

# 'Dutch' Lusk travels for the Jersey breed

BY DONNA McCONAUGHEY  
Staff Correspondent

CHARLEROI — "He traveled for our Jersey Cow," were the initial words used by Clyde Robinson as he announced the recipient of the Pennsylvania Jersey Cattle Club Distinguished Service Award.

In fact, Kenneth "Dutch" Lusk of Charleroi, Washington County, will never be able to estimate the untold hours he traveled for the Jersey breed. In his 68 years, Dutch has served the Jersey breed in many capacities.

Dutch, however, was unable to accept the award in person as he has been in the hospital four times in the first three months of 1984 for a total of 42 days. Dutch is now home from the hospital and recently received clearance from his doctor to walk outside if the temperature is 50-60 degrees. As can be expected, Dutch is finding it

difficult to stay inside, especially with the arrival of spring.

The award he received has made this a special spring despite the problems. The plaque is now sitting on the mantel and will soon be displayed on the wall above "his chair." It will claim a place of honor as has the trophy presented to him in 1966 by District I Jersey breeders for his Outstanding Service to Youth.

Dutch has been active in the Jersey breed not only in Pennsylvania but throughout the East coast. He began farming as a teenager and is very proud of the fact that he started with Jerseys.

Dutch borrowed money from his father to buy his first cows and also bought and sold cattle as he built up his herd. He developed a business of selling milk to homes in Cannonsburg and Washington and worked all aspects of the business,

from pasteurizing to driving the delivery trucks.

He eventually developed his herd until he was milking 75 cows and farming 250 acres. That may sound average today, but in the 1940's that was a big herd.

Dutch's four children all helped on the farm but his son, Bob, is the only one who is actively involved today. After Bob was through college and the other two sons had decided they didn't like to milk cows, Dutch sold his milking cows but kept the heifers. He continued to raise and sell heifers.

This sale of cows allowed Dutch to travel more, and he eventually accepted a position as field representative for the American Jersey Cattle Club. He traveled in several eastern states visiting farms, going to sales, and encouraging Jersey breeders. He held this position for four years during which time he established a

## Service award



Dutch Lusk was recently named the recipient of the Pennsylvania Jersey Cattle Club's Distinguished Service Award.

## Back home in Washington County



Lusk's Little Acres, a six-acre farm in Washington county is the home of some of Pennsylvania's best Jerseys.

goal of visiting farms which had never seen a breed representative before.

Dutch said, "The big established breeders didn't need to see me as badly as the little guy who was trying to get started. He needed all the information and encouragement I could share."

It was during this time that Dutch recalls gathering a group of 219 heifers together for a Pennsylvania State Sale. "They were a good group of heifers," he

recalled. "It took us nearly three weeks to pull those together."

Despite his very busy schedule, Dutch found time for "the kids". He helped the District I (Washington and Greene counties) youth group become one of the most active in the state and eventually served as youth chairman for the Pennsylvania Jersey Cattle Club. Districts were smaller in those days which Dutch saw as an advantage. "The kids

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## Small but mighty is Lusk's Little Acres

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CHARLEROI — "Small but mighty" describes the impact of Lusk's Little Acres and the Robert Lusk family.

This family has certainly made an impression in Jersey circles. Their farm consists of six acres and an additional few acres of pasture and a barn which neighbors permit them to use for heifers.

Bob and Connie both have roots deeply imbedded in the Jersey breed. Bob is the son of Kenneth "Dutch" Lusk, long-time Jersey supporter, and Connie is the daughter of Clyde Robinson. They showed Jerseys together and "fought then" reminisces Connie. They married and purchased their home and its surrounding acreage with no intentions of farming.

However, Dutch encouraged them to consider becoming in-

involved with Jerseys as their children became old enough for 4-H. The beginning of this successful Jersey herd occurred nine years ago. The first calves were purchased as 4-H projects for the Lusk children. Initially the cows in milk were farmed out to neighboring farms.

Eventually the Lusks had accumulated enough milking cows to justify the building of a barn. In planning their building project they determined that total dollars invested would be kept to a minimum. Their facilities include a three-sided free-stall shed and a six-stanchion milking parlor.

This family operation is proof that quality results can be obtained with minimal monetary investment. The herd average for 1983 was over 13,000 pounds of milk on DHIR. The Lusks only intended to milk 15 cows, but like many breeders, found themselves milking 31 Jerseys. They have since sold 15 and plan to "keep it at that".

The herd is primarily homebred. Very few have been purchased since the original foundation cows were brought to the farm.

As has been hinted at, this operation is a family affair. Bob is employed full time as Director of Washington County ASCS office. He particularly enjoys this job as he is able to visit farms and work with dairymen in the milk diversion program.

Connie seems to keep it all together on this farm. She is the

one who is home during the day to be the calf chaser when they get out, coordinates chores, and keeps things running smoothly in a family of three very active teenagers. Connie also runs a dog grooming business in her home which allows her to be on the farm much of the time.

Milking chores are distributed in this family. Bob milks the first group in the morning and Connie finishes. Michelle and Lisa milk in the evenings and during the

summer. Mike is not fond of milking but is responsible for the breeding program and much of the heavy work on the farm.

This family effort has paid off in many ways. Production awards have been won by many of their cows. In fact, Connie proudly states that since they first had cows in milk, the kids have won one or two production awards each year.

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## A family affair



Lusk's Little Acres is a family affair. Bob and Connie Lusk and their children, Mike, Lisa and Michelle have developed a productive, well-bred herd of Jerseys.

## Production honors



This herd of Jersey cows thrive well in a six-stanchion milking parlor where they have topped the pail to reap many production awards for their owners.