# Individual feeding is key to 23% milk production hike

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

LEBANON - When a milking herd average jumps a whopping 23 percent from one year to another, there's got to be a reason behind such a production achievement.

Charles Heffelfinger and his mother, Pauline, who

operate a dairy farm off Rt. 343, just north of Lebanon, experienced just such a noteworthy production hike and attribute the increase to individual attention to feeding.

In 1978, the herd average was 14,355 lbs. of milk and 530 lbs. of fat.

In 1979, these herd figures jumped to 17,672 lbs. of milk and 647 lbs. of fat.

That's an increase of 3,317 lbs. of milk, just over 23 percent, that won the Cedar Crest Young Farmers Association production award for the largest herd average milk increase.

The Heffelfingers credit a supplements. For every two change in their feeding program as the reason for the increase.

"Instead of feeding our cows as a herd, we now treat them as individuals," Charles explained.

The revised feeding program matches nutritional needs with individual cow production.

DHIA records are now closely followed, along with feeding formulation recommendations from their Agway supplier.

All feed is now weighed The milking cows get 40 pounds of silage once a day along with 18 pounds of hay.

For those cows with more than 50 lbs. of production, a feeding ratio of one to two is followed for corn, oats and lbs. of milk production, a cow gets one pound of feed.

For cows producing less than 50 lbs. of milk, a ratio of one to three is followed.

"There's just no doubt that under the old uniform feeding program, some cows were getting too much feed and others weren't getting enough," Pauline explained.

She points to a 13-year-old cow that was always thin and crampy. Under the new feeding program, the cow is now better than she had ever been. Her production increased from 13,329 lbs. to

19,937. "That particular cow had to be underfed before," she said.

The registered herd is almost 100 percent home-

"I bought only one cow last March," Charles said, "and that has been the only outside addition to the herd."

Individual production increases of 60 percent were recorded by some of the cows with the prefix "Hefacres."

Top producer is four-yearold Hefacres King Kurt Kerry with 26,063 lbs. of milk and 749 fat. On her previous lactation, she produced 15,695 lbs. of milk and 433 fat. That's better than a 10,000lb. increase.

Kerry produced more than 100 lbs. for three months in a row and peaked at 127 lbs.

"That was the first time in 26 years that we had a cow

(Turn to Page C30)



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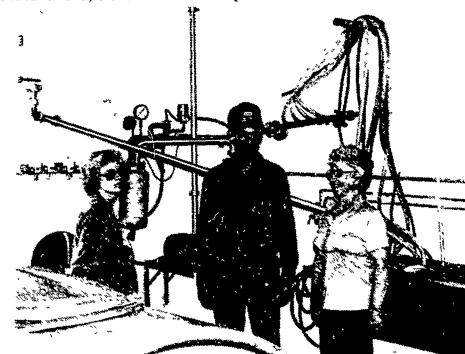
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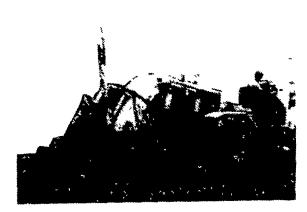
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Shown in milk house of Heffelfinger farm, from the left, are Audrey; her husband, Charles; and his mother. Pauline.

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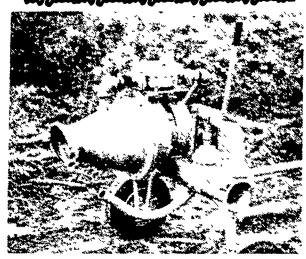
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