

***** Pennfield Dairy News *****

From PA
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Putting It All Together. . . .

MANAGEMENT - COWS - FEEDING



John A. Brubaker, Jr. checks his alfalfa crop.

Peaked at 190 lbs. of milk and had 10 months over 100 lbs. daily.



KNOTT-RUN JOB PAM - GP 81

4 Yr. 1 Mo. 305 d 38,678 Milk 975 Fat
365 d 41,807 Milk 1069 Fat

LANCASTER — Through efficient management practices and a combination of feeding the right forages and breeding to the top bulls, Lancaster County dairyman John Brubaker Jr. has increased his yearly herd milk average by 8,000 pounds in just seven years.

Beginning his farming venture in February 1977, John bought 50 cows from two different farms to build his foundation herd. The first year's production averages stood at 13,762 pounds of milk and 479 pounds of fat.

By working on his management practices and making timely management decisions, John increased that average to 21,270 pounds of milk and 725 pounds of fat in just seven years. The herd now numbers 59 head with 85 percent registered Holsteins.

Two of the Brubaker's pride and joys are Knott-Run Pete Lucy and Knott-Run Job Pam. As a 2-year-old, Lucy produced 30,229 pounds of milk and 1,023 pounds of fat. Pam, a one time 190-pound-a-day milker, has recorded 38,678 pounds of milk and 975 pounds of fat as a 4-year-old.



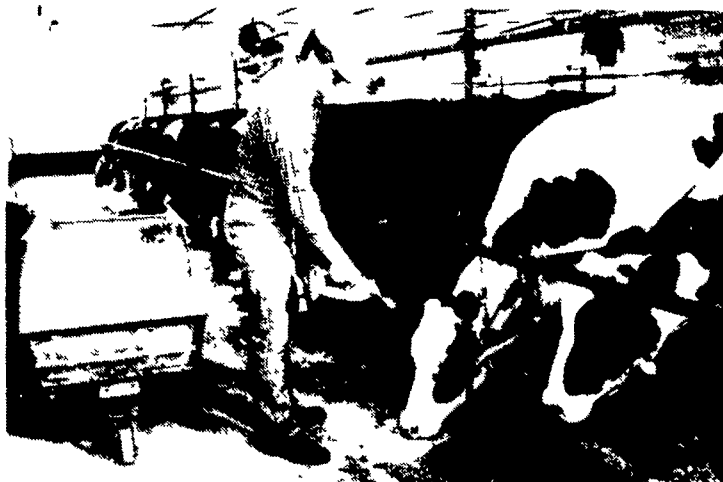
KNOTT-RUN PETE LUCY - VG

2 Yr. 8 Mo. 305 d 30,229 Milk 1023 Fat

Paying close attention to the smaller aspects of dairy farming, John and wife Barbara, of R2 Christiana, believe in growing the best roughages for their cattle and using some of the best stud bulls available. All this has been to the benefit of the dairy herd.

The Brubakers believe in feeding their cows often - and in smaller amounts. Grain is fed four times a day and roughages five times a day. John follows a daily plan when feeding his cows.

A haylage, high moisture shelled corn and 26% concentrate is fed to the cattle before the first milking. After milking, cows are treated to corn silage feed at the bunk feeder for two hours. Then its back into the comfort stall barn for haylage fed free choice.



John feeds grain four times per day. His grain ration is high moisture shell corn and Pennfield's 26% HMC Concentrate.



Cows enjoy corn silage at the bunk feeder. High quality roughages are a must for a high producing dairy herd.

The next feeding comes at dinner time when high moisture shelled corn and concentrate are fed individually to the top producers. John lists his high producers as those milking over 75 pounds of milk daily.

Before the evening milking around 4 p.m., the cows receive a cartload of haylage, also high moisture shelled corn and concentrate. Following milking, the cows receive additional haylage. The day's feeding is complete when the top producers receive additional grain around 9 p.m.

Although feeding is very important to John, he places equal attention on his breeding program. Only those bulls with a +700 pound predicted difference for milk, a plus on fat and a plus 1.0 point on type are used. A high percent repeatability is also considered.

To round out his dairy program, the Brubakers keep up-to-date records. Barb is the principle bookkeeper and follows a farm management analysis program.

Both John and Barb provide the manpower behind their 150-acre dairy operation. In years to come, 3-year-old Andrea and 1-year-old Eric are likely to join the work team and help their father and mother continue a successful dairy operation.



John and Barbara keep accurate records and follow a farm management analysis program.

DHIA INFORMATION: HERD AVERAGE

1978	50 Cows	13,762 Milk	479 Fat
1982	55 Cows	19,148 Milk	650 Fat
1983	59 Cows	21,270 Milk	725 Fat



John and Barb Brubaker with 3 yr. old Andrea and 1 yr. old Eric.