Walk-Way dairy training center under construction

LOCK HAVEN -Holstein benefit auction will be held Friday, Nov. 14, at Walk-Way Farms, where a dairy training center to develop future herdsmen is now under construction about six miles east of Lock Haven.

The Dairy Training Center is the first phase of the planned School of Agriculture of Walk-Way Vocational and Bible Institute, which is located on a 615-acre main campus about a mile from the farm site.

The center's herdsman training program is expected to begin admitting its first students for next fall's opening term.

Under construction on the 65-acre farm site are a 60cow milking barn, a 60-head heifer barn, manure storage facilities, two silos, an equipment building, repair shop and farmhouse.

"Our immediate goal is to have the facilities completed by December and have the barn filled with 60 milking cows," Robert Barr, Walk-Way president, said.

Contributions to the dairy training center have included about \$65,000 worth of farm equipment, purebred registered Holstein cows and heifers and a 250-acre farm, which is to be sold for income.

Some 50 acres of corn were planted on the farm this year using seed donations from several companies.

Manager of the farm is Ray Esbenshade, of R3 Coudersport, Potter County. A dairy farmer, Esbenshade, previously worked in Lancaster County as parts manager at an Elizabethtown farm equipment dealership.



Dairy training center under construction is shown with Robert Barr, president of Walk-Way Vocational and Bible Institute.

Future facilities planned for the dairy center include a two-story building with offices, classrooms, conference room and student housing. Also planned is a large sales barn and show arena. Future cattle sales and invitational shows would be held in this building.

The dairy facility is one of the first educationalvocational facilities to be constructed because of the high interest in trained dairy herdsmen in the Northeast, according to Barr.

Founded in 1977, Walk-Way Vocational and Bible Institute took title to its 615acre campus property in March of this year. A varied vocational instructional program is planned for the Institute.

The Institute is a nonprofit Christian educational institution, Biblical, fundamental, separated, independent and denominationally unaffliated.

In addition to agriculture, future courses of study include commercial sewing, art and design, homemaking

and health services, food and health services, electronics, metals, construction trades. power technology, business and communications.—DA



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