

# Hoffmans

addition, the herd sports a few Jerseys and grade cows.

While Terry developed a certain fondness for the gentle Guernseys, he admitted that in the beginning his herd was stressed with feet and leg problems, a condition typical of the breed.

He began breeding for type and stronger underpinning as well as production and enlisted the help of such current popular bulls as Choice, Premier and Telestar as well as an older bull, Burgers Place Billy to help turn the herd around.

The herd maintains a rolling herd average of more than 10,000 pounds of milk and 485 of butterfat. Their creamy product is harvested twice a day by Karen and Dawn in a stall barn with bucket milkers and dumping stations.

Billy and Lisa alternate occasionally at milking to spell their mother and sister. When they're not relief milking, Billy does out the herd's silage and feed daily, and Lisa cares for the heifers and calves. Although his specialty is field work, Terry is the farm's "general manager."

The Hoffman herd is fed corn silage and haylage free choice in the bunk. During late spring, however, the cows receive a few loads of green chop once a day. The remainder of their forage needs is met by a twice a day feeding of second or third cutting alfalfa.

Their concentrate is a 16 percent protein mix of homegrown shell corn, oats, soybeans, salt, minerals and molasses.

Terry explained that the concentrate is all-natural with nothing artificial added. The Hoffmans gradually have been getting away

from chemical use in their operation.

To cut back on chemical herbicides and pesticides, Terry used an organic soil conditioner, last year, on 10 acres of corn and found his yield was 25 percent better than surrounding fields with about the same condition.

He noted that he used the same conditioner this year for all his corn, about 250 acres worth. The remainder of the Hoffman crops include 80 acres in small grains — wheat, oats and barley — 225 acres in hay, 180 acres in alfalfa and 40 acres in pasture.

The rocky soil of Hunterdon County provides an optimum growing situation for Terry's alfalfa. He said a stand will usually be around eight to ten years. In fact, he recently plowed a 13-year-old field to put in late corn.

The milking herd is out on

pasture all summer long until they return to the 40-stall barn or the 70 by 60 foot loafing shed.

Dry cows and heifers make use of pasture, also, and are supplemented with mixed hay and a mix of ground corn, hay, salt and minerals in a self feeder. Baby calves start out with a bellyful of colostrum and stay with whole milk for about six to eight weeks, Karen said. They also have alfalfa

hay and feed in front of them from day one.

The "city cousins" who descended on the Hoffman farm, Sunday, met the family, the animals and for a day became a part of a way of life that we salute each June. A way of life, at least in north Hunterdon County, that hopefully will not become a just memory to all who live there

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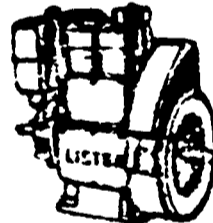
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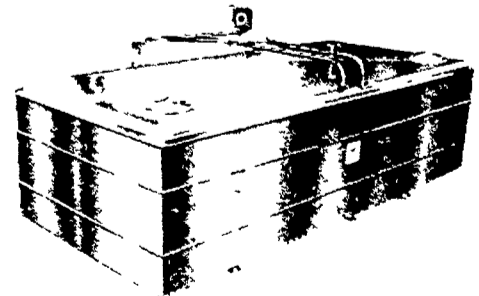
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