

Shey-land

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that Shey-lands' Holsteins received statewide recognition. In 1974, the herd had the highest average milk production. Last year, they were fourth in average milkfat with 801 pounds.

At the local level, the Sheypuk brothers have held on to the top slot on the Lackawanna County DHIA

herd record list for the tenth year in a row. They were given special recognition at their county's annual association meeting recently for their outstanding record and achievement.

How did the brothers get to where they are today. George attributes their success to the fact that they have been farming and im-

proving since they graduated from high school

In 1961, the Sheypuk brothers had a herd average of 12,964 pounds of milk and 440 pounds of butterfat for their 29 cows. In the eighteen years since then, they have earned a reputation for breeding Holstein cattle with outstanding type and production. Last year, Shey-land Farm had the second highest national average for all DHIR herds with 51 to 80 cows.

A key to a good job in every part of farming', added George. This is not an easy task considering the short growing season, wet soils, and generally hilly terrain that the brothers have to farm.

The Sheypuks raise around 60 acres of corn and 100 acres of hay. The hay is an alfalfa-grass mixture that lasts about two to three years. In spite of the short life span on the alfalfa, George says that they feel its worth it to raise the legume.

"We make our records on the roughage. We grow everything that we feed", George noted. "We feed our cows good hay and corn silage, and no more than 30 pounds of grain. That's the that we feed to our top producing cows, with the lower cows getting less depending on their production."

George said that their success has been a combination of good crop management, cow care, and genetics. The brothers do their own artificial insemination, and according to George they buy only the best bull semen.

Currently, a lot of the Shey-land cows are dropping calves sired by Glen-Valley Star. George pointed out that this bull is one of the highest type bulls in the nation, with a predicted difference of +2.73. The bull's predicted difference for milk production, he added, was almost 1100 pounds.

Their herd's top cow at the moment is an Arlinda Chief daughter. This six year old excellent cow produces 138 pounds of milk per day. She averages over 1100 pounds of butterfat and milks over 28,000 pounds.

Shey-land Farm is also a

member of Elite Syndicate, the buyer of Willsholm Jewel Elite, the maternal sister of Round Oak Rag Apple Elevation, the second highest cow at this year's All-American sale. The Sheypuk's, along with Harold Hart, of Susquehanna County, and Joan and Bill Schuldt, of Nineveh, New York, are the owners of this top cow which is bred to S-

W-D Valiant and due to calve in February.

If their success and efforts to improve their Holstein herd continue to grow, the Sheypuk brother team will let farmers around Pennsylvania and the nation know that there is more to black and white in Lackawanna County than just coal and snow.

Ag land meeting

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Township, will tell farmers about the agricultural district approach.

Under this proposal a sizable tract of farmland, consisting of several separate operations, would be considered as an agricultural preserve. Farmers would receive certain tax considerations and would be freed, for the most part, from restrictive ordinances or from government agencies taking their property through eminent domain.

The panel will be moderated by Jay E. Landis, Lancaster, who is President of the Board of Directors of the Farm and Home Foundation.

Max Smith, Lancaster County Extension Agent, will deliver summary remarks, reviewing the proposals put forward by each speaker.

The floor then will be opened for questions and discussion of the topics and proposals made.

The purpose of the meeting, according to Roy Brubaker, is to present the various plans that currently are being proposed for the

preserving of good farm land in the County.

He pointed out the panel members all are quite active in realizing the need for preserving farm land in the County.

Max Smith, in his 43rd year in Extension in Lancaster County, pointed out that when he first came to the county there was none of the ribbon development along the highways that can be seen today.

"It's a shame we have to cover up this good farm land," he said.

He said all of the proposals deserve attention and pointed out that it has been only recently that farmers and others have been able to make their cases heard.

Since the Barley landfill controversy, county commissioners and zoning boards have gotten a bit more backbone in taking a stand to preserve farmland in the County, he pointed out.

The meeting is being sponsored by the educational committee of the Farm and Home Foundation.

All land owners and other interested citizens are invited to attend the meeting.

See the related story on page 10.

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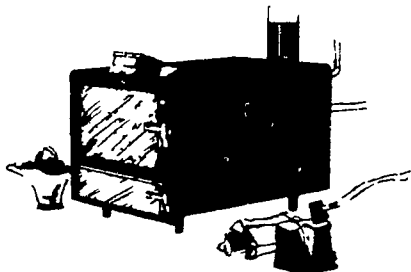
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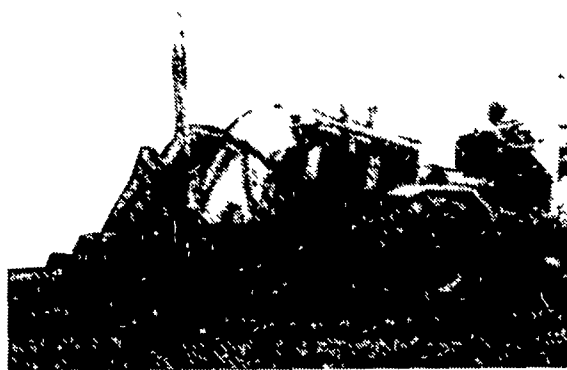
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