



He's one of the 'emerging new dairy breed'

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN
FROGTOWN — He's what might be called the new breed of dairyman.

He was born and raised on the farm. It's in his blood, but it's not in his blood to the extent of unduly influencing his emotions or his mind.

He's done other things, too — like selling real estate and construction in Boston.

His wife has an entirely separate off-farm professional nursing career and he's supportive of it in every way he can.

As a fourth generation on the family farm and with the rural blood flowing through his veins, he approaches the new and expanded dairy operation with his feet solidly planted on the ground and his mind alert to the present status of the dairy business.



D. Martin Zimmerman and wife, Leila, next to commemorative plaque on new cow barn.



Loren Zimmerman, left, talks with brother, Dale, in new barn on family farm east of Blue Ball.

He's 35-year-old Loren L. Zimmerman, R2 East Earl.

The family's expanded dairy operation is just now in the final stages of development, with an open house scheduled at the "Zimhaven" operation along Rt. 23, about a mile east of Blue Ball on Wednesday, December 29.

The expanded operation, which features a familial blending of the third and fourth generations of the Zimmerman family, is one that is emblematic of the new wave of dairy operators, who will be wrestling with their industry's problems and shaping its future in the years to come.

Loren's parents, D. Martin and Leila Zimmerman, retain ownership of the farm and have financed the rather substantial expansion.

Loren is building the herd and managing the operation. Younger brother, Dale, 21, is working in the operation and just last week bought his first heifer at the Golden Harvest Sale.

"This is a business and like any business needs a profit to survive," Loren explains.

"I don't like to get up early every day anymore than anyone else. But we'll do what it takes to make this operation a success."

But as you talk to the tall, solidly built, bearded dairyman, you still detect a proud heritage deeply set in rural roots, which — while not dominating his businesslike approach — will still cast its influence on its operation.

You just gotta look around to see that, like others, the Zimmerman operation has a two-fold thrust —

milk to pay the continuing bills and breeding and merchandising to provide the extra.

The three-inch milk and vacuum lines show they expect to be milking some heavy producers in a new barn with 73 tie-stalls. The herd already has some "real wet black and whites" with credits up to 145 lbs. a day.

"We have the basis of two good cow families here," Loren said.

"We'll be concentrating on breeding and merchandising, getting some good records and getting them classified."

The Zimmermans milk about 50 now. Loren is looking to buy a small herd privately to fill the barn in the near future.

In addition to the new barn, with Jamesway cleaner and ventilation

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