

Beshores live their support of dairy industry

BY JOYCE BUPP
Staff Correspondent

NEW CUMBERLAND — The steaming cup of hot chocolate, topped with a garnish of real whipped cream, served to a visitor on a cold winter day, typifies the manner in which E. Wayne and Athena Beshore live their support of the dairy industry.

Throughout more than 35 years a dairy producers on their northern York County farm, the Beshores have got that extra step in production, promotion and leadership. Their quiet, exacting devotion has carried through from the neatly-maintained farmstead along the Old Susquehanna Trail over into the numerous community and church organizations in which both have been involved.

For his service to the dairy industry, Wayne recently received the Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association's prestigious Charles E. Cowan award, presented annually to a deserving individual for "leadership contributing to improvement and promotion of the dairy industry."

Beshore has been a director for seven years on the Federal Order 4 milk marketing board, and is currently the sole representative of Order 4's independent producers. He also serves as vice-president of Keystone Milk Marketing and has been a director of the Dairymen's Association for a decade.

But his leadership extends well beyond dairy promotion groups. Over the past several years, he's been president of the York County Holstein Association, the county's Farmers Association, the county extension service Executive Committee, and been a director of the state Holstein Association, county Farmers Home Administration and county DHIA.

In 1981, Beshore was selected a Master-Farmer, and he has shared his agriculture expertise with the community through township planning committee, school board, the Grange, Dairy Shrine club and church affiliations.

Born "just up the road" from the family's gracious farm home, on land Beshore Farms still owns, Wayne grew up on a general farm

that included dairy cows, hogs, and an assortment of truck and fruit crops, like raspberries and asparagus.

"My father survived the depression by picking strawberries," reminisces Beshore.

To support his family in those lean years, Elmer Beshore, Wayne's father, established a weekly sales route, serving customers in nearby New Cumberland with farm fresh produce, eggs and home-butchered meats in season.

After four years of Army service during World War II, including a 19-month tour in India, Wayne returned to the family farm to begin working with his parents. He and Athena, a "town" girl from newberry in the adjoining township, settled on the farm and began assisting with the sales route business.

It was the dairy cows that most held Wayne's interest, though, and he soon saw a need to improve on the small herd of milking animals.

In 1947, the herd was enrolled on DHIA testing, finishing that initial year with the 11 cows averaging 7,000 pounds of milk and 252 pound of fat.

With the purchase of his first registered Holstein from a Cumberland County farm sale, Beshore ventured into his purebred business.

"We paid \$174 for that cow," chuckles Athena, recalling that the bids were taken in 5-cent increments.

To further improve the quality of the milk cows, the Beshores purchased a few registered Holsteins out of the Warner's Dairy herd. A majority of their present herd individuals trace back to those acquisitions.

The Beshore philosophy of farming has always been stewardship - to strive to pass on to the next generation an improved piece of land, or pedigreed animal, over what was initially acquired.

"I believe in getting bigger and getting better; we aren't interested in numbers but in production per unit. We want to

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Surrounded by tributes to family's accomplishments, Wayne and Athena Beshore look back on their life in dairy industry. In foreground is Charles E. Cowan award recently presented to Wayne by the Pa. Dairymen's Association.

Crawford DHIA honors top producers

BY NANCY KUNICK
Staff Correspondent

MEADVILLE — For the fifth consecutive year, Queens Manor Holsteins, of Ed Doebereiner and Sons, R1 Jamestown, topped butterfat production in Crawford County in honors distributed at the annual DHIA meeting and banquet on Jan. 20 at the Meadville Holiday Inn.

The Queens Manor string of 17 quality Holsteins produced an average of 20,398 pounds of milk, 790 pounds of fat and 663 pounds of protein per animal during the past year.

Five other dairymen were presented awards for records topping 700 lbs. of fat. The Crawford County Farm #1 Saegertown, Kenneth Custard, herdsman, had the high herd in milk and protein. The 29 Holsteins gave 21,292 pounds of milk, 773 pounds of fat and 721 pounds of protein. Also honored were John Tautin, Sr.; Arden & Ivan Drake; Black Pond Farms, Charles & William Black, Jeff Raney, herdsman; and Richard L. Black & family.

In addition to the six farms over 700 lbs. of butterfat, 16 herds topped the 650 lb. mark and 25 others finished the testing year with over 600 pounds of butterfat. The 46 herds received recognition ribbons for their outstanding production.

The plaque for the highest cow in milk and fat production went to Wagnercrest Farm, Bernie and David Wagner, R6 Meadville, for their registered Holstein, Bell who produced 33,524 pounds of milk, and 1,328 pounds of butterfat in 305 days.

Two awards were sponsored by Wayne Feed and Platt's Mill of Spartansburg. They were awarded to Roman Miller & Sons, of Cochran, for the greatest gain in milk, with 59 cows averaging 17,994 lbs. of milk 671 lbs. of but-

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Awards to herds averaging over 700 lbs. of butterfat are presented by Craig Powell, Crawford DHIA director, to, from the left, John Tautin Sr.; Richard L. Black; Jeff Raney, herdsman for Black Pond Farms; Kenneth Custard, herdsman for Crawford County Farm; and Ed Doebereiner, Queens Manor.



Craig Powell, of Crawford DHIA, presents special awards to, from the left, John Brenner, greatest gain in butterfat; Tom Wilson, lowest somatic cell count; and Ed Doebereiner, top cow in protein production.



Wayne Beshore's lifelong philosophy of quality instead of quantity has resulted in outstanding herd individuals, such as this four-year-old Glendell daughter milking 120 pounds per day.