

# Lebanon Co.'s Hershey Bare combines top crop management for million pounds of milk

LEBANON — I. Hershey Bare of R2, Lebanon is recognized in farm circles for his award winning alfalfa yields, but it's his crop management techniques used to produce high quality milk that makes him one of the Commonwealth's outstanding dairymen.

He combines homegrown feeds from his 320 acres of cropland with necessary supplements to annually produce 1,300,000 pounds of milk from his 90-cow Holstein herd. Milk sales represent 96 percent of his farm income, indicating that quality feed is the key to high milk production levels.

For his business expertise and management efficiency, Bare has been named a Master Farmer for 1981.

"Corn is really our number one crop," Bare says. "We grow 105 acres of it, some for corn silage, the rest for grain. In 1981 we averaged 140 bushels of grain and 25 tons of silage per acre."

But the new Master Farmer places a high priority on hay and hay crop silage as feed for his cows. In 1978 he was named top alfalfa grower in Pennsylvania. He was chosen as Grassland Farmer in 1979, and received honorable mention for Grasslander of the Decade in 1980. These awards are presented by the Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council.

Of the 320 acres of cropland, 81 are in alfalfa and yield an average of 5 to 6 tons per acre. His alfalfa crop produced 8 tons in the contest field. This forage analyzes extremely high, about 19 percent protein.

"Our cows get plenty of hay, 16 to 20 pounds every day. The

maximum grain ration for any cow is 24 to 25 pounds. Heavy grain feeding causes twisted stomachs," Bare emphasizes.

Last year his feed bill was about 16 percent of the milk check, including supplement, minerals, salt, milk replacer, and calf grower. Of course, hay and corn aren't the only crops grown on Valley Pond Farms. The Master Farmer has 25 acres of wheat and 20 of oats.

He doesn't own any unnecessary farm equipment. Machinery costs per acre, well below the state average of \$163 per acre.

"Milk pays the bills, so one of my continuing goals is to improve production," the Master Farmer says. "We breed all of our heifers by artificial insemination because of the value of the calves."

A native of Lancaster County, Bare and his wife, Mary Ann joined with his brother Harold, in 1963 to start farming in Lebanon County. In 1974, Harold purchased his father-in-law's farm in Chester County.

The Master Farmer bought his brother's half share of the farms and equipment. But rather than split the high-producing dairy herd, they held a dispersal sale.

That sale set a record in Pennsylvania for complete dispersals that wasn't broken until March 1979. The 122 animals, including 70 cows and 52 heifers, sold for an average price of \$2,021 each.

"Doing it that way, I started out with \$100,000 less debt than if I had purchased Harold's share of the herd," Bare points out.

Starting a new herd is never easy, he adds. Only two-thirds of

the new herd was registered. He raised heifers only from the registered stock. Today all animals in the herd are registered.

"This year the cows are milking better than ever," the Master Farmer notes. "My herd average is 16,500 pounds of milk and 625 pounds of butterfat and I expect it to increase."

The award winner, along with Henry Garling and son, Michael, work full time on the farm. Robert, 12, another son, may join the operation when he has completed his schooling.

"It's good to have one or more partners. I'm a firm believer in vacations. I enjoy working, of course. I never go away if there's field work to be done," Bare says.

Serving as a delegate at the National Holstein Convention for the last three years helped fulfill his love of travel. He and Mary Ann visited Nashville, Denver, and Louisville for the conventions.

The Master Farmer is a director of the Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council and a member of the Cedar Crest Young Farmers Association. In 1977 he was chosen as the Outstanding Young Farmer in Pennsylvania.

Bare is a director of the Lebanon County Holstein Club, Dairy Herd Improvement Association, and Pennsylvania Holstein Association. He also is a member of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service committee, the Mount Zion Fire Company, and chairman of the farm division of United Way.

He and Mary Ann are members



This dairyman's face is known throughout Pennsylvania as one of the state's top alfalfa growers. A former Lancaster County farmer, Hershey Bare has turned his Lebanon County farm into a high-producing operation in both crops and milk, earning Bare the 1981 Master Farmer award.

of the Fairland Brethren in Christ the board of trustees and a Church where he is chairman of member of the church board.

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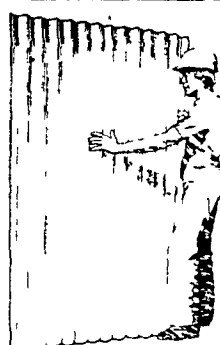
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