the Eastern Lebanon County area. It has facilities for two physicians and two dentists.

The new Health Center is staffed by Family Practice physicians from The Reading Hospital and Medical Center, under the direction of Dr John Wagner, Chairman of the Hospital's Department of Family Practice.

The ELCO Family Health Center became a reality through the original fund raising efforts of industrial, business, and civic organizations and individuals in and around Richland, Newmanstown, and Schaefferstown



Ray Witmer (right) who is president of the Pennsylvania Guernsey Association, and his son Peter, who graduated from Penn State in 1974.

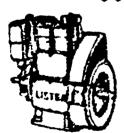
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