



Nevin Rice, left, praises the new milking parlor just recently built at Blain View Farms. From right are other members of the Rice family, Ann, George and Mary, and Ann's parents in the center back.



A special attraction at Blain View Holsteins is a set of triplets by Elevation. Mary Rice, who delivered the trio from their Kingpin dam, gives an affectionate pat to triplet Doe.

Holstein tour

(Continued from Page C38)

80 registered Holsteins and has topped the 700-pounds-fat herd average for many years. In 1980, the herd DHIA records averaged 18,861 mik and 735 fat.

Mary's family originally owned the neatly-kept farm with its handsome stone house, located on a flat plain just outside the little village of Blain. When her husband died in 1957, Mary took over operation of the farm and the dairy herd. Son Nevin was still in school; and immediately following his graduation, he began taking over the farm responsibilities.

Early in March of this year, the Rice's opened the doors of the familiar stall barn to chase the herd into their new milking facility, a double-six herringbone Surge parlor, complete with automatic takeoff units.

"We really like it," says Nevin's wife, Ann, who helps their son George with most of the milking chores.

An interesting feature of the spanking new parlor is the non-slip floor for surer footing for the cows. Aluminum oxide chips were added to the concrete, to finish out to a non-slippery surface.

Unlike many parlor set-ups, no feed goes to the Rice herd during the milking. Instead, the herd is then run back into the stall barn and fed, with grain weights rationed according to computer readouts on milk production.

Visitors to the Rice herd are especially interested in a set of triplet cows by Elevation born in 1975. Named "Doe," "Rae", and Mea", the trio is from Blainview Kingpin Jody, another example of that successful Kingpin-Elevation crossing.

While carrying the trio, Judy milked a record of over 35,000 pounds of milk and then bounced back after the multiple-delivery to produce a hundred pounds daily for the following four months. And in a previous freshening, Jody delivered a healthy set of twin heifers.

Doe, Rae and Mea have lived up to the Rice's expectations. Each has completed records with over 1,000 pounds fat, and one has milked over 30,000 milk.

About 80 heifers are raised for replacements, housed in an airy free-stall heifer facility The Rices have also raised steers as a sideline, but now plan to switch from beef feeding to adding about 20 more cows to the milking string.

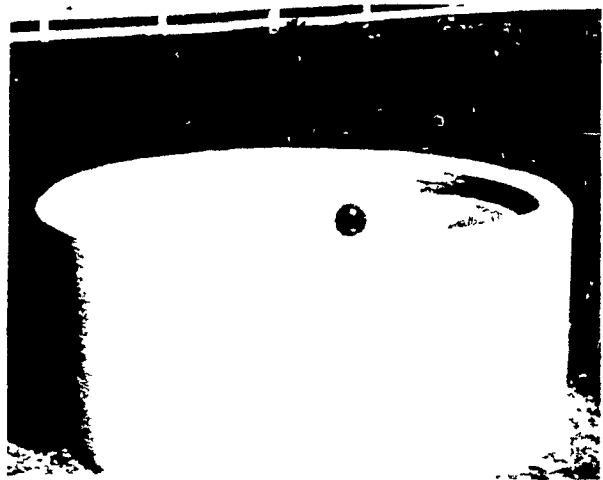
Most of the crops raised go into the silos and bins for the dairy herd. Cropping includes 125 acres of corn, 100 of alfalfa and mixed hays, and 60 acres of oats and wheat. The Rices are no-tillage enthusiasts, and plant about half the crops, including part of the hay seeding and some 15 acres of soybeans, by the no-till method.

(Turn to Page C42)

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