

Walebe Farms

(Continued from Page A24)

than equipment — milkers who don't take the time to get the cows dry and clean, and who don't flush the lines sufficiently to get the bacteria out of the inflations.

To further insure the health of his milking strings, each cow is treated to a teat dip as the carousel slows to a stop, then exits through a foot bath — a mild formaldehyde formula which helps to prevent hoof rot.

And, if something should go wrong despite all the health precautions, a full-time veterinarian is on hand to take care of the bovine cast who entertain the guests at Walebe Farms every day of the week on their 'circular stage'.

Leaving the parlor, Waltemyer explains only the Jersey milk is processed on the farm — the Holstein milk is shipped out.

He then leads the way to the free-stall barn, passing the farm's original stone bank barn which serves as the maternity. The milking string loafs in a modern, converted heifer barn — remodeled to house the high production groups.

A special wing has been built on to the free stall barn to house the farm's celebrities. Passing from pen to pen, Waltemyer stops to discuss each one of his lady's accomplishments, sometimes pointing to a barn plaque listing facts and production figures for each cow.

One of the special cows calling Walebe Farms home since last December is the national milk and fat champion of the Jersey breed, Rocky Hill Favorite Deb. This Excellent-91% cow holds that title for her 1979 lactation she set at age 5-07 — 35,881 pounds milk with 1,923 pounds fat in 365 days.

This remarkable Jersey turned around and completed another outstanding record the following

year, making 29,699 pounds milk with 1,530 pounds fat in 365 days, earning her a second production award. These records were set at Rocky Hill Jersey Farm in Alabama where Favorite Deb was bred by owner W.L. Howell.

The national champion was sired by Favorite Friend, which according to Waltemyer, was a "break-even" bull. She is out of Rocky Hill Debbie POW, VG-80, whose record at age 7-11 for 365 days stands at 21,170 pounds milk with 1,050 pounds fat.

Waltemyer is rightfully proud of his champion addition, and points out she has won the President's trophy for production two years in a row. Her maternal sister has also won the President's trophy, Waltemyer states in praising the 'Debbie' family. It's the only Jersey family where three maternal sisters have made over 30,000 pounds, he adds.

Since her arrival at Walebe Farms, Favorite Deb has been joined the ET line-up. Her first superovulation resulted in six pregnancies, sired by Favorite Secret Stage.

Waltemyer points out there will be about 100 embryo transfer calves born at Walebe Farms this year, and adds ET is a significant management tool in their operation. However, he quickly states, ET is not for every farm.

"Just because a cow is the top producer in your herd, doesn't mean she is good enough to be superovulated," he says. "ET is a tool for getting the most out of the high indexing cows, and plays an important part when these cows are either too old or not healthy enough to carry a calf themselves."

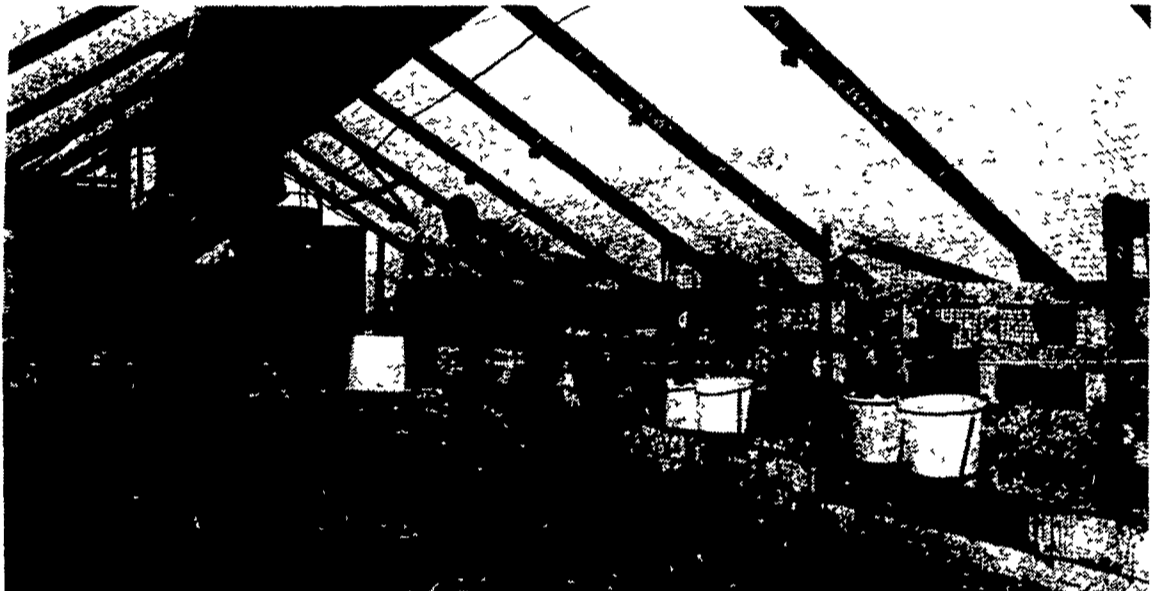
Once the ET calves are born, they join the other calves in Waltemyer's unique calf barns —

