

Baldwin, Ailes family farms highlight tour

BY JOYCE BUPP
Staff Correspondent

DELTA—A Century farm owned by the Joe Ailes family and the cow-calf operation run by the family of John Rush Baldwin III are the livestock highlights of the Delta centennial farm tours set for next Saturday.

Two tours covering six area farms are scheduled as part of the opening day activities when Delta begins its eight-day-long centennial salute on June 21. Two-hour hayride tours will leave from the community building periodically from 9 a.m. through 2 p.m.

Barbara and John Rush Baldwin III's livestock setup at R1 Delta is scheduled as the final stop on Tour 1.

Charolais-Angus crosses are king here, with a 65-head cow-calf herd maintained and about 35 steers fattened and direct-marketed to customers annually. Some 660 acres of owned and rented land goes into crops, with some of the yield of the corn, hay, oats, barley and wheat earmarked for the livestock herds.

As part of the original Cooper family land grant, the Baldwin's 160-acre farm lies in the heart of farmland rich in the culture and history of the hardy people who settled the plateau high above the Susquehanna.

One bit of local lore focuses on the Baldwin's double-decker barn, reportedly one of the few remaining of its type.

Basic building material for the sturdy structure was white pine and chestnut, which local legend says was retrieved when the lumber floated down the Susquehanna from somewhere upstate. While details are vague after years of passing along the story, the Rush family speculates that those timbers may have come downstream during flood, to be salvaged by the thrifty York County pioneers on the Cooper grant.

Baldwin's father pur-

chased the rolling farmland in 1951 from Thomas Galbreath, with the land having been farmed for many years by Caleb Beard.

Agriculture had long been in the Baldwin heritage, with the family's earlier roots in neighboring Harford County, Maryland, where John's grandfather once operated a gristmill.

When the younger Baldwin was discharged from the service in 1954, he took over the operation of the place.

A graduate of the University of Maryland's ag college, and member of the winning livestock judging team that had competed in national competition at Chicago, Baldwin had a solid interest and background in beef production. Although a flock of sheep roamed part of the pasture for awhile, the cow-calf herd has been a mainstay of the livestock and grain farm.

Truly a farm operation, the Baldwin's and their three children are the management and prime labor force.

Their oldest daughter Cathy is graduating this year from Millersville State College with a library science degree. John is 19 and training as a farm equipment mechanic at Miller's Sales in Stewartstown. Steve is a senior at Kennard-Dale High School.

"Farm children learn the value of work while they're youngsters," reflects Barbara, originally from the suburbs of New Jersey. "They like being part of something important—something worthwhile. Ours have especially enjoyed the outdoor physical work of farming and feel so satisfied when they finish making hay or hauling out manure."

Other stops on Tour 1 include the dairying operation of David and Barbara Stewart and the Cooper Boyd family's Susquehanna Orchards.

While the Baldwins are explaining to their guests the intricacies of silage

preservation and direct marketing steers, Tour 2 participants will be winding up their look at the Joseph Ailes farm at R2 Delta.

Family roots go deep on the Ailes Century Farm, where Joseph F. and his son Ed are in business raising crops and Holstein dairy replacements.

Joe's father, Joseph H., and an uncle, Edwin Hollingsworth, ran the farm in years past; while before that, their grandfather had been raised on the homestead.

The 156 acres previously supported a dairying operation, when milk cans were loaded up and hauled away for processing in nearby Delta.

For about the first dozen of their 26 years on the Delta farm, Joe and his family kept up the dairying operation. Later the facilities were converted for beef and hogs; and for several years, pork production was the main commodity.

Again in the spotlight, but only until they reach milking age, Ailes buys in young Holstein heifers, settles

them at breeding age and then sells them to dairymen as milking string replacements at freshening time.

Some steers and hogs remain for market diversification.

Corn and hay are the prime crops on the rolling farmland, but this year the Ailes' are experimenting

with their first plantings of soybeans. For several years, sweet corn had been raised for the nearby Whiteford Packing Company.

Son Ed is continuing the family tradition on the Delta farm and will marry and settle on the homestead in a few weeks. Daughters Lisa Dawn, 13, and Dena Kay, 10, will also be helping to greet

visitors to the Ailes family operation when the first wagon rolls in on Saturday morning.

Other farms included on Tour 2 are Dave and Kate Thompson's dairy production and processing plant and the Sleepy Hollow pick-your-fruit and vegetable establishment.

Farm labor force slips slightly

HARRISBURG—Pennsylvania's farm labor force during the survey week of April 6-12 was estimated at 109,000, a decrease of three percent from the 112,000 farm workers during the same week in 1979, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

The number of farm family workers declined 14 percent to 72,000, but hired workers increased by 32 percent to 37,000 workers.

Farm family workers include farm operators working on farms one hour or more, plus other family members working 15 hours or more without receiving cash wages during the week.

Hired workers include all persons working one hour or more for cash wages.

The average work week for Pennsylvania farm operators was 49.0 hours, 14.0 hours more than in January 1980 and 5.7 hours more than the same survey week in 1979. Pennsylvania's hired workers averaged 39.9 hours, 3.0 hours more than the national average.

Nationally, the farm work week averaged 35.8 hours for farm operators, up 4.6 hours from January 1980 and 1.2 hours from April 1979.

The total number of farm workers in the United States decreased about one percent from 1979. Farm family

workers continued to decline from 2,424,400 to 2,239,000, while hired farm workers increased from 1,056,200 to 1,196,400 from the previous year.

Nationally, farm wage rates for all methods of pay, converted to an hourly rate, averaged \$3.61 during the survey week. This was 21 cents above the average of \$3.40 per hour paid a year ago. These wages do not take into consideration room and board or other benefits.



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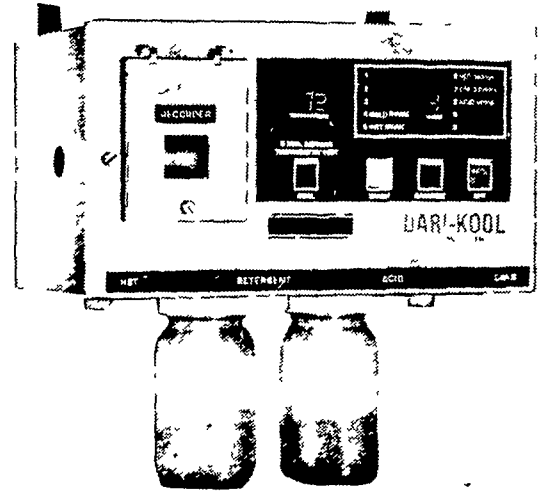


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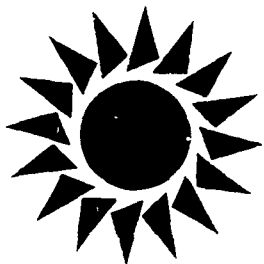
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