

Edgefield Farms — panoramic views and sound management



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BY PAT KAUFFMAN
QUARRYVILLE — South of Quarryville along 472, a simple but impressive sign marks the entrance to Edgefield Farms, the home of the Kenneth and Connie Rutt and family.

The rolling fields hide the farm from the road. But as the visitor drives in the lane, a panorama of ponds and trees, white buildings and white fences, and black and white cows unfolds. This is also the home of a 240 animal

herd of registered Holsteins. Here on 340 acres of owned and rented land, the Rutts operate a dairy with a 17,000-18,000 pound average which has finished in the top 10 percent of herds on DHIA in Lancaster County. With strong Ivanhoe bloodlines, many animals in the herd produce over 20,000 pounds of milk.

In addition to the production records nailed down by the herd, the show records are impressive. Last

year at the Solanco fair, Rutt had the Reserve Champion milker. Daughter Lori, 10, had a first place 4-H junior calf in local competition, and Rutt showed the first place

aged cow in the county Holstein show. Attributing to the quality of the herd is the fact that since 1971, the Rutts have sold bull calves exclusively

for breeding purposes. These bull calves are raised to the age of 1 year on corn silage produced on the farm. Heifer calves are also raised

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White board fences and neatly kept buildings confront visitors to Edgefield Farms.

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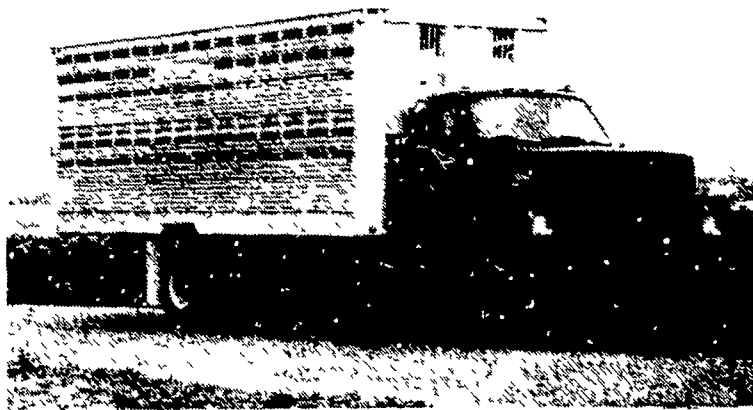
Thompson Farm is one of the county's prestigious Century Farms, having been owned by the same family for over one hundred years.

Although there are now 14 employees spread between the dairy and farm store, it's still basically a family concern. Hazel Thompson, Dave's aunt, oversees the day-to-day affairs of the dairy store. His wife, Kate, is a registered nurse and the couple has two children, Nicholas, age 2, and two-month-old Jason.

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