

Holstein tour

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Kenneth Fry, of MarCove Farms, explained. Fry and his father-in-law, George Breidenbaugh, operate the dairy farm that's nestled in the narrow Morrison Cove valley in the shadow of Tussey Mountain.

"There were six embryo transplants from the first super," Fry said.

In fact, as the tour group of nearly 70 visitors were filing through the stanchion barn and past Carmel, contentedly munching hay, her litter of six was in the process of being born a number of miles away.

"Three were on the ground as of Wednesday," Fry said.

"The remaining three are due any time now. In fact, the calvings could be going on right now."

The first three calves were bulls, as well as the offspring born after she was brought to Blair County following the purchase. That bull, Dunwood Pisto Pete, is quartered at the farm.

Semen from two bulls were used in the first super. They were Locust Glen Elevation Ivanhoe and Cahill Standout Cavalier.

"In Carmel's second super, eight eggs were transplanted," Fry said.

"Six pregnancies resulted and their calves are due the end of April or the beginning of May."

Bulls used in the second super were Straight Pine Elevation Pete and SWD Valiant.

Carmel is now pregnant to Glendale Arlinda Chief. Counting the two heifers born while still on the Stoltzfus farm, she has borne a total of 16 offspring as a five-year-old.

Her production records show 27,140 lbs. and 1146 butterfat as a two-year-old; 28,393 lbs. and 1331 butterfat as a three-year-old and 27,967 lbs. and 1148 fat as a five-year-old.

"We have about 300 acres on two farms here," Breidenbaugh told the tour group.

"We rent another 170 acres. We have 65 cows and are milking 55 now."

The herd average stands at 18,000 pounds and 620 fat.

He described their operation as a combination of dairying and nursery business.

"It's a terrible mixture," he admitted.

"The times for the most work in each are always conflicting with each other."

Over the rolling coun-

tryside dotted with residential homes mixing with the farm land, the two buses moved on to the Ken Mowry farm, also in the Morrison Cove valley, but across the county line in Bedford.

Along the narrow rural roads the buses were threaded past large gleaming tankers, which graphically demonstrated that dairying was a leading business of the valley.

Despite temperatures in the low-50's, patches of snow were still visible through the bus windows lying in the lea of the picket fences still in the fields.

At the Mowry farm, super ovulation is centered around Mowry Princess Corrine, the daughter of the former national champion production Holstein, Mowry Prince Corrine.

The national production record of 50,750 pounds was set about five years ago and stood for about a year.

"I remember that she died the exact day that the record was topped by a cow in Indiana," Steve Mowry said.

"I guess she just couldn't take getting beat."

Princess Corrine had a production record of 34,000 pounds as a two-year-old and thus far in 260 days has 29,000 pounds.

"We're up to the ninth generation of this family of

cows here on the farm," Mowry said.

"It all began with a cow that grandfather bought back in 1941 at a sale at the Harrisburg State Hospital for about \$100.

The Princess has already borne 14 offspring. She was born in 1975.

Her offspring include eight

bulls and six heifers.

All of the heifers are still on the farm and all the bulls are in AI.

Three of her daughters recently were supered using the bull, Raybrook Starlite. There have been a total of 25 pregnancies from these supers.

The Mowry farm has a total of 650 tillable acres,

most in hay and corn for silage.

They have a total of 200 milk cows.

Other stops on the day-long tour included the Singing Brook Farm of Mr. and Mrs. Obie Snider and the Burket Falls Farm of Polled Holsteins of Mr. and Mrs. Dave Burket.



Present and past owners with Dunwood Chief Carmel include Kenneth Fry, kneeling, of Blair County, and Alvin Stoltzfus, of Chester County.



Holstein tour group from Lancaster County prepares to enter barn on MarCove Farms, located near Martinsburg.

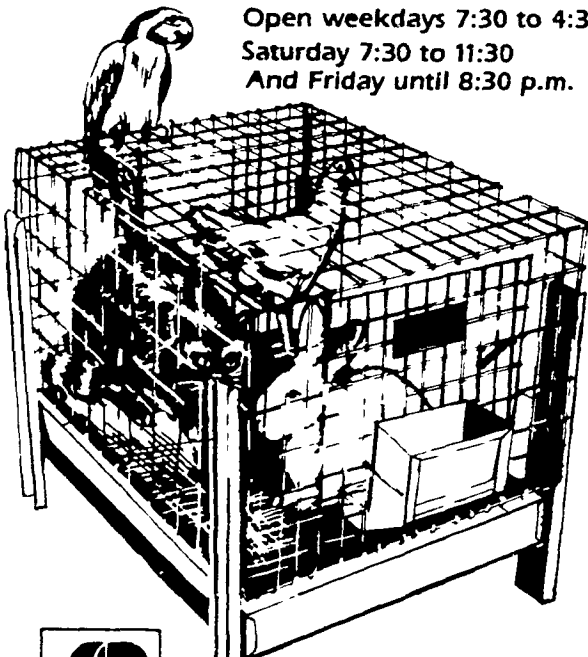


Second stop on the Holstein tour through Blair and Bedford Counties was the Ken Mowry farm, home of past national production champion.

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