

Silo filling bit different for Leola dairy farmer

LEOLA — Part of the next crop filling for John Landis' silo on his Leola dairy farm is "wintering over" in a mound beneath a dark plastic covering behind the barn.

Sealed beneath the plastic is about five acres of corn silage from last season's harvest.

Approximately May 20 when Landis makes his first alfalfa cutting for haylage, the two will be mixed and loaded into the silo for summer feeding.

"I've been mixing the corn silage and the haylage in the silo for the past six years and using it as a summer dairy ration," Landis said.

"The combination is a pretty good feed and the animals like it."

As the haylage is unloaded from a wagon by elevator into the silo, Landis uses a front-end loader to transfer the ground-stored silage

and mix it with the new cutting.

The combination feed is just one of the cost-conscious aspects of the dairy operation of John and Gladys Landis, who were named to Outstanding Young Farmer honors at the annual banquet of the Garden Spot Young Farmers last week.

As another example of attempting to get maximum use from existing facilities, Landis utilizes a section of a pole barn for the storage of shelled corn.

A section of the barn, equipped with a perforated metal flooring, has been partitioned off for the corn storage. An air space extends beneath the section.

"Thus far the natural air circulation has been enough for the corn," Landis said.

"With the doors open, the westerly breezes have been enough."



Norman L. Hershey, of Gordonville, received the Garden Spot Young Farmers' Dairy Achievement Award.



Outstanding Garden Spot Young Farmer honors went to John Landis, of Creekhill Road, Leola.

The corn was quite dry when put into the storage. When the weather warms up, the addition of a fan may need to be considered.

Even the barn's supporting poles made good use of existing materials. They were cut from surplus telephone poles.

The Landis' operation includes a milking herd of 68 registered Holsteins and about 50 young stock. The herd averaged just shy of 16,000 lbs. of milk and 600 lbs. of fat last year.

John's family is the fifth generation on the farm, which now totals 92 acres. Just south of Leola, it is sandwiched between a couple of industrial parks and the unfinished "new" Rt. 23. That

project, which was never completed, lopped some 10 acres off the farm.

In addition to dairying, Landis trucks and deals in hay during the winter months. Also, he flies his own plane.

John and Gladys, who have been in the Garden Spot Chapter for some 15 years, have three children. A son, Stuart, is in his second year of agricultural studies at Hesston Mennonite College. Daughter, Shelby, is a senior at Lancaster Mennonite High School and son, Scott, is a freshman there.

Another award winner at the Garden Spot Young Farmers' banquet on Friday, Feb. 13, at the Blue Ball Fire Hall was Norman L.

Hershey, 4195 Old Philadelphia Pike, Gordonville.

Hershey was named recipient of the 1980 Dairy Achievement Award.

Production of his herd of 80 registered Holsteins averaged 18,015 lbs. of milk and 647 lbs. of fat.

Including young stock, the Hershey operation totals about 150 head.

Norman and his wife, Kathy, who are presently renovating the farmhouse which dates to 1800, have two children, Mike, 13, and Miki, 10.

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