A32—Lancaster Farming, Saturday, June 7, 1980



Gem-Rock Prince Gay is 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> years old and is Excellent at 90. This cow has produced over 175,000 pounds of milk and 7000 ponds of fat in her lifetime. Kenneth and his two sons, Kraig and Kevin (being held) willingly pose with this strong foundation cows.

## **Sellers Milks**

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simple enough that we can get away.

The Sellers own about 85 acres and rent an additional 100. Currently the herd is milked in a stanchion barn with a pipeline, with one person running three units. Darryl Balmer, 15, helps in the evenings during school and all summer Sellers says, "He has an interest and can milk alone "

In his second year as president of the Lebanon County Holstein Club, Sellers is a strong supporter of the organization. He classifies his herd, and has two Excellents, 14 Very Good, 20 Good Plus and 6 Good. His BAA is 103.5.

His herd record is

currently 8600 pounds of milk, 4.0 test and 746 fat. He is a firm believer in the merits of the Dairy Herd Improvement program, and serves as secretary on their

Board of Directors. He believes those records are useful to dairymen. "If you want to merchandise your stock, the records are helpful, but they can benefit any farmer with his culling They are of maximum benefit to the purebred breeder."

Sellers is very interested in merchandising his cattle, and said that his income from the sale of cattle is one third the income from milk. He said, "I plan on making it a major part of my receipts. I can sell pretty good replacement cattle, although up to now I've been building up my herd." He raises all his heifer calves, and the cattle he sells are mostly bred heifers and springing heifers.

He believes in supporting the county sale and has participated in state convention sales as well as the state bred heifer and calf sales With the prices at public sales so high, Sollers says, "I have no complaints

about the price, but then I'm always on the selling end."

Sellers sells about six bulls per year as breeding stock and uses his own young sires for heifers and repeat breeders.

He does believe in using top bulls in his breeding program and when selecting sires he says he places more emphasis on the butterfat record than on milk. "If they are not plus in butterfat I don't use them, I don't care how high they are in milk. I use top plus proven bulls which break even or are plus in butterfat I like to go and look at daughters of bulls because what's on paper and what you see is sometimes not the same."

Last year Sellers was Premier Breeder and Premier Exhibitor at the Lebanon County Fair and he has won one or both of those awards for the last five years. He said he usually takes about 10 head to the local fair, and five or six to the All-American Show, the Farm Show and the South Central Show. Darryl has both 4-H and FFA animals so they combine with the Sellers' animals to take "whatever he can handle." Darryl does the caring for the animals, and Kenneth helps with showing.

About showing, Sellers comments, "I don't make a

profit with the winnings, but I get a lot of satisfaction. A lot of good people are involved in showing and I like working with them. I have had plenty of experience at both ends of the line and I have taken some animals which I should have left at home. I've learned that you don't do a cow a favor by taking her to a show where the decen't do well " Sellers has had a long line of good animals, beginning with his 4-H project animals. He had the All-Pennsylvania junior heifer calf and the Honorable Mention All-Pennsylvania senior yearling.

A former member of the Little Dutchmen FFA, Sellers says, "4-H and FFA had more influence on me (Turn to Page A38)