(Turn to Page A30)



Although the list of top-producing Jerseys and Holsteins is a long one at Walebe Farms, Waltemyer knows each of his 'stars' and their honors. One of his Holstein celebrities is Quiet

Cove Fond Matt Cinderella, 95 3E, who falls into the elite group of cows with over 200,000 pounds lifetime.

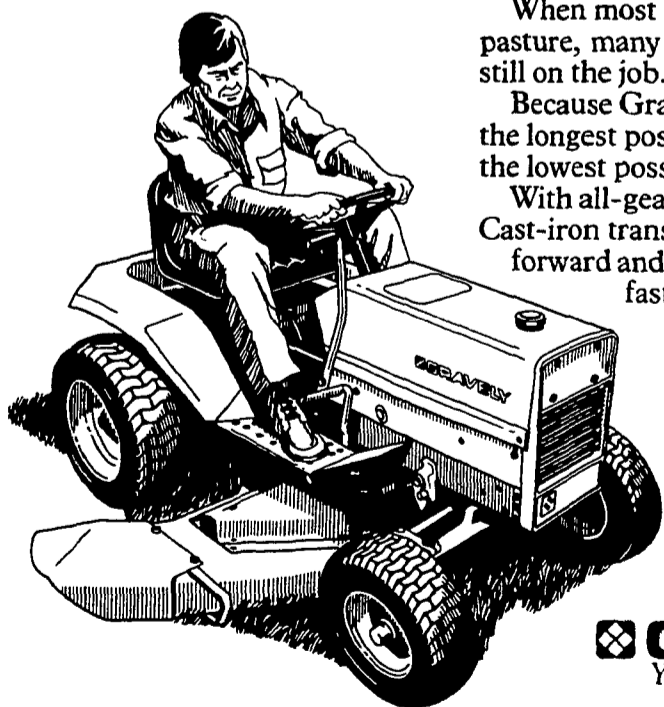


Most of the calves at Walebe Farms are raised in converted greenhouses. Waltemyer says he's been using them for four years without serious respiration problems, despite the fact that the houses are almost always full of calves.

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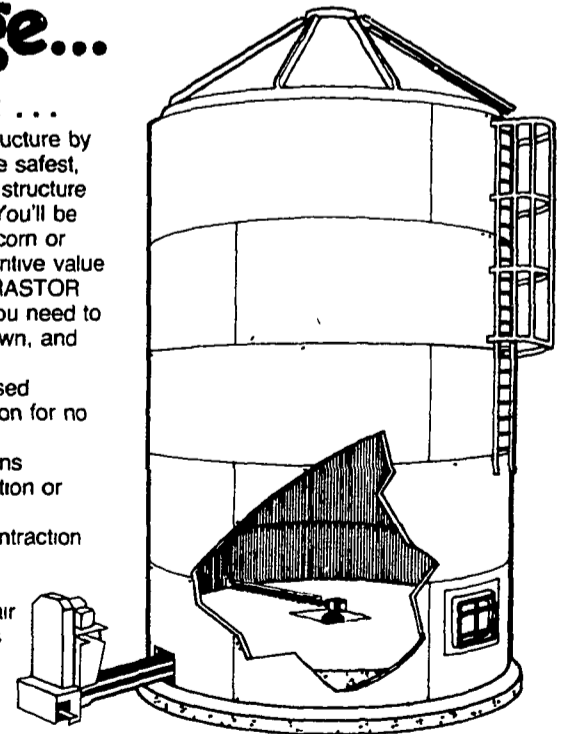
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