

California Jerseys

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specialized eye for picking out the best in a herd. He looks for depth of pedigree with plus proven bulls, front teat placement of 80 or better, a strong suspensory ligament in a high, wide rear udder, and wide thurls. "You got to look at the thurls," Fanelli states. He goes on to explain that when a cow has wide thurls it points her leg out a bit, giving more room for rear udder and stronger legs. "Everything falls into place", he states. (when the cow has wide thurls) The group currently has 13 cows mated throughout the states.

"It's so nice the way you put your cows in pasture," said Clauss when they were viewing the Jerseys at George and Doris Hough's Milknhoney Farm, Peach Bottom. The lush pasture at Milknhoney was quite a contrast to their muddy corrals where their cows are continually kept, he went on to explain. Hough's are the breeders of "Milknhoney General" one of the top bulls of the Jersey breed and the California appreciated the opportunity to see some of the first, oldest daughters at this farm and at the William Arrowsmith farm close to the Hough's.

It was at the "Hillacres" farm of Arrowsmith that they saw the "Very Good"-88 daughter of "Milknhoney General," "Mickey", with over 15,000 lbs. milk. They also took a liking to a fancy daughter of "Shadewell Ethan Allen" out of an old "Favorite Secret Triumph" cow.

When it came to selecting cows, Clauss, Sherman, and Wickstrom, held back and waited while Fanelli

dived into a herd to see what he could find. One could see when he found a cow that he particularly liked as he kept looking back on her and repeatedly asked questions on her pedigree. "Who is her sire?", "Who is her dam?" "What is the sire behind that?" He would ask. As Helene put it, "Fanelli likes to play 'stump the experts'". If the owner answered the first questions to his satisfaction, Fanelli went on to ask the service sire, milking daughters, maternal sisters, etc. etc. Then the rest of the group would realize that he found "something special" and all seemed to evaluate her in their own minds and pass silent judgement on the individual animal.

Having extremely large herds as compared to this area, these gentlemen particularly liked to look at cows in the well kept stanchion barns at the Arrowsmith farm and at the "Valley-U Farm" of Robert Ulrich, Quarryville, where they could go back and look again at a certain individual or her daughter and she would be standing at the same place.

Ulrich's herd is currently second highest Jersey herd in the state and his barn displayed two long rows of high, wide rear udders that clearly showed their milkiness to the visitors. In his string, Ulrich has a milking daughter of "Top Brass" the #2 bull on the list for PTI. Since "Top Brass" is one of the newer bulls on the list, the Californians appreciated the chance to see one of his milking daughters.



Duane Wickstrom, Don Sherman, Phil Fanelli and Richard Clauss are show from left to right with their tour guide and hostess, Helene Dreisbach.

After Ulrich's it was on to the herd at "Herr Acres", owned by Paul and Marvin Herr, Holtwood. Paul Herr is an ABS representative and the visitors enjoyed viewing the daughters of most of the top ABS bulls in Paul's herd.

It is well known fact that although California can boast of these large Jersey herds, it is also the home to many of the largest Holstein herds in the nation. Since the Berks County Jersey breeders

take a lot of "ribbing" from the "other breed", they asked their visitors if they had the same problems. Stating that he had his lines all planned, Fanelli said, "In our area they have to milk the Holsteins three times a day to pay for the feed," Bill Arrowsmith agreed with this saying, "We should have pushed Jerseys on the young Amish, they're getting Holsteins on small farms and going broke buying the feed." "As we

breed Jerseys that give more milk, we'll have a better selling point," Fanelli concluded.

As in many cases on small farms in this part of the country, in California most hay is purchased in quantities of 25 tons, since the dairies have a large numbers of animals on usually 100 acres or less. "We don't work as hard as you do", the visitors told their

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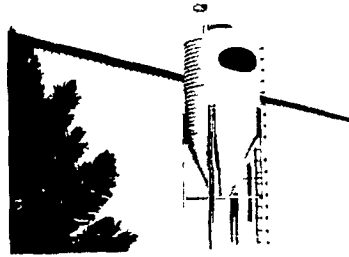
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