

Little Pond Jerseys

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Calvin started helping his father when he was 7-years-old by feeding and helping with the calves. Never belonging to 4-H, the young dairyman credits his father for teaching him his honor-winning dairying practices.

Calvin tries to get his cows bred back by 75 days but admits that it is harder when the animal is milking heavily. He is currently breeding to Ogston Yankees Magician, Wilderness Valient, Empire State, Top Brass, Boss Man and Magic of Ogston.

"I hate to use a bull that's way minus on type," he adds. Although he watches type, Calvin says he breeds for production with a functional type.

The cows are milked in a stanchion barn with four Surge minicups in a pipeline system. Calvin does all the milking except for the rare times he goes away. The cows are housed in the barn continually and only go out for a short exercise period in the mornings.

At this time Calvin checks for heats but says, "I can usually tell who is in heat before I let them out."

"We always got more production by not pasturing," the elder Watson states. "You can hold your production much better."

"Ours are more milk cows than they are show cows," Calvin says about his herd. However, the family is looking forward to showing this year. Calvin's wife, Judy, and oldest son, Marty, are his helpers in the barn and would like to attend some area fairs this summer.

Following his fathers lead, Calvin has given his son, Marty, a heifer calf from his first cow, Honey Babe. The calf, Honey Bee, and Marty want to try their hand at a blue ribbon. Calvin's two younger sons, a pair of 2-year-old twins, Mark and Matthew, toddle around the barn content to wait for

their turn with the animals.

"If it isn't worth doing good, don't do it at all," Roy tells son Calvin. It is this type of philosophy that this young dairyman was raised on. When asked what's in the future since he has already proved what he could do with a young Jersey herd, Calvin remarks that dairying and family run together for the Watsons.

"I got three sons. I'd like to be able to do what he (Roy) did for us," Calvin says. If his sons should choose to go into dairying as he did, as his father did, and as his grandfather is still doing, he wants to be able to help them. With the family way of dairying that the Watsons have made so successful, Watson farms will garner laurels for many generations to come.



Little Pond Jerseys is home of the Calvin Watson family.



Calvin Watson, left, credits his father, Roy Watson, with much of his success as a Jersey breeder.

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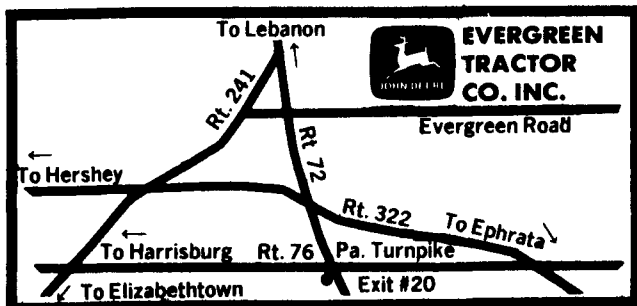
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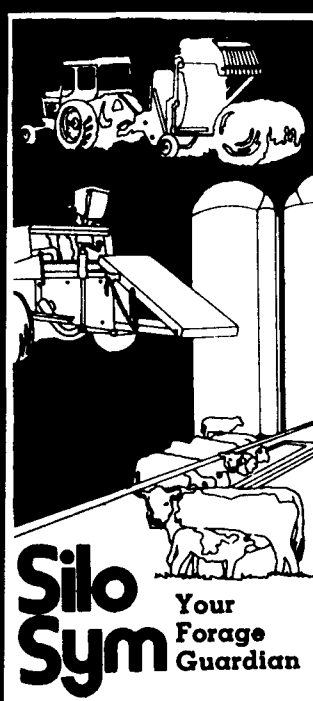
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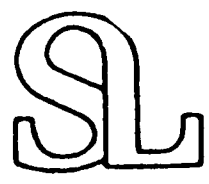


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