

E. Wayne Beshore wins Master Farmer award



E. Wayne Beshore of New Cumberland, York County attributes the dramatic production improvement in his dairy herd to high quality feeds.

The second generation dairyman has been recognized as Master Farmer for 1980.

NEW CUMBERLAND — E. Wayne Beshore, of 389 Old York Road, New Cumberland, has proven you don't need hundreds of cows and thousands of acres of cropland to be successful in farming.

necessary to produce top milk yields," the Master Farmer emphasizes. "We grow most of our grain and forage on the 160 acres of cropland. This includes 80 acres of corn, 55 of alfalfa, and 25 of wheat."

With 43 registered Holstein milk cows producing an average of 20,000 pounds of milk each year and 160 acres of highly productive crops to feed these cows, Beshore's farm income shows that bigger is not necessarily better.

His alfalfa-grass mixtures have earned him a Grasslander of the Year Award presented by the Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council.

For his business expertise and management efficiency, he has been named a Master Farmer for 1980.

All forage is sent for analysis testing each year. The herd is fed 12 to 15 pounds of alfalfa-grass each day. The concentrate includes ear corn and soybean meal at the rate of 35 pounds for each cow. In addition, the cows receive 35 pounds of corn silage daily.

Beshore will be inducted into the Pennsylvania Master Farmers' Association whose membership consists of all former award winners. The program was established in 1927.

"We plant ear corn in 36-inch rows, with seven inches between plants. The crop is conventionally planted, harrowed, and disked," Beshore notes.

The new Master Farmer is the second generation to farm this well-kept enterprise surrounded by urban sprawl. After a stint in India during World War II, he returned in 1946. Following his marriage to former Athena Hays, he farmed in partnership with his father.

The Beshores found that their scenically rolling acres had a habit of losing its top soil. So, in the early 1950's, he started a variegated strip cropping program with alfalfa or small grains in between the corn.

"I didn't think about having my milk production tested until 1949. It was a disappointing 7160 pounds of milk and 252 pounds of butterfat per cow," Beshore notes

He also reclaimed 15 to 20 acres of wet ground with drainage tile. The wet ground came from three or four springs on the farm.

The next 13 years saw a dramatic improvement, to a herd average of 12,400 pounds of milk and 503 pounds of butterfat with 39 cows on test. In 1962 he purchased the farm from his father.

The Master Farmer's embryo transfer program is one of the newer and more exciting developments on the farm.

Further impressive gains in milk production came in the ensuing years, with the herd average now near the 20,000 pounds of milk mark.

"It's a fast way to improve production and general body conformation," he says. "It also increases the number of offspring from one female."

In 1977, son, Jed, joined as a partner after graduating from Delaware Valley College of Science and Agriculture.

The embryos are sold and placed in the recipient cow the same day. Beshore has sold animals to farmers in Brazil, Italy, and Hungary. When selecting cows for possible use in superovulation and embryo transplants, he looks for exceptional milk production and excellent body type.

"High quality feed is

Like most farmers, the (Turn to Page A20)

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Mother, son

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finishing second in the state finals. Nevin also won an Outstanding Grasslander Award from the Penn-

sylvania Forage and Grassland council and won awards in the state 5-Acre Corn Growing Contest.



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