

# York Holstein breeders visit Perry County

BY JOYCE BUYP  
Staff Correspondent

PERRY COUNTY — Mother Nature rolled out the green grass carpeting under a warm spring sunshine last Tuesday as a busload of York County Holstein breeders arrived here for their annual visit to neighboring black and white herds.

Stops on the day-long bus tour included four of Perry County's top type and production herds: Milmay Farms, operated by David and Dave Roth Jr.; Blain-View Farms, Mary and Nevin Rice and family; Ray-Mc Farms, Ray McMillen and sons; and the Dumbelle Farms of Shayne and Tom Dum III.

Milmay Farm is one of Perry County's oldest registered Holstein herds, dating back to the early 1900's, when Dave Roth's father-in-law purchased four cows.

Roth entered the dairying picture in 1928, with a dozen milking animals. Then last year, Dave Jr., and his wife Judy, took over management of the family dairy herd, becoming the fourth generation in the family to live on the beautiful valley homestead farm.

Almost from Milmay's inception, the farm has been in the forefront of agriculture happenings in Perry County.

Milmay was the first herd to begin DHIA testing, back in 1923.

Perry County's first homebred Excellent cow was born and developed in this herd.

And the first strip cropping in the county was laid out on the slopes that gently surround the Milmay Valley, where conservation practices are a way of life; and those terraces and contours are still in use.

Top milk production is a must in this barn, where the nearly 60 cows racked up the second high herd average in the county in 1981. Current rolling herd average on 57 cows is over 19,600 with 744 of fat.

Grain is fed in the barn, according to production records, and cows are turned out regularly for silage and exercise at the "shaker-type" bunker feeder adjacent to the barn. Milking animals get about 45 pounds of corn silage and 25 pounds of the best quality hay available per day.

Strong-pedigreed individuals form the backbone of the Milmay breeding program and offspring of the various bloodlines have been sold into several states and numerous foreign countries.

Two bulls from the Roth herd have gone into service with American Breeders Service in Wisconsin. The most recent is Milmay Kingpin Elevation Bob, an Elevation son from a Kingpin dam.

"Bob" is now on the list of the top 50 Holstein bulls in the United States, carrying a plus of 1664-milk, 56-fat, 1.50 on type, and a Total Production Index of plus-536.

This Kingpin-Elevation crossing has resulted in numerous high-production, high-type animals, not just in the Roth herd, but in several of the other herds in visited Perry County as well.

Several daughters of the Charmcross bull are also doing well in the Roth milking string, and Dave praises them as "the highest testers in the barn."

To continue the tradition of high production and type, Roth's are now breeding popular sires like Jemini, Creek, Pace, Milestone, Persuader, Astronaut, and of course, continuing the proven success of Elevation.

In 1975, Dave added a new heifer raising area, and feedlot. He and Dave Jr., are thoroughly satisfied with a "tombstone" type feeder installed for the youngstock.

Heifers must slip their necks down between picket-fence-like divisions for access to the grains and forage piled in a center trough.

These dividers prevent the animals from pushing and shoving each other away from the feed, and cut waste to virtually nothing.

The Roths have 165 acres on the farm, most of it used for feed production, with 45 acres of hay, 60 of corn and 15 of wheat, with the remaining in pasture and woodland.

