

Earns Delaware's top dairy herd honors

Eastburns meet challenge with 'winning' attitude

CLAYTON, Del. — Don Eastburn wasn't born into agriculture, but he learned fast. In fact, after only three years in farming, Don, Anna, and 22-year-old Don Jr., of Clayton, now have the highest producing dairy herd in Delaware.

The Eastburns say they love a challenge.

They wanted to prove that they could turn an ordinary herd into an extraordinary one; and prove it they did, with dedication, hard work, and a single-mindedness of purpose that would leave most folks aghast. They milk three

times a day, with virtually no time off for vacations or social life.

The Eastburns got into dairying through their children, who started raising calves for the State Fair back in 1970 through a project sponsored by the Delaware State Holstein Association and spearheaded by former Extension dairy specialist Wilbur Hesselstine. After the children raised their calves, they sent them off to a dairy farm to be milked.

But in 1979 the Eastburns decided they wanted their own dairy farm. They sold their gas

station and bought several good foundation cows, including a four-year-old, Aucreek Ivanho Star Gay Beauty, that had been bred by Delaware City dairyman Bill Cux. Under the Eastburns' management, this cow has become the world's highest producing daughter of Harrisburg Gay Ideal (out of 18,000 milking daughters). At 36,833 pounds of milk and 1,200 pounds of fat in 348 days' milking, she is also the highest producing cow the state of Delaware has ever had.

"We took a group of ordinary cows and built up production over 10,000 pounds per cow," says Eastburn. "The records speak for themselves." The Eastburns' herd average is an outstanding 21,420 pounds. Several of their cows were milking over 30,000 pounds last year.

The family's priorities are clear. "We almost live for the cows," they admit. When they went into farming they built a solid new stanchion barn for the cows, and set up a modest mobile home for themselves. That's the way things still stand today.

The Eastburns also are open-minded about new methods of farming. They read all the farm magazines, talk to vitamin salespeople and equipment dealers, and discuss the ones that sound most promising with Delaware Extension dairy specialist George Haenlein.

When the Eastburns asked his opinion about 'thrice-a-day'

milking, Haenlein agreed it would help relieve excess pressure on cows whose production was already high thanks to good genetics, good management, and a good feeding program based on high moisture corn, alfalfa haylage, and all kinds of supplements. But Haenlein warned that milking three times a day is only practical if there's a relief herdsman.

The Eastburns didn't choose to heed that friendly warning. Anna and Donald Jr. do all the milking themselves. Donald Sr. does all the feeding. Donald Jr. takes care of herd health and keeps the DHIA records, while Anna keeps the books.

It's a tough life, and the Eastburns are the first to admit it. But they've shown what can be done by a hard-working family that is willing to sacrifice their own comfort and convenience for that of a top herd.



Donald, Anna and Donald W. Eastburn pose proudly with their 'supermilker', Aucreek Ivanho Star Gay Beauty. This daughter of Harrisburg Gay Ideal is the highest producing cow in Delaware's history. She also is the world's highest producing Gay Ideal daughter, besting 18,000 siblings. The Eastburns have built their leading dairy herd through perseverance and hard work.

Berks Energy Group

(Continued from Page A17)

attorney fees ranging from \$2.50 to \$1 per acre will be due. The rate will depend on the size of the energy group.

Groups with 2,500 acres will be accessed at the \$2.50 rate while larger groups will pay less per acre as the acreage increases. Moyer explains there will be minimum and maximum fees for landowners who own less than 70 acres and more than 1,000 acres.

The Berks County Energy Group has planned its next meeting for Feb. 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the Tulpehocken Municipal Building.

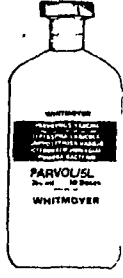
Members will decide a closing date for membership then so that negotiations can begin.

Elected as officers during the last meeting, held Jan. 5 were: George Moyer, chairman; Wilbur Hershey, Bethel, vice-chairman; George Manbeck, Womelsdorf, secretary-treasurer; Carl Bross, Myerstown and Lawrence Kieffer, Bethel, executive committeemen.


Landowners interested in more information concerning the energy group should contact any of these members or attend the next meeting.

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* Current research information indicates that Porcine Parvovirus (PPV) is probably the most important infectious agent causing the SMEDI Disease Syndrome, (Stillbirths, Mummification, Embryonic Deaths and Infertility).

Porcine Parvovirus (PPV) may be the most significant cause of viral reproductive failure in swine. Porcine parvovirus is such a widespread virus that a herd not already infected will inevitably become infected if located in an area of dense pig population. Exposure may be oral or intranasal. Porcine parvovirus is known to exist only in swine.

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