

York Holstein tour

(Continued from Page A24)

The Stolzhus are abundant with their thanks and praise for those who helped with the buildings, and for donations of hay that arrived later. In spite of the fire and the temporary housing with neighbors, the herd has maintained a rolling herd average of 16,000 milk.

Bull selection earns high priority attention on this herd of 4 Excellent, 25 Very Good, 27 Good Plus and 6 Good individuals. Stolzhus leans forward typey bulls with production, rather than dwelling heavily on index numbers.

"If I make up my mind to use a certain bull, not too much influences me against that," he told the York breeders. Current sires favored include Wileeda, Milkman, Marvation and Magic.

A mostly-home-bred herd fills the 60 tie-stalls at Rocky Side Holsteins in Chester County, owned by the Jefferson Yoder family, Elverson. Jeff and his son, Carl, operate the 800-acre farm, cropped to hay and grains, and also maintain a herd of 120 head of Herefords.

Yoder's breeding philosophy shys away from the "hot", high Predicted Difference sires, with typiness and size an important part of the overall breeding goal. One measure of Yoder's success is his 16 consecutive years of winning the Holstein Association's Progressive Breeder Award, and an unofficial BAA of 105.5.

"Our bulls have panned out

better than those with high PD numbers," he attests of his use of home-bred sons in the breeding program.

Yoder worries that the continued use of the Elevation and Chief lines in the Holstein breed pose a threat to the long-term quality and size of the breed.

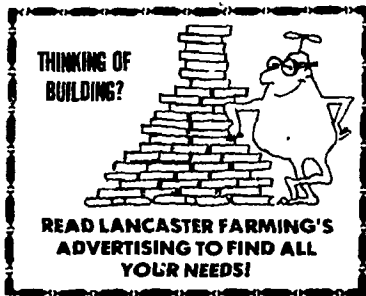
Holstein women on the bus trip got a special treat at the Yoder farm, with a tour of the family home hosted by Reba Yoder.

Reba is noted for her quilt-making, and the beautifully-crafted braided rugs that cover most of the floor space in the spacious, historic home. Encouraged at age 14, by her mother and great aunt to try her hand at quilting, Reba Yoder has since quilted over 200 large quilts, and admits that she has lost count of the baby quilts and wall hangings she has done.

Final stop of the tour was at Hopewell Village, a restored iron-making community that is now maintained as a historic national site.



Jefferson Yoder, right, explains his cattle breeding philosophy to visiting York Countians. Yoder's Rocky Side Holsteins hold 16 consecutive Progressive Breeder awards.



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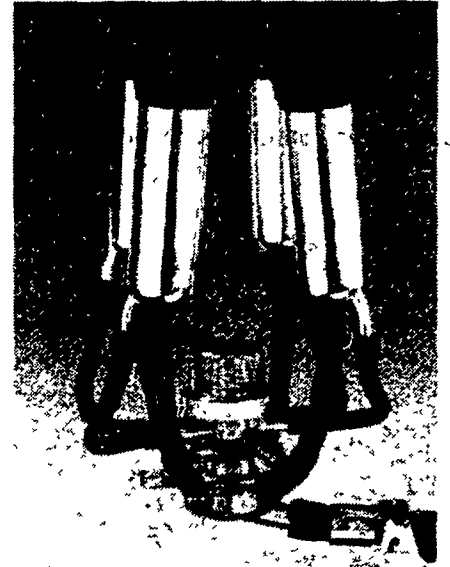
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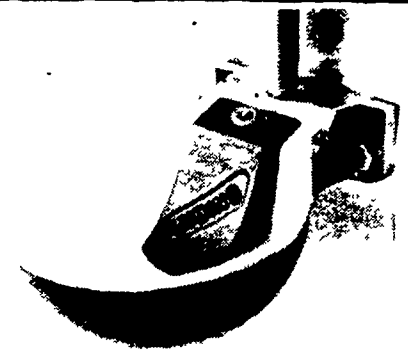
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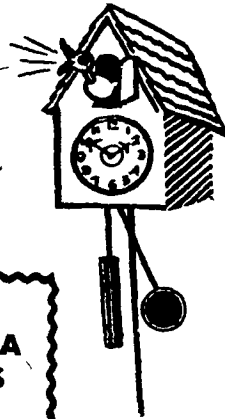
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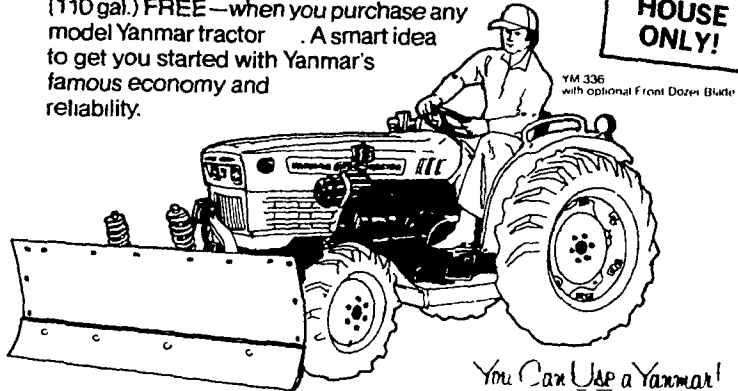
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