

# Trimbles' Swiss

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herd, Carol pitches in with the washing and calf raising. Two other family members, Cindy, 15 and Scott, 12, each have their daily chores.

In May 1969 the family took over the Peach Bottom farm, which originally held hogs and steers, and by late July had completed renovations to begin milking cows.

The additions included expanding the barn to accommodate a 78-free stall facility and constructing a double-four herringbone parlor.

Within the next decade, Trimble completed a conservation plan on the 145-acre farm, which was in sore need of improvements.

"In 1969, I had to plow seven gullies shut before I could plant corn," Trimble recalls.

The addition of terraces, waterways, tile outlets and an earthen bank manure storage earned Trimble the title Outstanding Cooperator from the Lancaster Conservation District.

Since the addition of the manure storage, which is emptied twice yearly, the Trimbles have seen reductions in their fertilizer bill.

"This year, I used no fertilizer of any kind on my corn," he explains. By using minimum tillage and double-cropping, Don plants about 100 acres in corn, 60 in alfalfa and 10 in barley.

The Donsdell feeding program consists of a total mixed ration for three groups. The groups, high, low and dry cows are fed four times daily plus free choice hay. In addition, computer technology arrived last March and the computer feeder is programmed to the individual need of the herds.

The high group, which is any animal producing more than 50 pounds of milk daily, receives from the TMR 42 pounds of corn silage, 16 pounds of haylage, five pounds of protein and 11 pounds of ear corn. In addition, the high group is locked into the computer program and via neck trans-

ponders can call down slugs of a 16 percent protein supplement, which includes oats, shell corn and ground ear corn.

Since the advent of the computer, Carol and Don also have registered slashes in their feed bill. Previously, the Trimbles used magnetic feeders which contained pelleted feed, the same pelleted feed they used to feed in the parlor.

They soon discovered the magnetic feeder was an unprofitable investment.

"We couldn't dump feed in it fast enough," Don says.

"The cows would gobble it up like candy," adds Carol. The computer feeder, instead, uses homegrown feed.

Don regulates the computer ration for each cow on a monthly basis. Fresh cows, however, have their daily allotment altered about every other day, says Don.

The second feeding group or low group does not have access to the computer but receives a total mixed blend of 35 pounds of corn silage, 10 pounds of ear corn, 25 pounds of haylage and two pounds of protein.

Dry cows are fed four pounds of grain, 25 pounds of corn silage and 15 pounds of haylage.

Although the Trimbles haven't appeared on the tanbark in recent years, they hold the distinction of exhibiting the Grand Champion Brown Swiss at the Pennsylvania Farm Show for three consecutive years from 1974 to 1976.

Don credits reknown Swiss sire White Cloud Jasons Elegant with providing the groundwork for a high producing, type herd. The Trimbles have eight Elegant daughters scoring 87 and an Excellent with very "wet" backgrounds.

Donsdell Elegant Alana, EX, turned in her latest 4-year-old record at 25,894 pounds of milk, a 4.6 test and 1,185 pounds of butterfat. Alana and her Swiss herd-mates were some of the major factors that placed the Trimbles'

# USDA giveaways

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could then be stored directly to state centers and eliminate costly

Donsdell herd at the top of the Lancaster DHIA, this year, for the breed. The herd averaged 14,485 pounds of milk and 614 of fat.

The Donsdell replacements are started in hutches as soon as they are dry. Don milks the dam and feeds colostrum within the first hour after birth. Prior to the hutches, the calves were maintained in a renovated chicken house but poor ventilation proved too costly. Since the addition of the hutches four years ago, Don recalls just one mortality.

Eventually Don and Carol will milk an all Swiss herd — that is if they can keep them long enough. It seems the big brown animals are in demand at home as well as abroad and the Trimbles have marketed stock in Georgia, Italy, Guatemala, Ecuador and the Caribbean Isles.

Additionally, many youngsters are turning toward Color Breeds as 4-H projects and at Donsdell Farm, Carol explains, the supply can't keep up with demand.

In the meantime, the Trimbles, like all Pennsylvania Brown Swiss breeders have their new 1983 calendars targeted for the fall, when they can fellowship with their national colleagues.

transportation from government stores.

Pennsylvania Deputy Agriculture Secretary Chester Heim explained the state is in the process of putting out a letter to various agencies in an effort to get a handle on possible sites.

Currently, the state has eight warehouses used for school and other institutional food programs. The warehouses are located in York, Allegheny, Lackawanna, Montgomery, Lycoming, Lehigh, Blair and Erie Counties.

A recent expansion of state giveaways will include the Keystone State's unemployed in addition to low income families, said state ag secretary Penrose Hollowell. Unemployment cards will be used to establish eligibility.

"At the request of Governor Thornburgh and Senators Heinz and Specter, we have been working with the Food and Nutrition Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture for several months seeking clarification and approval to include unemployed workers in our distribution program," Hollowell said. The Secretary reported that Pennsylvania recently received written authority to proceed with those plans.

"Our concern with this distribution program has always been to insure that these surplus commodities reach the truly needy," he said. "By including unemployed workers in our eligibility guidelines, we are providing an opportunity for those whose families depend on a single

income to share in the benefits of this program."

In a letter to agencies actively distributing cheese and butter, Hollowell also urged that any of these commodities now held in food banks and warehouses under the program be made available to community groups and charitable organizations for inclusion in food baskets for delivery to the needy during the holiday season.

Local charitable agencies in the Commonwealth distributed more than 8.5 million pounds of cheese and 1.5 million pounds of butter from the Social Dairy Distribution program since February 1982, Hollowell noted.

Hollowell requested these groups to consider the expanded eligibility requirements and compile an estimated amount of cheese and butter for local distribution in early 1983.

"We intend to place new orders for cheese and butter with the USDA as soon as possible to begin the fourth round of distribution in the near future," said Hollowell.

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