

Maplebound Farm

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means least, Missy, 8, brings the cows up for milking and applies saline to all teats after milking.

Just as their parents had to work hard to make gains with their careers, the children are taught the same values as they grow up. Each year a different Hostetter markets rabbits, an enterprise

that started with the oldest Jay and will end with the youngest Missy.

"It's a good way to learn how to sell animals and handle money," their dad says.

Don and Dorcas provide each child with a heifer when they are 9-years-old. But the children aren't given the cream of the Hostetter crop. Conversely, they receive

animals from the middle of the herd. Don explains the children will derive the benefits from working for improvement. Each young Hostetter selects sires for their respective animal to improve the line.

"Kids have got to make some decisions in life and this is a good time to get them started."

Where's mom and dad while the children carry out their chores? Dorcas is busy with the bookwork and registration. In one day alone she's drawn-off more than 20 calves. And Don is hard at work being a full-time manager but still finds time to help friends and neighbors that ask for advice with their herds.

"It seems like he could be gone all the time," Dorcas says of Don's eagerness to help others.

And Don recalls the early days, "Somebody showed me and helped me."

When the Hostetters do find time to relax one of their favorite family activities is softball. Not only do they play as a group at home but Sue, Bev, Jay and even Don play on league teams.

In fact Don admits one of his joys is playing and coaching on the same team as his son. And every year the family makes it a point to spend about a week together at their McKean County hunting retreat.

Meanwhile, the Maplebound herd at home as well as a second herd on an adjoining farm are cared for by two other Hostetter employees — Amos Martin and Ron Jantzi.

Four Maplebound Holsteins will be on hand at the All-American in Harrisburg next week. The Hostetter black and whites are characteristically large animals, thick and strongly built.

Don looks for feet, legs and udder and has stressed a lot of dairy character in his breeding program.



Pre-milking duties are Kim's contribution as she washes udders ahead of Jay and Bev while they attach milking units.

Hostetter's Eastern Grand Champ, Maplebound Gentle Ben Sun is an aged cow out of a homebred bull, Maplebound Gentle Ben.

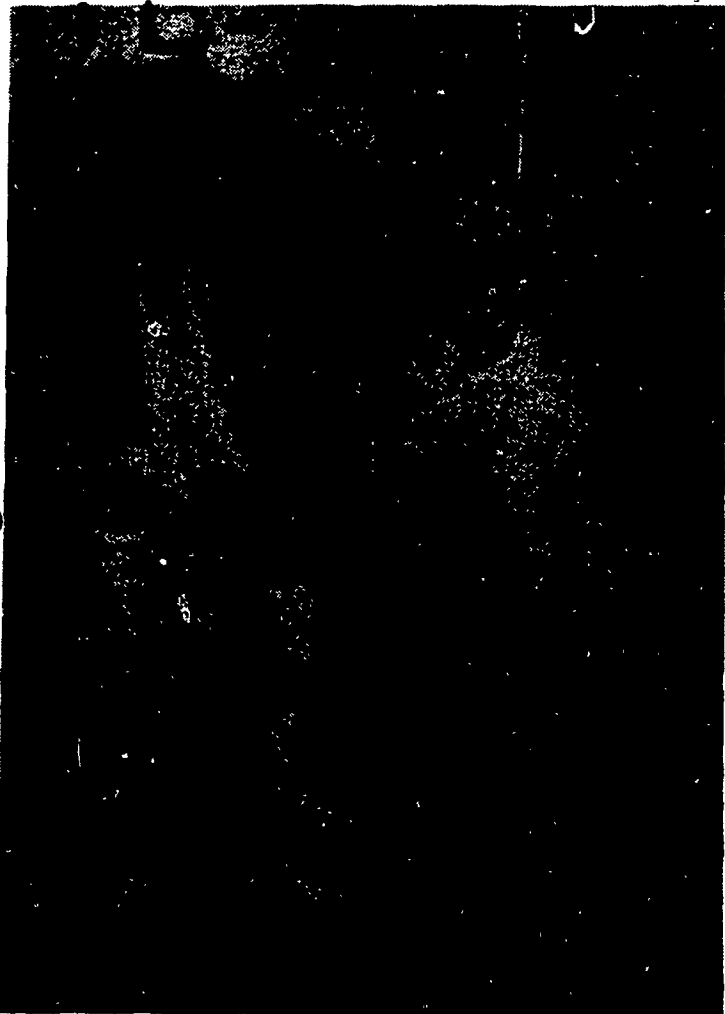
The bull was sired by Gar-Bar-Dale Burke Kate, a bull which has had a tremendous impact on the herd.

Don and Dorcas estimate that about 75 percent of their show

string descended from the Kate bull. Presently, the Hostetters use a variety of bulls which include Valiant, Astronaut, Marcus King, Marvation, Persuader, Sexation to name a few.

The stall barns house both herds and allow Hostetter to individually feed and devote attention to each cow.

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Jay, the oldest and also a full-time employee of the farm is interested in a dairying career.



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