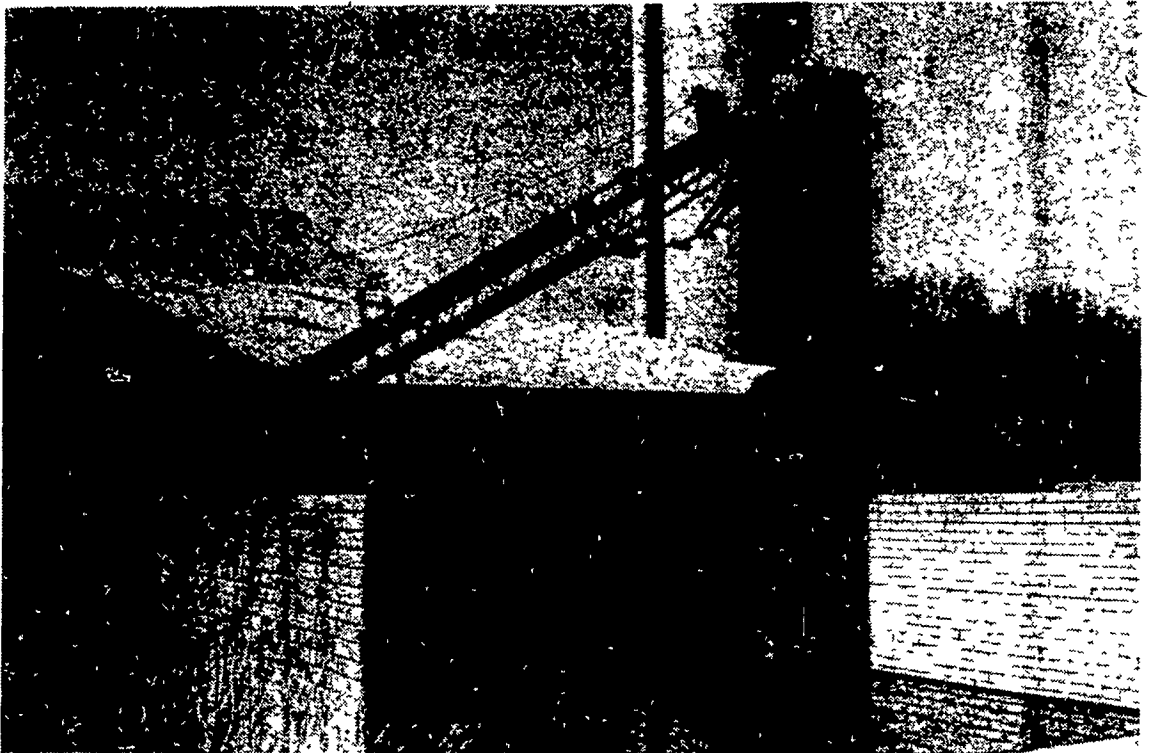
For many years, Dave Roth Sr. has been a leader in numerous dairy-related organizations.

He was named a Master Farmer in 1957 and headed the state's Master Farmers group as president for two years. A Pennsylvania Holstein Association director for 15 years, he also held a seat on the executive committee for part of that time.

In 1951, Dave helped to organize the Perry County Soil Conservation District, and has been a director ever since, also serving as district chairman for several years.

Perry County's newest Master Farmer family hosted the Yorkers at their second stop, Blainview Farms, at Blain RI.

The Rice family milks a herd of (Turn to Page C41)



A stacker system handles dairy cow wastes at Dumbelle Farms. Manure from the barn gutters is elevated onto a stack, which is held in a cement block and concrete enclosure. The

stacking enclosure has nine months holding capacity and a three-percent slope for liquids to drain toward one side where they can evaporate.

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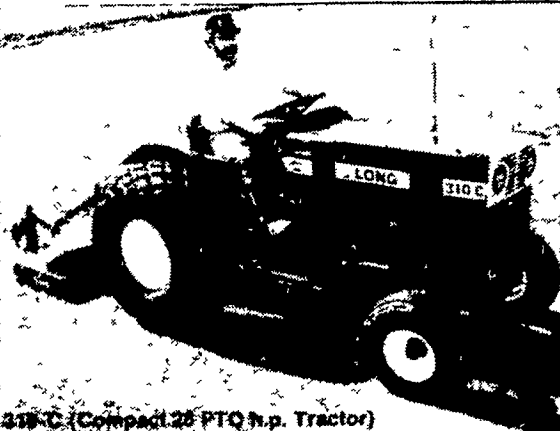
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